



NEWSLETTER

USDA/APHIS CLOSED BORDER TO ALL SEED POTATOES ORIGINATING IN ALBERTA

Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) announced a positive find of Golden Nematode (GN) at two potato seed farms in Alberta. APHIS and CFIA have guidelines that must be followed to allow movement of products between countries after GN or Pale Cyst Nematode (PCN) have been identified in an area. PCN was located in Idaho almost two years ago and GN was located in Quebec shortly after. Each of these areas has followed the GN/PCN guidelines to help limit movement of this quarantined pest. The guidelines require the infected country to provide paper work that will provide all possible connections of other infected fields along with trace back and trace forward documents. These documents will help identify where the infestation may have come from and where it may have gone.

USDA/APHIS has been working closely with CFIA to get areas de-limited to continue movement of potatoes as quickly as possible. At this time all of Alberta has been closed to the US for seed potato imports.

THE FOLLOWING WAS PROVIDED BY USDA:

PEST BIOLOGY AND SYMPTOMS

Golden nematodes inhabit the soil and feed on roots, and rarely tubers, of potato plants and roots of a few close relatives such as tomatoes, eggplant and some related weeds. The nematodes are sedentary root parasites, staying put once they find a feeding site on the roots. Mature females swell into golden-colored (and later dark brown) egg-shaped cysts about 2 mm long. In each are 200-500 eggs. Cysts can persist in the soil, with viable eggs inside, for up to 20 years. Eggs hatch only in response to roots of potato plants.

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*OPC plans for the 41st Annual Conference
January 31 - February 1st, 2008
Tentative schedule on page 3*

THE OREGON POTATO CONFERENCE WELCOMES JAY LEHR, Ph.D.

Dr. Lehr is an internationally renowned motivational speaker, scientist and author who will be presenting his perspective on The Future of Sustainable Agriculture.

He combines a deep understanding of both science and economics in describing the impact of advancing technologies on the local, regional, national and global economy. He has authored over 400 magazine and journal articles, as well as 12 books. He is considered the world's leading authority on groundwater hydrology. He has testified before Congress many times on environmental issues and has consulted with nearly every federal agency.



Farmers are now being required to address extended issues of sustainability and stewardship by moms, retailers, chefs, produce buyers, processors, USDA and other bodies—in essence, each handler from farmgate to the consumer. For example, food miles refer to the distance that food travels from point of production to point of consumption and is used to measure both economic and environmental impacts of the food produced and consumed. Related issues such as overall freshness, buying seasonally, buying locally, and buying organic all relate to addressing the concept of food miles. Production of organic fruits and vegetables, or at least using fewer chemical inputs, has been a growing niche market. Additionally, carbon sequestration, using recycled and recyclable materials, food safety and even farm worker benefits are now all falling under the expanding umbrella of sustainability. Farmers are compelled to come to terms with this mega-definition of sustainability and maintain a sustainable business as well.

The latest wrinkle in sustainability has been the implementation of “sustainability audits” by groups including USDA, Walmart, SYSCO, Costco and McDonalds, each with its own auditing/credentialing system. This not only introduces new requirements for producers, but also demands documentation of current practices.

RMA Dr. Lehr's presentation is funded through a grant from the USDA Risk Management Agency's Risk Management Education program

USDA/APHIS CLOSED BORDER

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Symptoms of golden nematode infection include poor growth, stunting, sickly yellow appearance, wilting at midday, and premature death. Infected areas of fields enlarge with each potato crop, and the density of the nematode population increases as well. The nematode moves to new areas in soil. Most often the soil is associated with farm equipment and seed potatoes. The nematode cysts can also be blown in the wind from one field to another.

Why the Fuss?

There are two primary reasons that this pest is regulated by quarantine. **The first** is that introduction of any new pest to a country or state leads to an increase in the cost of production for the affected crop. If golden nematode becomes established, it will never go away, and our industry will have to cope with it as an additional cost of production. We would also have to be sure to manage it in a way that it does not develop resistance to pesticides or overcome resistance genes in resistant varieties.

The other big reason this is a regulated pest. Many other countries around the world still do not have this pest and very much want to avoid acquiring it. Therefore, there are strict quarantines in place all over the world, which prohibit importation of potatoes from regions with known golden nematode infestations. All states in the U.S. that export fresh or seed potatoes therefore have a strong incentive to avoid golden nematode. A major consequence to Oregon of an established golden nematode population likely would be loss of international export markets and restrictions on domestic sales and transport as well.

submitted by Bill Brewer



Plan to Come early to the Conference

The Northwest Agricultural Show at the Portland Expo Center 2060 Marine Drive, Portland, OR 97217 being held on Tuesday January 29, through Thursday, January 31st, starting at 10:00 AM. Wednesday is "Family Day"

Free Parking and Free admission with your Oregon Potato Conference Name Tag Badge

41st Annual Oregon Potato Conference at the DoubleTree-Lloyd Center Hotel

1000 NE Multnomah, Portland, OR 97232

Phone: 1-800-996-0510

(Make your reservations by January 8, 2008)

January 31 & February 1, 2008

Tentative Conference Schedule

Thursday, January 31st 1:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

Potato Production in China – Dr. Al Mosley

History of Potato Production in the Pacific Northwest – Dr. Mark Pavek, WSU, Pullman

To be announced

BREAK

Nitrogen-induced growth responses of new cultivars relative to R. Burbank - Dr. Mark Pavek, WSU, Pullman

Promising New Potato Varieties – Dr. Isabel Vales, OSU, Corvallis

It all Starts With Good Seed – Brian Charlton, Klamath Research & Extension Center

Reception 7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m. at the DoubleTree Hotel

Friday, February 1st 8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Zebra Chip, A new Disease of Potato in North and Central America – Dr. Joseph Munyaneza

ARS Yakima Agricultural Research Lab., Yakima, WA

Revisiting PVY Management in the PNW Potato Ecosystem – Dr. Juan Alvarez, Univ. of Idaho, Aberdeen

Can You Really Know What Disease is Infecting Your Potatoes – Phil Hamm, Hermiston Agricultural Research & Extension Center

Potato Weed Control - Dr. Joel Felix, OSU Malheur Ex. Station

BREAK

Is your TMD your Friend: – Dr. Clinton Shock, OSU Malheur Exp. Station

The Future of Sustainable Agriculture – Dr. Jay Lehr

41st Annual Awards Luncheon 12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m.

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Upcoming Events

December 24-31,2007 Office Closed

January 3-4, 2008 Oregon Potato Variety
Development Research meeting Corvallis, OR

January 10-14, 2008 NPC Annual Meeting,
Marco Island, FL

January 16, 2008 Union County Potato Growers
meeting, La Grande, OR

**January 31 & February 1, 2008 Oregon
Potato Conference in Portland, OR**

February 20-28, 2008 Potato Industry Leadership
Institute, San Luis Valley, CO and Washington DC

February 24-28, 2008 NPC Public Policy Con-
ference, Washington, DC

Oregon Potato Commission

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Vice Chairman Lon Baley, Malin

Tony Amstad, Hermiston

Leif Eric Benson, Timberline

Jim Carleton, Merrill

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