

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2007-21
June 29, 2007

SUBJECT: Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) in Pennsylvania

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

On June 26, 2007, APHIS confirmed the detection of emerald ash borer (EAB), in the Cranberry Township of Butler County, Pennsylvania, which is located 10 miles north of Pittsburgh. This detection was made by APHIS personnel conducting visual inspections for ash decline along Pennsylvania's I-76 corridor in proximity to the Ohio border following the June 20, 2007, confirmed detection of EAB at an I-76 rest-area 5 miles into the Ohio side of the border. APHIS officials observed and investigated ash tree decline in the parking lot of a commercial establishment and captured two suspect specimens, which were confirmed to be EAB.

In response to this latest detection, APHIS will cooperate with the State of Pennsylvania to carry out delimiting surveys around the affected area. Furthermore, an investigation will be conducted to determine the origin or nursery source of the affected trees and evaluate the immediate area for other possible pathways through which EAB may have been introduced. APHIS will provide education and outreach materials to Pennsylvania State Parks to raise awareness about the pest and the risks associated with the movement of firewood in advance of the July 4th holiday.

On June 27, 2007, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) issued a press release on this EAB detection with more information on State response actions. This press release can be accessed on the PDA Web site at <http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us/>.

EAB is present in some parts of the United States. Currently, the entire States of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois are quarantined for EAB, together with the lower peninsula of Michigan and Prince George's County in Maryland. 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 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.

For more information about the EAB program and Federal EAB regulations, you may contact Deborah McPartlan, EAB National Program Manager, at (301) 734-5356.

/s/ John H. Payne for

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