



STATE OF IDAHO



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SIMPSON INSTRUMENTAL IN SECURING PCN ERADICATION FUNDING

(BOISE) The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) received official word last week that \$400,000 in additional federal funding is being allocated to Pale Cyst Nematode (PCN) eradication efforts in eastern Idaho. The additional funding follows efforts by Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson and the Idaho State Department of Agriculture to work with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to secure the funding.

Over the past six years, federal funding of PCN eradication efforts has fallen from a high of over \$9 million per year to \$4.2 million per year. Last year, ISDA issued a deficiency warrant covering a nearly \$1 million shortfall to keep the program on track. This year the program faced a \$400,000 shortfall. The additional \$400,000 in federal funding will keep the program on track and avoid the need for ongoing state funding.

"This is tremendous news for potato growers in eastern Idaho and for Idaho's agriculture industry," said ISDA Director Celia Gould. "I want to thank Congressman Simpson for stepping up to the plate and working with APHIS to secure this critical funding. His efforts were essential to getting this done. I also want to thank APHIS Administrator Kevin Shea and his staff for their cooperation and willingness to work with us and find additional funds in an already tight budget."

"PCN poses a real threat to our state's most iconic crop and keeping the eradication program on track is critical to maintaining and growing export opportunities," said Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson.

For more information on PCN, please visit ISDA's PCN website at:
<http://www.agri.idaho.gov/Categories/NewsEvents/PCNquestions.php>

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