



**Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ)
Pale Cyst Nematode (PCN) Program**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Pale Cyst Nematode Program, located in Idaho Falls, ID, is seeking to fill several seasonal vacancies: PPQ Bio Aid GS-03 and PPQ Technician GS-04 in the Survey, Regulatory, and Soil Processing divisions of the program. The PCN Program offers interesting, fast-paced work, usually in the great outdoors. During the peak of the field operations, work hours may range between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

Applicants with full-time availability are preferred, but flexibility around school schedules may be considered.

Most vacancies are within the Survey division. Teams of six to eight employees will travel throughout southeastern Idaho collecting soil samples from agricultural fields, which will later be screened for the presence of PCN, a major pest of potato plants that is not harmful to humans or animals. The work mostly consists of walking in agricultural fields collecting soil samples, in a variety of weather extremes, often away from shelter and conveniences. Employees can expect to walk 7–10 miles/day. Expect to be walking on rough, loose, uneven, or hilly terrain. The ability to lift 30–50 pounds is required.

Vacancies in the Regulatory division involve working in mobile sanitation teams cleaning farm equipment in PCN-regulated areas to prevent the spread of PCN between agricultural fields. Ability to operate a high-pressure wash unit is required.

Vacancies in the Soil Processing Facility involve screening soil samples for the presence of the pale cyst nematode. The ability to operate a microscope and sit or stand in one place for extended periods of time is required. The laboratory operates from 6:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Although previous agricultural, laboratory, or heavy equipment experience are desirable, all applicants will be considered. Thorough training is provided for successful applicants in each position.

Pay ranges from \$15.54 to 17.45 per hour, depending upon experience and qualifications.

Applications are available at the PCN Program Office located at:

2281 West Heyrend Way
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
Phone: 208-522-2431

Office hours:
Monday through Friday
7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.