



Pale Cyst Nematode (PCN) Eradication Program - Idaho Falls, Idaho 2024 1st Quarter Report (January 1st – March 31st)

PROGRAM UPDATES AND NEW INFORMATION:

- The current Pale Cyst Nematode (PCN) regulated area, which spans portions of northern Bingham and southern Bonneville Counties, is 6,495 acres (3,538 acres of infested fields and 2,957 acres of associated fields). The PCN infestation is limited to an area with an 8.5-mile radius and represents less than 1% of Idaho’s total potato production areas.

ERADICATION ACTIVITIES

- The PCN program contracted with a licensed chemical applicator to fumigate seven PCN-infested fields (approximately 754 acres) with the nematicide Telone™ II (1,3-dichloropropene). Fumigation was completed on the seven fields in October 2023.

REGULATORY DATA

Table 1. Number of Pieces of Equipment Treated by PCN Program by Treatment Type.

Treatment type	1 st Quarter of 2024	2024 Year to Date	Since Program Inception (2006)
Pressure washed	28	28	35,063
Steam Sanitized	5	5	5,681
Total	33	33	40,744

Table 2. Number of Pieces of Equipment Treated by Stakeholders Participating in the Self-Certification Program.

Treatment type	1 st Quarter of 2024*	2024 Year to Date*	Since Program Inception (2006)
Pressure washed	0	0	5029

*Self-certification data lags all other program data as stakeholders have three months after the end of each quarter to self-certify.



Table 3. Regulatory Documentation Issued by PCN Program.

Documentation type	1 st Quarter of 2024	2024 Year to Date	Since Program Inception (2006)	Active
Certificates (PPQ* 540)	15	15	15,682	**
Limited Permits (PPQ 530)	5	5	4,520	**
Compliance Agreements (PPQ 519)	6	6	407	22

*Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ); **Not applicable

SURVEY DATA

- To date, the PCN program has collected 539,575 soil samples in Idaho outside of the 32 known infested fields.

Table 4. Soil Samples Collected in Idaho.

Type of Survey	1 st Quarter of 2024	2024 Year to Date	Since Program Inception (2006)
Detection	0	0	241,536*
Delimiting	0	0	298,039
Eradication	0	0	206,419
Total	0	0	745,994

*Decrease from prior quarterly report is due to a data error on the previous quarter’s report.

LABORATORY DATA

- Since 2009, the PCN program has collected and screened 89,379 soil samples in support of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture’s (ISDA) post-regulation monitoring survey of fields deregulated by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Note: this data stays static, because the ISDA no longer conducts post-regulation monitoring surveys.
- Since program inception, the PCN laboratory has screened 114,191 soil samples collected in other potato-producing states. There have been no PCN detections in the United States outside of Idaho.



Table 5. Samples Processed by the PPQ Idaho Falls PCN Laboratory.

Type of Survey	1 st Quarter of 2024	2024 Year to Date	Since Program Inception (2006)
Detection	6,783	6,783	303,117
Delimiting	1,218	1,218	289,905
Eradication	2,580	2,580	205,726
Total	10,581	10,581	798,748

Table 6. Historic Info: Samples Processed at Other Idaho Laboratories.

Type of Survey	Idaho Food Quality Assurance Laboratory (2006-2009, now closed)	Idaho State Parma Research and Extension Center (2006-2009)
Detection	52,670	69
Delimiting	10,227	896
Total	62,897	965

ERADICATION MONITORING AND PROGRESS

ERADICATION STATUS

Infested Field Deregulation Steps:

1. Viability Test: Since its inception in 2006, the PCN program has used a staining technique to analyze the viability of nematode eggs. Cyst samples are collected from infested field-monitoring grids before and after fumigation treatments to monitor viability. If a field is determined to have zero viability, the field may move to the next step of deregulation: greenhouse bioassay.

2. Greenhouse Bioassays: A greenhouse bioassay is a test of the nematode’s ability to hatch, feed, and reproduce when cysts are placed in proximity to a growing host plant in a controlled environment. Fields must undergo three rounds of greenhouse bioassay to progress to the final deregulations stage: in-field bioassay. Greenhouse bioassay is a test of the nematode’s ability to hatch, feed, and reproduce when cysts are placed in proximity to a growing host plant



3. In-field bioassay: After successful completion of greenhouse bioassay testing, field have reduced sanitation requirements and are eligible to return to potato production at the landowners’ discretion only for the purpose of an in-field bioassay following harvest. Fields that return to potato production must undergo full-field surveys following each of three subsequent potato crops to check for viable PCN populations. If viable nematodes are found after a survey, the program reinstates prohibitions on growing potatoes, and full sanitation treatments for equipment and vehicles leaving the field (i.e., pressure washing and steam treatment). Infested fields are released from regulatory control after three rounds of in-field bioassay where viable cysts are not detected.

Table 7. Current Regulatory Status of PCN Infested Fields.

Field Status	Number of Fields	Acres
Passed Greenhouse Bioassay Test: Eligible to Return to Potatoes and start the In-Field Bioassay Test (See Table 9 for in-field bioassay results summary)	20	2219.7
Passed Viability Test: Greenhouse Bioassay Test in Progress	6*	645
Viable PCN: Continue with Telone™ II Treatment	5	596.5
Viable PCN: No Treatment to Date	1	76.8
Total	32	3538

*No cysts have been detected since 2015 in a Bingham County field (149.5 ac) following the litchi tomato trap crop. In the spring of CY2023 potatoes were planted only in the monitoring grids for the first round GH bioassay test. The rest of the field was planted to wheat.

Table 8. Current In-Field Bioassay Status.

Deregulation Status	Fields that have passed one round of in-field bioassay (viable nematode eggs not detected following harvest)	Fields that have passed two rounds of in-field bioassay (viable nematode eggs not detected following harvest)	Fields that did not pass in-field bioassay (viable nematode eggs were detected following harvest)
# of Fields	1	4	7*
# of Acres	48.8	405.3	826.3

*Viable nematodes detected in five fields on first deregulation iteration and in two fields on the second deregulation iteration.



IMPACTS ON COMMERCE

In response to the initial PCN detection in 2006, Canada, Mexico and Korea shut off importation of potatoes from Idaho, while Japan cut off importation of potatoes from the entire United States. The Mexico and Canada export markets have both been re-opened except for potatoes from PCN-regulated areas. Both require PCN soil surveys from origin fields. The Korea market was reopened in June 2010 except for potatoes originating from Bingham and Bonneville Counties, Idaho. Japan reopened the market for all except Idaho potatoes in February 2007 and to Idaho potatoes in September 2017. This action represented a major milestone for the Idaho potato industry and the PCN program, the full restoration of all markets lost due to the original 2006 PCN detection. Because of extensive field surveys conducted throughout production areas in Idaho, all of which have been negative beyond the thirty-two infested fields, the general opinion by trading partners is that potatoes produced outside regulated areas do not pose a risk for spread of PCN.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Pale Cyst Nematode program information is available via the USDA APHIS Stakeholder Registry. The Registry allows anyone to subscribe and receive alerts by email or by text message when new information about PCN or other topics of interest are announced. Subscribing is simple and you can unsubscribe or change your selections at any time. For PCN program announcements, select Plant Health in the U.S. (Domestic), then Pest Management, and finally Potato Pests and Diseases. To sign up, visit <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAPHIS/subscriber/new>

More PCN program information can be found at:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/plant-pest-and-disease-programs/pests-and-diseases/nematode/pcn>

If you have additional questions, contact the PCN program office at (208) 522-2431, Monday through Friday, 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM (Mountain Time), excluding federal holidays.