

IDAHO POTATO PULSE



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An USDA-APHIS Pale Cyst Nematode (PCN) Update

The recent media attention to the PCN program has raised a number of questions in the industry, particularly about “recent” PCN findings. It is important to have accurate information about the recent publicity.

The ongoing USDA-APHIS and ISDA cooperative program to eradicate *Globodera pallida* first detected in 2006 is nearing the end of the 2011 fall survey season. Three new infested fields were confirmed on March 18, August 17, and September 16, 2011. These were the first new detections since 2008. This brings the total infested area to 1,467 acres within a 2.5 mile radius in Bingham and Bonneville counties. An additional 14,066 acres are regulated due to their association with an infested field.

Over 350,000 soil samples have been collected throughout Idaho to confirm Idaho’s freedom from PCN outside the 12 infested fields. The robust statewide survey and aggressive regulatory requirements have allowed all but one foreign market to reopen to Idaho potatoes that closed immediately after the initial detection. The program is scheduled to undergo a 5-year program review in February 2012.

Additional information on the Idaho PCN program can be found at:
www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/potato/pcn.shtml