



IMPORTANT NOTICE!

DISPOSAL OF CULL POTATOES, 2005

Cull potatoes can be sources of disease such as late blight and bacterial ring rot. The presence of piles of cull potatoes on a farm increases the risk that the new crop may become infected with disease. Proper cull potato disposal is a necessary component of an effective disease management strategy.

Disposal

Cull potatoes may be disposed of by processing into products such as starch. They may also be used as livestock feed at this time of year if the potatoes are ensiled or stored under cover. Exposed piles of potatoes in feedlots act the same as cull piles on farms and can be sources of infection especially if the feedlots are located in potato production areas.

If other alternatives are not available, culls should be disposed of by burial. A copy of the guidelines is included with this newsletter. It is strongly recommended that they be followed to minimize negative impacts on ground water or drinking water.

Potato Disease Eradication Act

The *Potato Disease Eradication Act* was amended in 1997 to allow the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture to establish a date by which cull potatoes must be disposed. Cull potatoes not disposed of by this date will be ordered to be disposed at the expense of the producer or the person in charge of the cull potatoes. Exposed piles of potatoes on livestock operations are covered under this legislation.

Mandatory Date for Cull Disposal

The Minister has established **JUNE 10, 2005** as the date by which all cull potatoes must be properly disposed of.

Enforcement of the Potato Disease Eradication Act

The week of June 6-10, 2005, staff will survey the Potato Belt by ground and air to locate cull piles that have not been disposed of. These farms will be visited and the producers will be reminded of the June 10, 2005 deadline for disposal in a prescribed manner.

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Farms where cull piles have been identified will be re-visited to verify whether or not the piles have been disposed of. If the piles are still in place the producer or person in charge will be given an order to dispose of the culls in a prescribed manner within a maximum of 5 days of the date on the order.

Cull piles not disposed of by the date in the order will be disposed of under the supervision of an inspector at the expense of the producer or the person in charge.

It is extremely important that all growers follow recommended cull management practices to reduce the opportunity for diseases to infect the 2005 crop and to avoid prosecution under the *Potato Disease Eradication Act*.

If you have information regarding improper cull disposal in your area or require further information, please call the Manager, Potato Development Centre, Agriculture, Fisheries, and Aquaculture toll-free at 1-866-778-3762 or 392-5199. All information will be kept confidential.