

## Clarification of the Definition of “Field” in Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN) Guidelines

In May 2014, The United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) revised the [“Canada and United States Guidelines on Surveillance and Phytosanitary Actions for the Potato Cyst Nematodes \*Globodera rostochiensis\* and \*Globodera pallida\*.”](#) The revision enhanced the ability of these countries to prevent the spread of PCN while limiting disruptions to trade.

Now APHIS and CFIA have, at the request of and in consultation with their stakeholders, further clarified the term “field” as used in these PCN Guidelines.

### Within Sections 4, 7 and 9

A “field” refers to a distinct plot of land distinguished from neighboring plots of land by physical boundaries such as roads, fences, waterways, etc. If PCN presence is confirmed within a field, the entire field as defined by its physical boundaries will come under regulatory control.

### Within Section 8

A “field” is defined by the boundaries of the specific area of land that was surveyed for PCN. Boundaries must be permanently recorded and traceable using GPS coordinates or physical markers accepted by the national plant protection organization (NPPO) of the exporting country. If the area of land sampled for PCN differs from one potato crop to the subsequent potato crop, only the area sampled in common to these two potato crops will be eligible for the PCN survey exemption provision specified in Section 8, provided all PCN survey results are negative.

To see the complete PCN Guidelines document, go to the APHIS PCN Web page at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/pcn> and click on the text **Potato Cyst Nematode Guidelines** under the heading **Pest Management**.

For more information about the PCN Guidelines or clarification of the term “field” as used within the Guidelines, contact Jonathan Jones, National Policy Manager at (301) 851-2128, or Terri Dunahay, Trade Director, Canada at (301) 851-2369.