

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2008-60
September 11, 2008

SUBJECT: Confirmation of Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) in Fayette County, West Virginia and Establishment of a Quarantine Area

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed the identification of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), in Fayette County, West Virginia, on October 17, 2007. Two additional specimens were confirmed on July 18 and July 25, 2008. The West Virginia Department of Agriculture has regulated Fayette County for EAB, and APHIS is establishing a parallel quarantine area for EAB in Fayette County, West Virginia.

In response to this detection, APHIS has been working closely with the State of West Virginia to carry out delimiting surveys around the initial detection site. The attached Federal Order establishes a quarantine area in order to prevent the further spread of EAB. Effective immediately, all interstate movement of EAB regulated articles from Fayette County must be done in accordance with the attached Federal Order. Specifically, the interstate movement of EAB-host wood and wood products from Fayette County is regulated, including firewood of all hardwood species, nursery stock, green lumber, waste, compost, and chips of ash species. Due to a parallel quarantine area established by West Virginia, only those counties with EAB will be established as quarantine areas and placed under phytosanitary controls.

EAB is present in some parts of the United States. Currently, Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Lawrence and Mercer Counties in western Pennsylvania are quarantined for EAB, together with the entire States of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. Portions of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, the entirety of Michigan's Lower Peninsula, Prince George's County in Maryland and Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudon and Prince Williams Counties, along with the independent cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, and Manassas Park in Virginia, Wayne County in Missouri, and Fond du Lac, Ozaukee, Sheboygan and Washington Counties in Wisconsin are also under quarantine in addition to Fayette County, West Virginia. EAB is an invasive wood boring beetle that is native to China and eastern Asia. EAB probably arrived in North America hidden in wood packing materials commonly used to ship consumer and other goods. It was first detected in the United States in southeastern Michigan. Since then, EAB has been responsible for the death and decline of more than 25 million ash trees in the United States. The interstate movement of firewood from quarantine 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.

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

/s/ Paul R. Eggert for

Rebecca A. Bech
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment:
Federal Order