



## PMTV Stakeholder Update 16<sup>th</sup> August 2019

### Re: PMTV Biosecurity Response

#### **The Potato Mop-Top Virus joint response has now ended.**

The joint Biosecurity New Zealand and Potatoes New Zealand response to the crop disease *Potato mop-top virus* (PMTV) is being closed out, with Potatoes New Zealand taking the lead on long-term management.

PMTV was confirmed in New Zealand in September 2018, initially concentrated in grower paddocks in Canterbury.

It became evident early in the response that the disease couldn't be eradicated and the best outcome for potato growers is industry led, long-term management.

Biosecurity New Zealand will continue to support our industry in helping us develop the long-term management plan, which will include non-regulatory controls and voluntary agreement.

It's the first time our two organisations have worked together on a biosecurity response since signing up to the Government Industry Agreement (GIA).

Potatoes New Zealand sees this as a successful end to the first joint response.

A national survey to determine the extent of the disease has now been completed and the virus has been confirmed throughout our growing regions north to south, indicating that it has been in New Zealand for a long period of time.

We've got a plan in development and it will incorporate research from world experts, in line with best practice.

There have been no significant losses to growers that can be attributed to the disease.

#### **Managing the spread**

You have an important role to play in protecting your farm, your region and the potato industry from biosecurity threats. If you suspect you have found PMTV on your property, contact Potatoes New Zealand on **0800 399 674**.

PMTV can be spread on seed tubers, in soil associated with boots, in machinery, and in waste or by-products from potatoes, so on-farm hygiene practices and developing a robust farm biosecurity plan are vital to try to minimise and help control the spread of potato mop-top virus.

Specific on-farm management measures include:

- not growing potatoes in affected paddocks
- cleaning and/or disinfecting equipment, machinery and vehicles to avoid spreading soil between paddocks and properties
- using signage to ensure workers and visitors are aware of biosecurity hygiene practices

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