

Intensive soil testing efforts of Wisconsin seed potato fields in 2008 continued to show that fields are free from potato cyst nematodes (*Globodera rostochiensis* and *G. pallida*).

These microscopically small, worm-like creatures can cause significant damage to potato production. Female nematodes form durable pinhead-sized resting stages called cysts that can survive in the soil for decades and still infect potatoes. Potato cyst nematodes (PCN) have never been found in Wisconsin. In 2008, a total of 610 soil samples were collected from 3050 acres of potato fields (Figure 1). This represents over 1.3 tons of soil screened for cysts by Plant Industry Laboratory staff.

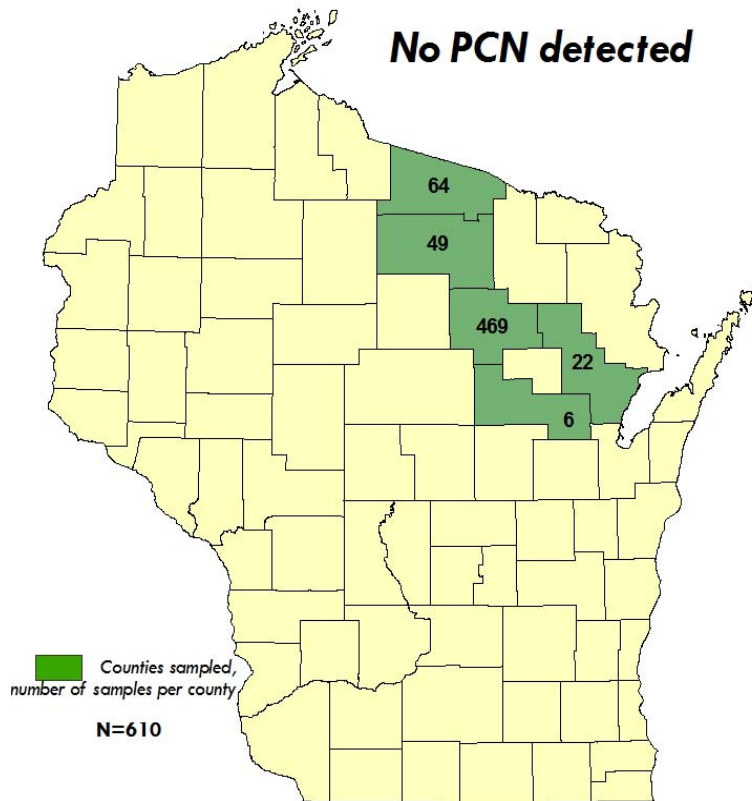
Field sampling and testing focused on seed potato fields to facilitate export of seed potatoes to Canada. Potato cyst nematodes would be a serious threat to potato production and trade if found in this state.

2008 was the second year of an intensive nation wide survey funded by USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). In Wisconsin, DATCP staff have been collecting soil samples from fields and potato storage facilities since 1982.

The surveys varied in scope and were funded by the USDA's Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Program. A total of 6336 samples have been screened for PCN over the course of 27 years (Figure 2). No suspect cyst nematodes have been found in Wisconsin.

### 2008 Potato Cyst Nematode Survey

3,050 acres of seed potato fields sampled



Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

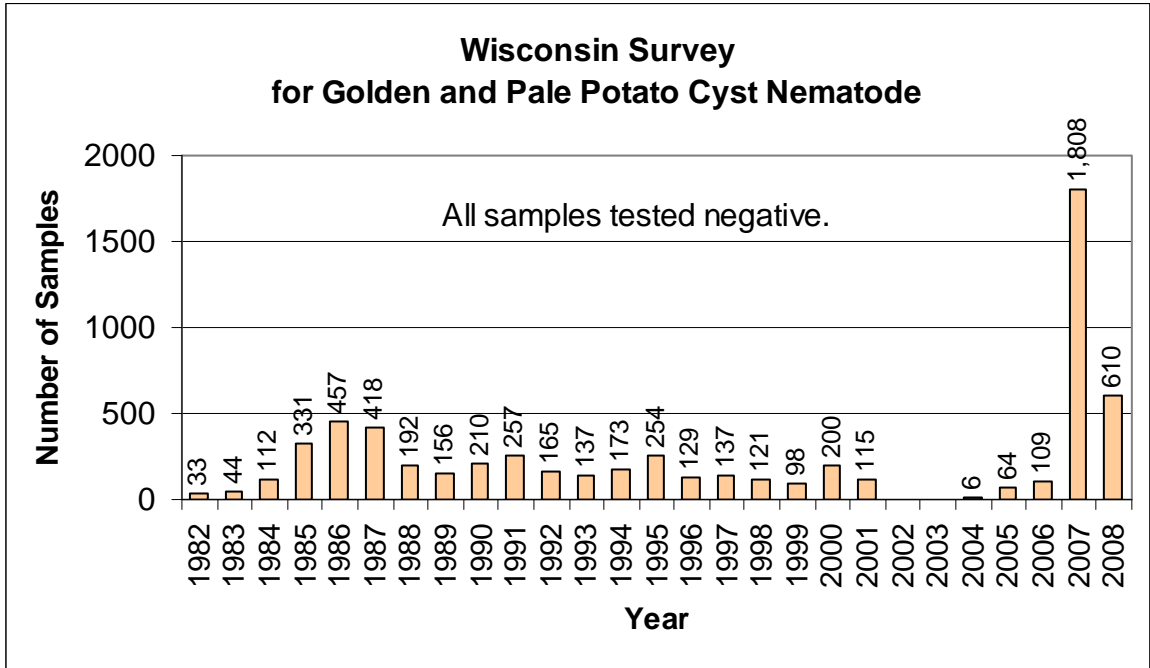


Figure 1. No potato cyst nematodes were found in Wisconsin in the 610 samples tested in 2008.

For more information about Potato cyst nematodes see these links:

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/potato/pcn.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/potato/pcn.shtml)

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/plant\\_health/content/printable\\_version/pa\\_potatocyst12-06.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/plant_health/content/printable_version/pa_potatocyst12-06.pdf)



**Figure 2.** Number of soils and piler dirt samples screened each year.

Author: Anette Phibbs, DATCP, Plant Industry Laboratory, Email: anette.phibbs@wi.gov