

Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN)
Stakeholder Update
(10/2/06)

SITUATION UPDATE

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*, in three additional fields in Bingham County near Shelley. The identifications of the nematodes were confirmed Wednesday, September 27. The three new fields are within the regulated area and all infested fields are within one mile of a central point in the regulated area.

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 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 August 29, 2006, state and federal officials announced the establishment of a regulatory area near Shelley. The regulated area contains about 10,000 acres. In this particular area, growers have been advised to have their fields sampled for potato cyst nematode in an effort to speed the delivery of their products to market. Growers are also required to have equipment cleaned and sanitized before they may leave a field in the regulated area. This process is believed to help prevent the spread of potato cyst nematode.

SURVEY UPDATE

To date, the on-going investigation has collected and tested more than 16,603 samples from approximately 355 fields and facilities. As part of these investigations, three new additional fields have been identified in northern Bingham County. That means a total of 5 fields have been confirmed positive for PCN based on morphological and DNA analyses. All infested fields are within one-mile of a central point in the regulated area near Shelley. Survey in the regulated area is nearly complete, and will be finished by the end of this week. Personnel active in the incident and currently stands at 107 USDA and 17 state personnel.