

IDAHO POTATO PULSE



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Below please find two announcements: First, John Keeling's summary of what APHIS is doing, and second, the actual announcement.

Sent on behalf of Pat Kole
VP Legal and Government Affairs
Idaho Potato Commission

Subject: Status of the Canadian Border

Based on my discussions with APHIS, it appears that CFIA has completed the survey work for the two suspect farms and the trace back and trace forward fields associated with the two positive fields on the infected farms. APHIS is reviewing the data submitted by CFIA and has asked for clarification on a number of issues. But APHIS believes that the work done by CFIA meets the obligations agreed to by APHIS and CFIA and also with the agreement of the growers at the US Canada Meeting. If all continues as expected the US border will open to seed from Canada tested at the 1 lb. sample size toward the end of January. CFIA and APHIS are tentatively planning a meeting that will include growers and grower representatives for the 29th or 30th to review the PCN guidelines and the International science report. We will let you know when and if a date is finalized. Based on discussions with APHIS it appears that the switch to the 5 lb. sample for export shipments for the 2010 shipping season remains firm.

John Keeling, National Potato Council

FOR INFORMATION
DA-2009-05
January 16, 2009

SUBJECT: Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN) in Alberta, Canada

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is in the process of lifting the suspension of the movement of seed potatoes from the Province of Alberta, Canada. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has successfully met the conditions for delimiting the infestation of PCN in Alberta. On October 31, 2008, APHIS announced new restrictions on seed potato imports from Alberta due to PCN detections and the need to delimit the infestation.

Based on the information provided from CFIA, we will allow the resumption of seed potato importation from Alberta to the United States beginning January 28, 2009. All seed potatoes shipped to the United States must have originated from fields that were sampled, tested and shown to be free of PCN, in accordance with the mutually agreed upon "PCN Guidelines", and did not originate from any area regulated for PCN.

/s/ Rebecca A. Bech

Rebecca A. Bech
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine