

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2009-54
October 28, 2009

SUBJECT: Areas in Virginia Added to the Imported Fire Ant (IFA) Quarantine and Expansion of Existing IFA Quarantine Areas in Arkansas, Tennessee, and Texas for IFA (*Solenopsis invicta* Buren, *S. richteri* Forel, and hybrids of these species)

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is issuing a revised Federal Order that establishes quarantined areas in Virginia for the first time and expands the existing quarantine areas in Arkansas, Tennessee, and Texas for IFA. This action is necessary in order to prevent the interstate spread of IFA.

Effective immediately, APHIS is establishing an IFA quarantine in the following areas: The entire county of Arkansas, in Arkansas; portions of Cannon, Dickson, Davidson, Gibson, Knox, Sevier, and Williamson counties, and the entire counties of Tipton, Warren, and White in Tennessee; a portion of Lubbock county, as well as the entire counties of Archer, Baylor, Callahan, Clay, Coke, Coleman, Concho, Crane, Crockett, Fisher, Haskell, Howard, Irion, Martin, Mitchell, Nolan, Reagan, Runnels, Schleicher, Scurry, Shakelford, Starr, Terrell, Throckmorton, Upton, Ward, Wilbarger, and Winkler in Texas, are quarantined for IFA. For the first time, the entire counties of James City and York, and the Cities of Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, and Williamsburg in Virginia, are also added to the IFA quarantine.

APHIS is taking these actions based upon verification from the Arkansas Agriculture Department, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, the Texas Department of Agriculture, and the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, that IFA are present and established in the areas listed above. IFA are pests that are present in some parts of the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Attached is the Federal Domestic Quarantine Order, as well as the updated, composite list of quarantined areas for IFA. If you wish more details on the Federal IFA regulatory

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program, please contact the IFA National Program Manager, Charles Brown, at (301) 734-4838.

/s/ Michael A. Lidsky /for

Rebecca A. Bech
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

2 Attachments:

- Federal Order
- IFA Quarantine Area Changes—October 2009

FEDERAL ORDER

**Domestic Quarantine of Counties in
Arkansas, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia for
Imported Fire Ant
(*Solenopsis invicta* Buren, *Solenopsis richteri* Forel and hybrids of these species)
October 28, 2009**

This Federal Order is issued pursuant to the regulatory authority provided by the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2000, as amended, Section 412 (a), 7 U.S.C. 7712 (a), which authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit or restrict the movement in interstate commerce of any plant, plant part, or article, if the Secretary determines the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the dissemination of a plant pest within the United States and is likewise issued pursuant to the regulations promulgated under the Plant Protection Act found at 7 CFR 301.81.

This Federal Order quarantines, effective immediately, the following areas for Imported Fire Ant (IFA), *Solenopsis invicta* Buren, *Solenopsis richteri* Forel, and hybrids of these species. This action is in response to the new detection in portions of Arkansas, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia described in the attached document. This action is in response to surveys and confirmed detections of IFA in these areas indicating the existence of established populations of IFA. Thus, the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has determined that it is necessary to quarantine these areas in order to prevent the spread of IFA. Therefore, effective immediately, all interstate movement of IFA regulated articles from the listed areas must be done in accordance with the regulations promulgated pursuant to the Plant Protection Act found at 7 CFR 301.81 et seq. and any applicable provisions of this Federal Order.

APHIS has confirmed IFA infestations in various areas of the United States for which the Administrator has determined that it is necessary to quarantine these areas in order to prevent the human assisted spread of IFA. The areas quarantined, to contain the spread of IFA are designated in the federal regulations located at 7 CFR 301.81-3 and in the Federal Orders which are located at the following APHIS website:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/fireants/index.shtml

The 7 CFR 301.81-3(a) allows the designation of less than an entire State as a IFA quarantined area only when the Administrator of APHIS has determined that the designation of less than an entire State as a quarantined IFA area is adequate to prevent the interstate spread of infestations of this pest. In addition, 7 CFR 301.81-3(a) requires that the State enforces an intrastate IFA quarantine that is equivalent to the Federal IFA regulations. The States have established intra-state quarantines for the areas listed that mirrors the Federal Regulatory requirements as specified in 7 CFR 301.81.

7 CFR 301.81-3 (d) provides for the temporary designation of new quarantined areas pending publication of a rule to add areas to the list shown in 7 CFR 301.81-3(c). 7 CFR 301.81-3 (d) further requires written notification be given to the owner or person in possession of a newly quarantined area. This is the responsibility of the Federal and/or State regulatory personnel responsible for the IFA program in the affected State.

The Federal Orders quarantining these areas have been necessary due to the ongoing delimitation of the IFA infestation in Arkansas, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. This October 2009 Federal Order updates and replaces all previous versions of Federal Orders pertaining to the expansion of quarantined areas in the IFA domestic regulations.

