Bethke Biographical sketch

Paul Bethke is a researcher with the USDA and an Associate Professor at the University of Wisconsin. For the past ten years he has conducted research on how physiological age and environmental conditions during growth and storage influence the post-harvest physiology and quality of potato tubers. Specific areas of emphasis include cold-induced sweetening, stem-end chip defect, sugar-end defect, and genetic determinants of potato that contribute to the expression of favorable and unfavorable traits.

Since 2011, Bethke has been a leader of the Specially Crops Research Initiative (SCRI) on acrylamide mitigation in processed potato products where he worked collaboratively with researchers, growers and members of industry from all regions of the US. More recently, his research group has initiated research on remote imaging as it applies to potato, and is contributing to the national SCRI project on tuber necrotic viruses.

Paul received a B.S. in mechanical engineering from UW-Madison, a M.S. in Plant Physiology from Texas A&M and a Ph.D. in Molecular and Physiological Plant Biology from UC-Berkeley.

He has been a member of The PAA since 2006 and is currently Chair of the Frank L. Haynes Graduate Student Research Award Committee. He has also served as President, Vice-President and Secretary of The PAA Physiology Section.