

Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN)
Stakeholder Update
(4/27/06)

SITUATION SUMMARY

On April 19, 2006 officials of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) announced the detection of potato cyst nematode (PCN), *Globodera pallida*, a major pest of potato crops. This is the first detection of the pest in the United States. The microscopic worms pose no threat to human health, but can reduce the yield of potatoes and other crops. There is no sign that the quality of tubers grown in Idaho has been affected. APHIS and ISDA are implementing action to determine the distribution of the pest and prevent movement of PCN to uninfested areas.

SURVEY

Program personnel are surveying fields, cellars, packers and processors that may be associated with the detected PCN. Samples collected are sent to a University of Idaho laboratory for identification. Survey staff collected 362 samples on 4/26/06 for a total of 466 samples since the official confirmation date (4/19/06). The source of the infestation has not been identified.

REGULATION

APHIS emergency action notifications (EANS) and ISDA restrictions have been imposed at suspect sites. These state and federal actions restrict the movement of soil, plants, plant material and farm equipment which may have been exposed to the potato cyst nematode and is intended to prevent the introduction and dissemination of the cyst into other areas. To date, these restrictions have been imposed in Bingham, Bonneville, and Jefferson counties, but limited to seven sites which include fields, cellars and potato handling facilities. Other than these locations, product is moving normally.

PERSONNEL

Approximately 50 APHIS and ISDA personnel are working on the cooperative control program at temporary facilities.

TRADE

ISDA, APHIS and potato industry officials are working with trade representatives from Canada, Japan and Mexico to lift trade restrictions imposed late last week.

For addition information, or to receive the next PCN update contact:

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