

Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN)
Stakeholder Update
(7/18/06)

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 was the first detection of the pest in the United States. The nematode cysts were detected during a routine survey of tare soil at an ISDA grader facility in eastern Idaho. In that survey, more than 3,500 samples were analyzed, and only one was positive.

On June 13, 2006, soil samples collected from a 45-acre field in northern Bingham County tested positive for PCN. Based on these survey results, and the more than 3,000 additional samples taken since the April detection, the PCN infestation appears to be isolated, but additional surveillance will continue.

Updates and related information:

- A soil sample from a field located near the 45-acre field in northern Bingham County has tested positive for PCN. This is the second field to have a confirmed PCN finding. The positive finding is not surprising because of the field's proximity to the already-identified positive field. ISDA and APHIS officials continue to believe the PCN infestation in eastern Idaho is isolated.
- ISDA and APHIS continue to search for the PCN's original source. A trace seed sources has been completed, but did not yield any helpful information. Investigators continue to examine other possibilities, including farming practices, tillage equipment, irrigation sources and wildlife patterns.
- Investigators continue to test fields that are located near the original 45-acre field or have equipment, tenants or personnel in common. Soil samples taken from those fields are being expedited to the University of Idaho nematology lab in Parma.
- Two fields are under federal restrictions (no potatoes to be planted, no soil to leave and equipment to be cleaned).
- Officials from the Idaho State Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of Agriculture continue to work with trade partners on this issue. Both agencies are in the process of answering Japan's questions about the PCN situation in Idaho. Japan has banned the import of all potatoes from the United States