If you wish more details on the Federal IFA regulatory program, you may contact Dr. Ron Weeks, APHIS' Eastern Regional Program Manager, at (919) 855-7297, Stacy Scott, APHIS' Western Regional Program Manager, at (970) 494-7577, or Charles Brown, APHIS' National IFA Program Coordinator, at (301) 734-4838.

We appreciate the cooperative relationships with the States of Arkansas, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia in our effort to prevent the spread of IFA.

IMPORTED FIRE ANT QUARANTINE AREA CHANGES – OCTOBER 2009

ARKANSAS

Arkansas County – *The entire county*

TENNESSEE

Cannon County – *That portion of the county lying south of United States Highway 70 S.*

Davidson County - *That portion of the county lying southeast of a line beginning at the Williamson/Davidson County line on United States Highway 431 and then continuing northeast along United States Highway 431 until reaching Tennessee Highway 254 and then continuing east along Tennessee Highway 254 until reaching United States Highway 31A/41A and then continuing north along United States Highway 31A/41A until reaching Tennessee Highway 255 and then continuing northeast along Tennessee Highway 255 until reaching Interstate 40 and then continuing east along Interstate 40 until reaching Tennessee Highway 45 and then continuing northwest along Tennessee Highway 45 until reaching the Cumberland River and then continuing north along the Cumberland River until reaching the Davidson/Sumner County line.*

Dickson County – *That portion of the county lying south of a line beginning at the Humphreys/Dickson County line on United States Highway 70 and then continuing east along United States Highway 70 until reaching Tennessee Highway 96 and then continuing southeast along Tennessee Highway 96 until reaching the Dickson/Williamson County line.*

Gibson County – *That portion of the county lying southeast of a line beginning at the Madison/Gibson County line on United States Highway 45 W and then continuing northwest along United States Highway 45 W until reaching the United States Highway 45 W Bypass (Tennessee Highway 366) and then continuing north along the United States Highway 45 W Bypass until reaching United States Highway 45 W and then continuing north along United States Highway 45 W until reaching Tennessee Highway 54 and then continuing northeast along Tennessee Highway 54 until reaching Tennessee Highway 105 and then continuing east along Tennessee Highway 105 until reaching the Gibson/Carroll County line.*

Knox County – *That portion of the county lying southwest of a line beginning at the Union/Knox County line on Tennessee Highway 33 and then continuing south along Tennessee Highway 33 until reaching North Hall of Fame Drive and then continuing southeast along North Hall of Fame Drive until reaching Interstate 40 and then continuing east along Interstate 40 until reaching Midway Road and then continuing south along Midway Road until reaching Smith School Road and then continuing southeast along Smith School Road until reaching Dave Smith Road and then continuing east along Dave Smith Road until reaching the Knox/Sevier County line.*

Sevier County – *That portion of the county lying south of a line beginning at the Knox/Sevier County line on Interstate 40 and then continuing east along Interstate 40 until reaching Tennessee Highway 66 and then continuing southeast along Tennessee Highway 66 until reaching United States Highway 411 and then continuing northeast along United States Highway 411 until reaching the Sevier/Jefferson County line.*

Tipton County – *The entire county.*

Warren County – *The entire county.*

White County – *The entire county.*

Williamson County – *That portion of the county lying southeast of Tennessee Highway 100.*

TEXAS

Archer County - *The entire county*

Baylor County – *The entire county*

Callahan County – *The entire county*

Clay County – *The entire county*

Coke County – *The entire county*

Coleman County – *The entire county*

Concho County – *The entire county*

Crane County – *The entire county*

Crockett County – *The entire county*

Fisher County – *The entire county*

Haskell County – *The entire county*

Howard County – *The entire county*

Irion County – *The entire county*

Lubbock County – *That portion of the City of Lubbock located within Highway 27 to the East, Ursuline Street to the North, Milwaukee Street to the West, and 98 Street to the South.*

Martin County – *The entire county*

Mitchell County – *The entire county*

Nolan County – *The entire county*

Reagan County – *The entire county*

Runnels County – *The entire county*

Schleicher County – *The entire county*

Scurry County – *The entire county*

Shackelford County – *The entire county*

Starr County – *The entire county*

Terrell County – *The entire county*

Throckmorton County – *The entire county*

Upton County – *The entire county*

Ward County – *The entire county*

Wilbarger County – *The entire county*

Winkler County – *The entire county*

VIRGINIA

Chesapeake City – *The entire city*

Hampton City – *The entire city*

James City County – *The entire county*

Hampton City – *The entire city*

Newport News City – *The entire city*

Norfolk City – *The entire city*

Poquoson City – *The entire city*

Portsmouth City – *The entire city*

Suffolk City – *The entire city*

Virginia Beach City – *The entire city*

Williamsburg City – *The entire city*

York County – *The entire county*