

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2008-42
August 6, 2008

SUBJECT: Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) in Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

On August 1, 2008, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) positively identified emerald ash borer (EAB) in Ozaukee County, Wisconsin. This is the first detection of EAB in the State of Wisconsin.

On July 29, 2008, an employee with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) collected one adult beetle and numerous larvae from ash trees located in a private wood lot in the Township of Saukville, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin. The WDNR employee was responding to a citizen's report of dying ash trees in the private wood lot. Twenty to twenty-five trees in the immediate vicinity displayed woodpecker flecking, bark splitting, d-shaped exit holes, and dieback. Extensive serpentine galleries were seen under the bark of several trees when the bark was removed.

APHIS is working closely with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to begin delimiting survey work to determine the density and distribution of this EAB infestation.

EAB is present in some parts of the United States, but is subject to official control to prevent further spread. Recently, EAB was detected in Wayne County, Missouri. An EAB infestation was also recently detected in Virginia. APHIS recently expanded the Federal EAB quarantine area in Virginia to parallel the State's quarantine to include: Arlington, Fauquier, Loudon, Fairfax, and Prince William Counties. Currently, the entire States of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois are quarantine areas for EAB, together with portions of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, the entirety of Michigan's Lower Peninsula, and Prince George's County in Maryland. Five counties in western Pennsylvania: Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Lawrence, and Mercer County, are now quarantined EAB areas.

EAB is an invasive wood boring pest that is native to China and East Asia. It probably arrived in North America hidden in wood packing materials commonly used to ship goods in commerce. The first U.S. detection of EAB occurred in southeastern Michigan. Since then, EAB has been responsible for the death and decline of over 30 million ash trees in the United States. The interstate movement of firewood from quarantined areas is an especially high-risk pathway for spreading EAB, and APHIS is working with State cooperators and foresters to raise awareness about this threat among the public.

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For more information about the EAB program and Federal EAB regulations, you may contact Paul Chaloux, Acting EAB National Program Manager, at Area Code (301) 734-0917.

/s/ John H. Payne /for

Rebecca A. Bech
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine