

IDAHO POTATO PULSE



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Idaho Potato Commission receives Federal Farm Bill Grants to help PCN regulated growers

In early 2013, the Idaho Potato Commission (IPC) received \$95,461 in Federal Farm Bill grants to help the growers in the Shelley area battle and eradicate the Potato Cyst Nematode. Growers in this area have been affected with this pest for several years now and depending on their particular situation, instructed to clean and rinse their equipment before moving to other parts of their ground. Patrick Kole, VP of Legal and Government Affairs, was instrumental in securing these grants.

Seven mobile pressure washing trailers were built with \$52,090 of the monies received. Growers can become self-certified to clean their own implements and tractors using these trailers. Growers will be able to lease these trailers at \$0 cost from the Idaho Potato Commission for a period of time to help with their cleaning needs. Then, at the end of the lease, growers are expected to return the equipment in good, working condition.

Each trailer is equipped with two Landa pressure washers running each off their own 265 gallon water tanks. These tanks were donated to the Idaho Potato Commission from Bingham Coop in Blackfoot Idaho. Each pressure washer operates on gasoline and has a Honda 13HP motor which generates 4,000 PSI and sprays 4.2 gallons of water per minute. There is also 100 feet of hose running from each washer, which is enough to get around the different tractors and implements used. As you can see by the picture below, these trailers are very nice and will be very helpful.



With the second grant, \$43,371 was used to build a Wash Pad in Shelley Idaho area. The IPC worked with GPOD of Idaho to put this on their property, just to the east of their packing shed. The IPC appreciates the commitment GPOD as shown with helping the growers with this situation. Kevin Searle, General Manager of GPOD said, "Having been at the nucleus of the Potato Cyst Nematode Program since PCN was discovered, GPOD of Idaho has aligned itself in every way

possible to assist in the eradication of this pest to the Idaho potato industry. We feel an obligation to assist all potato growers in our partnership obligation with the USDA APHIS, ISDA and the IPC in overcoming the challenges presented by the intrusion of the nematode. Therefore, we have participated in the construction of a Steam/Wash Pad on our property site. It is our hope that the generic use of this pad by any and all who can use it as a close proximity site to facilitate the process required for steam sanitization and washing will feel free to do so. A Farm Bill funding grant via the IPC made this opportunity possible. A thank you to the PCN Program Director and team, the IPC, and the licensed contractor.”



Special thanks goes to the USDA-APHIS which coordinated these projects and spent many, many hours working on them. Tina Gresham, the Program Director for the Pale Cyst Nematode Program has a great team working for her. Tina stated, “The grant has provided PCN program stakeholders with no-cost access to mobile pressure-washing trailers for sanitizing equipment on their own schedule, without having to schedule a job with the USDA. At the busiest times of the year, like during potato harvest, the trailers will give them greater flexibility for working within sanitation requirements. The trailers were especially helpful during the government shutdown, when unfortunately the PCN Program had to close its doors for 16 days.” Bob Gourley coordinated the efforts with Miguel Raya and George Raya in designing and building the trailers.

For information how to lease a trailer for use, please contact Travis Blacker at 208-360-9560.