

IDAHO POTATO PULSE



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Dear Members of the Potato Industry,

Below please find a joint press release from the National Potato Council and the Canadian Horticulture Council, the two national organizations representing the US/Canadian potato industries respectively. The press release summarizes the agreement reached between the two industries in early November, but has been delayed while negotiations took place over implementation of the agreement between USDA APHIS and Agriculture Canada CFIA.

Please contact us if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Pat Kole
Idaho Potato Commission

Canada-U.S. Potato Committee



For Immediate Release
December 2, 2008

Canada-US Potato Committee Meets

Representatives from the Canadian and United States potato industries met in Arlington, VA recently to discuss a wide range of important issues which impact potato production and trade in and between the two countries.

U.S. Co-Chair, Dan Moss together with Canadian Co-Chair Keith Kuhl, noted that it was a meeting to remember. During the two-day meeting the committee reached an agreement that will provide additional certainty on the phytosanitary requirements for seed potato shipments between the two countries. The committee unanimously approved a recommendation to the U.S. and Canadian governments identifying actions to be taken to resolve the current border closure due to Potato Cyst Nematodes. The main focus of the recommendation was completion of the testing of delimiting samples related to the PCN detection in Alberta and increasing the detection survey sample size in Canada and the U.S. to 5 lb/acre from the current 1.1 lb/acre for the 2009 crop year.

In reaching an agreement acceptable to growers on both sides of the border potato industry representatives took an important new step toward a role for the Canada-U.S. Potato Committee that is proactive and focused on reaching grower driven solutions to problems.

Other areas of discussion touched on other phytosanitary issues, on-farm food safety, crop protection and product quality.

Committee members are committed to encourage all levels of government to work with the committee to ensure the success reached today is carried forward for the future.

The next meeting will be hosted by the Potato Committee Executive of the Canadian Horticultural Council in Ottawa, Canada in November 2009.

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The Canada-U.S. Potato Committee was established in the mid 1970's with the objective of discussing and resolving bilateral issues such as harmonization of grade standards, sanitary and phytosanitary issues and developing a better understanding of market access barriers. The Committee is a joint initiative supported by the Canadian Horticultural Council Potato Committee and the US National Potato Council with technical resources provided by both governments.