

11/3/06

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 two additional fields, one in Bingham and one in Bonneville County near Shelley. The identifications of the nematodes were confirmed October 30. The two new fields are within the regulated area and all infested fields are within one mile of a central point in the regulated area. This brings the total number of infested fields to seven.

Opportunities for additional survey activity in seed growing areas and production areas elsewhere in Idaho are beginning to wind down due to freezing weather. Growers who wish to participate in the survey are urged to sign up as soon as possible. A sign-up sheet is attached.

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 from across all of Idaho's commercial and seed production areas, 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 spans about 10,000 acres including about 3500 acres of potatoes. 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 the regulated area or before leaving an infested field within the regulated area. This process will help prevent the spread of potato cyst nematode.

SURVEY UPDATE

To date, the on-going investigation has collected and tested more than 29,319 samples from approximately 648 fields and facilities. Of the two new identified infested fields, one is in northern Bingham County and the other is in southern Bonneville County. All seven positive fields were 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 getting closer to completion, and additional lab tests are pending. Personnel active in the incident currently stands at 83 USDA and 18 state personnel.

