

Potato cyst nematode at Thorpdale

Interstate trade negotiations

An important meeting regarding interstate trade was held in Melbourne over two days last week.

The main outcomes were:

- Strong, positive messages were received from Queensland and South Australia regarding market access for Thorpdale potatoes in the future.
- NSW is looking at more rapidly addressing legislation issues to enable access.
- South Australia has tested all their trace forward properties and is awaiting results.
- Queensland will start testing their trace forward properties when they find out exactly what protocols they need to test under and how much testing needs to be done.
- The overall 'feeling' was very positive; however, no State gave a 100% commitment to accept Thorpdale potatoes this year.
- The other States have three weeks to consult with their respective industries and decide whether or not they agree to the protocols proposed by Victoria.

Soil surveys

- The soil surveys are progressing well. As of 13 November, 374 ha of land had been sampled over nine properties. No further detections of PCN have been made.
- Extra survey staff have been employed to sample soil from priority properties, bringing the total up to 24 (six teams).
- At DPI Knoxfield, upgrades in equipment and training of new staff are improving sample processing.

Prioritising samples

- Grower support and cooperation with survey teams has been excellent.

However, to prioritise sampling properly, it is important that DPI receives the requested information about harvesting times and other crop details.

If you haven't already done so, please return this information to **Neville Fernando** as soon as possible (fax 5624 2200).

Financial advice

If you would like to talk to a Rural Financial Counsellor, please contact either:

- **RFC Leongatha** - 5662 2566 (Jenni Gibson or Marshall White)
- **RFC Ellinbank** - 5624 2286 (Ilona Kingston)

Your local DPI Community Relationship Manager is **Angus Hume**:
phone 5662 9927 / 0429 110 546; email angus.hume@dpi.vic.gov.au

DPI would like to acknowledge the support of ViCSPA, Seed Potatoes Victoria, the Victorian Potato Growers' Council and the Baw Baw Shire Council in the response to the PCN detection.

Movement regulations

For information about the movement of potato plant material, machinery and other equipment, please contact DPI Plant Standards on (03) 8371 3500 or plant.standards@dpi.vic.gov.au

Other information is available on the DPI website at www.dpi.vic.gov.au/psb