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ANNUAL REPORT FOR PENNSYLVANIA 2009

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Status of Plum Pox Virus in Pennsylvania as of July 24, 2009

BACKGROUND:
This is the 10th year of the PPV eradication effort in Pennsylvania since the detection of PPV in an orchard in Adams County in the fall of 1999. Follow-up surveys detected the virus in 3 additional Pennsylvania counties. Positive detections in PA were highest during the first two years of the survey but have remained at levels of 11 or less since 2002. These surveys are a cooperative effort between APHIS PPQ, PDA, and Penn State University with each supplying infrastructure, equipment, and personnel. The regulated areas during that time have decreased from a high of 349 square miles in 2003 to 48 square miles in 2009. The 2007 survey produced negative results for the first time since the detection of PPV in 1999. The negative survey status continued in 2008 increasing the anticipation of being able to declare eradication in Pennsylvania at the end of the 2009 survey. In the interim, two small areas in Adams County and one small area in Cumberland County remain under regulation for PPV. Three consecutive years of negative survey are required to rescind the remaining quarantines that prohibit growers from resuming establishment of Prunus orchards. The nursery propagation quarantine will remain effect for an additional 3 years after formerly infected areas are released from regulation.

Because of a PPV nursery find in 2003, roughly five miles from any quarantine boundary, nursery quarantine restrictions were expanded and enhanced in an area around the primary PPV quarantine zones, via Pennsylvania regulations put in effect January 2005. The expanded nursery quarantine zone covers all primary quarantine areas for three years after the primary quarantine has been rescinded. It also covers any additional area that may be outside a primary quarantine zone but that lies within 11.5 km of a PPV-positive found in the previous three years. In this expanded area, the sale of *Prunus* from retail sites that buy-in their nursery stock is permitted, but propagation or long-term grow-out of *Prunus* near primary quarantine areas is prohibited, to lessen potential exposure of nursery stock to aphids that may carry PPV, and subsequent movement of that stock to areas where it could be the source of a new PPV infection focus.

The 2009 PPV surveys continue to focus on commercial stone fruit orchards, Prunus from residential properties and potential weed reservoirs collected from land adjacent to previously infected orchards (now destroyed). A PPV surveillance program that utilized bait plants to attract potential aphid vectors has been discontinued as well as a program to plant ‘sentinel’ Prunus trees to monitor for PPV.

DATA SUMMARY OF THE 2009 PROGRAM:

PA Activity	Weekly Total	Cumulative Total
Number of Samples Collected	8,250	169,881
Number of Samples Processed	15,865	176,869
Number of Positive Samples	0	0
Destruction Orders Issued	0	0
Acres Removed	0	0
Homeowner Properties Visited	1,909	16,324
Homeowner Samples Collected	800	6,866
Number of weed samples collected + processed*	736	4,659
Number of positive weed samples	0	0

Orchard destruction orders were last issued on a positive orchard block identified in 2006. To date the total PA orchard acreage removed since the beginning of the program stands at 1,614 acres. Growers were compensated for the loss of their trees based on a mutually agreed upon formula that calculated the value of the trees.