Lesson 3: Case Study Worksheet

Plum Pox Virus (sharka)

Case Study Problem: Is Preparedness Possible Before a Disease Strikes?

Part 1: Gather facts on Plum Pox Virus from the case study materials. For example, since the virus was diagnosed in 1999, where else has it spread? How does the disease spread? What crops can be affected?

Part 2: Generate ideas for fruit growers’ preparedness activities. For example, think about what feasible preparedness activities “should” have taken place prior to 1999? What preparedness activities “should” have taken place after 1999? How might you convince other fruit growers that it is not too late for preparedness activities after a disease is diagnosed in a nearby orchard?

Part 3: Had Pennsylvania fruit growers established preparedness activities by 1997, and the National Plant Diagnostic Network was fully operational, predict alternative scenarios for

(a) the producer who had to wait three years for a diagnosis of his suspected problem

(b) the spread of the Plum Pox Virus to areas beyond the first infected orchard

Part 4: Faced with the possibility that unknown plant pathogens exist, do you believe preparedness activities are feasible? Why?