

14 January
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Number 7

PCN NEWS

Potato cyst nematode at Thorpdale

Market access

- Interim arrangements for interstate movement of potatoes sourced from within 20km of the Thorpdale PCN detection were negotiated by DPI Plant Standards in late December. These arrangements will be in effect until May 2009.
- A notice detailing the arrangements was distributed to industry before the new year. A copy can also be found on the DPI website at www.dpi.vic.gov.au/psb
- An accreditation program has been set up by Plant Standards to facilitate interstate movement of potatoes. Almost all of the affected growers have been registered with this program.
- Interstate consignments need to meet standards concerning the PCN status of the crop paddock, the amount of soil adhering to potato tubers and the packaging and labelling of consignment units.
- Plant Standards officers are stationed at DPI Ellinbank to inspect and certify consignments—they can be contacted by telephone on (03) 5624 2331.
- Self-accreditation and certification documents are also being developed for the industry and these will be available when approved by interstate authorities.
- Self-certification for processing potatoes moving to NSW is now permissible under an Interstate Certification Assurance arrangement (ICA-44).

Soil surveys

- An important milestone has been reached with the completion of soil sampling in the Thorpdale potato cropping area. Around 2,900 hectares were sampled by the field teams, who took more than 550,000 soil cores in the process.
- The field teams worked quickly and efficiently to complete this physically demanding task in a little over two months.
- A number of Victorian and interstate properties linked to the initial detection site remain to be sampled.
- Testing of Thorpdale soil for the presence of PCN is also progressing very well at DPI Knoxfield. However, testing is much more time-consuming than sampling and is expected to continue into March.
- A soil sample from a second Thorpdale farm has tested positive for PCN. The farm is linked to and nearby the initial detection. There may now be further trace forward testing, but the interim arrangements for interstate trade will not be affected.

A sad loss

We regret to note the sudden passing of former DPI employee Bruce Fry, who had recently been re-recruited to assist with the Thorpdale PCN response. We extend sincere condolences to his family.

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) 5624 2331 or plant.standards@dpi.vic.gov.au

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