DISINFECTION PROTOCOL FOR SHARED POTATO EQUIPMENT

Why sanitation matters: Potato diseases like blight and bacterial ring-rot are costly, hard to get rid of and can easily be spread from farm to farm by equipment. **PROTECT YOUR FARM** by following these steps **BEFORE** and **AFTER** use of the equipment.

BEFORE USING EQUIPMENT AT YOUR FARM

1) **Has equipment been thoroughly washed?** Because most disinfectants are inactivated by organic matter, equipment **must** be clean before disinfecting. See Step 1 below for instructions.

2) **Mix a 10% bleach solution.** Bleach is effective as a disinfectant, inexpensive and readily available in Alaska, however it loses effectiveness after 6 months. In a 1-gallon (or larger) hand-pumped sprayer, mix 1 part fresh household bleach to 9 parts water. **Wear appropriate personal protective equipment** when mixing or spraying bleach solution.

3) **Disinfect.** Spray equipment thoroughly and repeatedly with bleach solution so that all surfaces are covered with a wet film **for 5-10 minutes**. This solution can also be used for **up to 24 hours** to disinfect clean harvest bins, hand tools and any surfaces that come into contact with potatoes.

4) **Rinse.** Bleach is highly corrosive. For the longevity of the equipment, please rinse all surfaces thoroughly with clean water.

AFTER USING EQUIPMENT AT YOUR FARM

1) **Clean and Pressure Wash.** Most disinfectants are inactivated by organic matter. Remove dirt and plant residue with brush or scraper, then clean thoroughly with a pressure washer. **Washing with a garden hose is not sufficient.** If you do not own a pressure washer, take equipment to a self-serve car wash.

2) **Disinfect.** Spray equipment thoroughly and repeatedly with 10% bleach solution so that all surfaces are covered with a wet film **for 5-10 minutes**.

3) **Rinse.** **Bleach is highly corrosive. For the longevity of the equipment, please rinse all surfaces thoroughly with clean water.**