

Statement Regarding Guidelines on Surveillance and Phytosanitary Actions for the Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN)

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Background and Status

On April 19, 2006, the USDA, in cooperation with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, confirmed the detection of the pale cyst nematode *Globodera pallida* (PCN) in a soil sample originating from a potato processing facility in Idaho. This confirmation represented the first detection of PCN in the United States. In North America, potato cyst nematodes *Globodera pallida* and *G. rostochensis* have been detected in Alberta, British Columbia, Quebec, Newfoundland, Canada and in the state of New York in the U.S. Following the initial detection in Idaho, seven additional fields (approximately 1,100 acres total) all within one mile of each other have been found to be infested. All of these fields were in commercial potato production and no detections have been made from an Idaho seed production field. Following the April 2006 detection, and as of October 2008, more than 150,000 Idaho samples have been processed with no additional detections since November 2007.

In response to these detections in the U.S. and Canada, a national survey for PCNs was developed and implemented for seed potatoes. Additionally, there has been an overall effort to harmonize trade requirements and guidelines for import/export of potatoes with Canada. The current operational guidelines, as officially approved, include a 1.1 pound per acre sampling rate. As part of ongoing general discussions, the PCN International Science Panel was requested to review several related critical issues, including the sampling rate for PCN. Based on the International Science Panel's review, it has been determined the 1.1 pound per acre sample rate is inadequate and places the U.S. potato industry at risk for importation of PCN or other significant nematodes.

National Plant Board-Policy Statement

The National Plant Board fully supports the recent review and evaluation of the PCN International Science Panel related to sampling rate for PCN. As such, the NPB recommends that USDA, APHIS, PPQ fully adopt the 5 pound per acre sampling rate and take those actions necessary to assist states in shifting over to this sampling rate. The NPB also recommends that USDA, APHIS, PPQ encourage Canada, as part of ongoing trade discussions, to move to the 5 pound per acre sampling rate.