

Invitation to the 11th German Potato Lifting Championship and Bauer Poppe in Waffensen, Germany, on 11th September 2011

General: Remember the good old days? Back when the older of us used to walk along behind the chugging tractor picking up the turned potatoes? We got paid 75 pfennigs an hour for our toils, with free meals thrown in. And that special moment when the farmer's wife would come across the field with her big wicker basket with snacks and drinks... It was memories of this kind that gave birth to the idea to go back to lifting potatoes the good old-fashioned way – and to make the whole thing a bit more exciting, we decided to make it a championship competition, too.

Who can join in? The competition is open to anyone who enjoys a match and isn't afraid of getting his/her fingers grubby. It doesn't matter how old or what sex you are or where you come from. There are five age classes, all separated by gender except for age classes I and II and the team class.

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| Age class I: | Children up to 6 years of age |
| Age class II: | Children 7 to 10 years of age |
| Age class III: | Children/adolescents 11 to 15 years of age |
| Age class IV: | Adolescents/adults from 16 to 60 years of age |
| Age class V: | Adults over 61 years of age |
| Team class: | 5 persons, sex and age don't matter. |

Whatever, you must register in writing beforehand or on site on the day.

When? The 11th German Potato Lifting Championship will take place on Sunday, 11 September 2011, starting at 01:00pm, at the farmyard of Bauer Poppe in Waffensen, Germany, on the B 75 road from Bremen to Rotenburg. All competitors are kindly requested to appear at the farm by 01:00pm at the latest, where they will be warmly welcomed and told the rules of the competition. We'd also like to ask you to stay for the award ceremony, which is scheduled to start at 5:00pm, although we're unable to promise that delays can be avoided. Bauer Poppe can be reached by phone at (+49) (0)4268 – 385.

How? All those who have registered previously or on the day are entitled to take part. Please fill out all the required spaces on the registration form. Each participant will be asked to step forward to the starting line over the loudspeaker. There's no starting fee for the first run – you can start as many times as you want, but then you'll be asked to pay a starting fee in the amount of 1 euro, or 50 cents for children and adolescents. All proceeds will be donated to good causes. There is no guarantee that you'll be permitted to take part. Due to organizational reasons, the number of competitors is restricted.

European Potato Lifting Championship

What's the aim? Every participant will be given 60 seconds to lift as many potatoes as possible and put them in a basket. The contents of the basket will then be weighed and the result entered in a list. The winners of each age group who lift the greatest weight of potatoes will be awarded a cup or a medal and also given the title "German Potato Lifting Champion". The results are incontestable, and the jury's decision is final.

Why? The project essentially has two aims. All those who are planning to take part in the Rotenburg "Kartoffelmarkt" (Potato Market) a fortnight later can get together here in a leisurely setting to relax and enjoy themselves with coffee and cake, beer and barbeque. And the best opportunity for this is with lots of other guests gathered together beneath the old oaks in the yard or in the barn, giving the people the chance to reminisce and also to show just how much farmwork has changed over the years. Bauer Poppe, the local rural youth groups, and the regional tourist societies wish to uphold the tradition of the farm and village fest, and the "golden village of Waffensen" offers the perfect setting. Musicians, tradesmen, and small local companies have already promised to lend a helping hand, and so there's nothing standing in the way of a few unforgettable hours of fun.

On behalf of all involved,

Hermann Poppe
BAUER POPPE

Hartmut Peterek / Joachim Witt
VTS Verein für Touristik und Stadtwerbung e.V.

If you're interested, please fill out the registration form and send it to

Bauer Poppe · Am Lerchenkrug 3 · D-27356 Waffensen, Germany
Phone (+49) (0)4268-385 · Fax (+49) (0)4268-1460

or to

VTS - Verein für Touristik und Stadtwerbung e.V.
Große Straße 1 · D-27356 Rotenburg (Wümme), Germany
Phone (+49) (0)4261-71 100 · Fax (+49) (0)4261-71 147

For more information about the Rotenburg "Kartoffelmarkt" please go to

www.knolli.com

or e-mail us at : tib@rotenburg-wuemme.de

The 11th German Potato Lifting Championships are sponsored by:

