



## Presseinformation

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### Starting Signal for the “Potato Specialist” Training Program: Theory Meets Practice in the Lüneburg Heath

**Berlin, June 30, 2025.** The 2025 edition of the “Potato Specialist” training program organized by the German Potato Trade Association (Deutscher Kartoffelhandelsverband e.V., DKHV) kicked off last week with its first module in Hermannsburg, located in the scenic Lüneburg Heath. Over the course of three days, a total of 46 participants from across Germany — ranging from newcomers to seasoned professionals — came together to deepen their knowledge of potatoes and gain practical training. The participants were divided into two small groups to encourage more intensive exchange and targeted hands-on learning.

The first day was fully dedicated to theoretical foundations. After an expert introduction by Jutta Becker-Ritterspach, DKHV advisor, covering the origin, botany, and cultivation conditions of potatoes in Germany, participants attended in-depth presentations by experienced instructors. Topics included modern breeding techniques, growth conditions, and quality and crop rotation requirements. Plant protection was another major focus, with detailed discussions on pests, diseases, and proper field inspections in accordance with the “Berlin Agreements.”

A relaxed social evening followed, providing space for personal conversations and exchange on the challenges and future prospects of the industry — a valuable aspect of the training that many participants appreciated.

On the second day, the seminar moved into practice mode at the teaching and demonstration garden of the Lower Saxony Chamber of Agriculture. Here, theory came to life: differences between healthy and diseased crops were demonstrated, common symptoms of damage were presented, and biological development stages — such as those of the Colorado potato beetle — were vividly explained. The high level of practical orientation in this module impressed participants and contributed to lasting learning outcomes.

Feedback on the first module was overwhelmingly positive. Participants particularly praised the successful combination of expert knowledge and hands-on experience, as well as the dedication of the instructors. Lecturer Nikolaus Schackmann expressed his enthusiasm for the group's commitment: “It's important to me to pass on my passion for potatoes — and we achieved that.” Participants shared this sentiment, with one participant noting: “The holistic approach makes this informative training program truly unique in the industry.”

The training program will continue in the fall with the second module in southern Germany. Information about the qualification and registration for the next year is available on the DKHV website.



Small Group 1 during the practical part of the “Potato Specialist” training program with Max Schümann (left) and Ariane Weiß (right) (Photo: DKHV)



Small Group 2 during the practical part of the “Potato Specialist” training program with Nikolaus Schackmann (center) and Jutta Becker-Ritterspach (right) (Photo: DKHV)



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#### About the DKHV e.V.

*The German Potato Trade Association (Deutscher Kartoffelhandelsverband e.V., DKHV) is an independent trade association representing the interests of around 170 businesses in the potato sector. Its members include potato traders, packers, peeling companies, as well as breeders, growers, and manufacturers of packaging materials and potato technology.*

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Further information about the DKHV e.V. can be found via these links:

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Weitere Informationen rund um den DKHV e.V. finden Sie über diese Links:

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