

Single Source Exemption C011110
Term - 4/24/09 – 3/31/10
Cost - \$249,212

The Department of Agriculture & Markets received an exemption from the “Contract Reporter” requirements to enter into a single source agreement with Hendrix and Dail for the fumigation of 4 infested fields under the Golden Nematode program.

Program Background

The Golden Nematode is a destructive potato pest which poses a serious threat to the State's potato industry and other soil bearing crops attributable to its global status as a pest of regulatory significance. It is extremely small in size and because of its biology the nematode is virtually impossible to eradicate.

New York is the only state in the U.S. which has a certifiable incidence of this pest. It is imperative that an effective and comprehensive Golden Nematode control program be maintained to protect the export of New York potatoes, nursery stock, and other agricultural commodities which come in contact with soil.

The Department is seeking to contract immediately with Hendrix and Dail for the fumigation of approximately 71 acres of muck land using methyl bromide in order to eradicate golden nematode from these acres. Without immediate treatment, the Department would miss the opportunity for a soil survey in the fall that would determine whether the land would be permitted to return to potato production or if the fields would be out of production for two or more years.

A new bilateral agreement between the United States and Canada has established a protocol between the two countries with respect to the control of this pest. This agreement wasn't approved until 2/18/09, and the department was not able to apply for funding prior to that date. Based on their interpretation of the new protocol, USDA rejected the Department's 1st application for funding for this fumigation project in mid March. A new cooperative agreement has just been signed by the Department and USDA has sent us a pre-award letter in order for us to go forward with this project in order to meet the mid-May deadline for treating the fields.

Selection Rationale

The USDA-APHIS-PPQ eradication strategy requires that the fumigation be performed by an applicator experienced in the use of methyl bromide on muck soils.

The application must be made in accordance with USDA-APHIS-PPQ eradication procedures and in compliance with federal and state pesticide laws. The application must implement the soil tarp method using high barrier plastic over injection points sealing the entire treated area. The applicator must use a computer controlled flow delivery system with accuracy within 5%. The computer must adjust the rate of application according to ground speed. Soil preparation, temperature, moisture, injection depth, sealing and aeration must be monitored to ensure the efficacy of treatment. Hendrix and Dail was recommended to us by USDA-APHIS and was utilized by the Department last year to successfully fumigate infected fields. We are not aware of any other vendor with the required experience to perform these services.

Justification of Costs

No other State has golden nematode so we compared our cost last year of \$2,500 per acre to similar soil fumigation efforts in Idaho at a cost of \$2,574 per acre and found the cost to be reasonable. The estimated cost of fumigation this year is \$3,300 per acre, plus the cost of tarp removal and disposal and a tipping fee. We find the increased cost to be reasonable compared to last year given that last year we only fumigate upstate sites, while this year we will be fumigating downstate sites as well which have some higher costs associated with the work.