

**2021 Deputy Administrator’s Safe Trade Award:
APHIS Potato Wart (PW) Technical Working Group (TWG)**

Potato wart (PW) is one of the most serious potato diseases, globally, reducing crop yield and making potatoes unmarketable. The TWG rapidly responded to new detections of PW in Prince Edward Island (PEI), Canada which are a threat to U.S. potato production and trade. The TWG ensured that new regulations were put in place for soil and other articles from PEI, and worked diligently with Canada to understand the circumstances of the new detections and to recommend science-based solutions. The team launched a domestic response in impacted States that protected U.S. potato growers and the U.S. potato global export market. The TWGs actions fulfill all three of the major categories of the safeguarding continuum. The team worked extensively with Canada’s national plant protection organization (CFIA) to develop plant health requirements for potatoes from PEI; developed science-based regulations for PW and issued new requirements for importation of soil and other articles from PEI; developed a prescreening protocol for the PW fungus and identified and funded two State labs to pre-screen samples; worked with States and others to conduct soil surveys and surveillance for PW. The swift actions of the TWG and the team’s sustained cooperation with CFIA resulted in no trade disruptions for U.S. potato growers.

Team Members

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