

FOR INFORMATION  
DA-2010-46  
October 1, 2010

SUBJECT: Retraction of Identification of Silver Y Moth, *Autographa gamma*, in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

On July 30, 2010, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) reported the detection of one *Autographa gamma*, Silver Y Moth, from a grape vineyard in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. After several weeks of intensive surveys in the surrounding area and in other states with no additional detections of Silver Y moth, APHIS requested USDA's Agricultural Research Service, Systematic Entomology Laboratory (SEL) re-examine the specimen. Through further observation of the dissected male, SEL determined that this identification was actually a native moth, *Autographa californica*, known to be present in the western United States, and out of its normal range. *Autographa gamma* is still not known to occur in the United States, and APHIS is therefore retracting the SPRO letter issued on September 13, 2010 announcing the detection.

This is consistent with international standards, *Autographa californica*, which is still present in some areas of the United States; and *A. gamma* is not known to occur in the United States. APHIS is reviewing its identification protocols for moths in the genus *Autographa*.

For additional information, you may contact Brian Kopper, Eastern Regional Program Manager, at (919) 855-7318 or Valerie DeFeo, National Program Manager, at (301) 734-3393.

**/s/ Rebecca A. Bech**

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