

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION

DA-2016-61

September 30, 2016

Subject: APHIS Removes the Mexican Fruit Fly (*Anastrepha ludens*) Quarantine in the Rio Hondo Area of Cameron and Willacy Counties, Texas

To: State and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

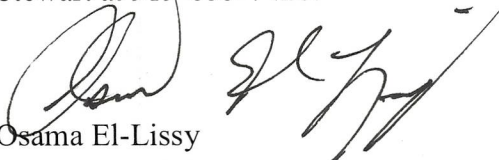
Effective August 23, 2016, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) removed the Mexican fruit fly (Mexfly) quarantine in the Rio Hondo area of Cameron and Willacy Counties, Texas.

On April 22, 2016, APHIS established a Mexfly quarantine in Cameron and Willacy Counties after confirming one mated female Mexfly and one larva in Rio Hondo, Texas. The quarantine restricted the interstate movement of regulated articles from that area to prevent the spread of the Mexfly to non-infested areas of the United States. Since that time, APHIS has worked cooperatively with the Texas Department of Agriculture and the Texas citrus industry to eradicate the transient Mexfly population using approved eradication protocols.

APHIS removed the quarantine area after three lifecycles passed without finding additional Mexflies in this area. The following designated website contains a description of the current federal fruit fly quarantine areas:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-health/ff-quarantine>

For additional information on the Fruit Fly Program, please call National Policy Manager John Stewart at 919-855-7426.



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