

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2008-48
August 12, 2008

SUBJECT: Four Counties in Wisconsin Added to the Quarantine Area for Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

On August 1, 2008, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) positively identified EAB in Ozaukee County, Wisconsin. This was the first detection of EAB in the State of Wisconsin. On August 6, EAB was also detected in Washington County, Wisconsin.

On August 7, 2008, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection established a quarantine area for EAB, which included Ozaukee, Washington, Fond du Lac and Sheboygan Counties. EAB has only been detected in Ozaukee and Washington Counties, but Wisconsin placed Fond du Lac and Sheboygan Counties as quarantine areas due to their physical proximity to the known infestations and because of known high risk associations with the movement of host material.

In response to Wisconsin's phytosanitary action, APHIS is issuing a Federal Order which is parallel to Wisconsin for Ozaukee, Washington, Fond du Lac and Sheboygan Counties. Due to the phytosanitary actions taken by the State of Wisconsin to place these EAB restrictions in place, APHIS is establishing a parallel quarantine area in order to prevent the further spread of EAB. Accordingly, effective immediately, all interstate movement of EAB regulated articles from the quarantined area must be done in accordance with the attached Federal Order. Specifically, the interstate movement of EAB-host wood and wood products from Ozaukee, Washington, Fond du Lac and Sheboygan Counties are regulated, including firewood of all hardwood species, nursery stock, green lumber, waste, compost, and chips of ash species.

EAB is present in some parts of the United States, but is subject to official control to prevent further spread. Recently, an EAB infestation was newly detected in Wayne County, Missouri and established as quarantine area. APHIS has also recently expanded the Federal EAB quarantine area in Virginia to parallel the state's quarantine, including five counties. Currently, the entire States of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois are quarantine areas for EAB, together with portions of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, the entirety of Michigan's Lower Peninsula, and Prince George's County in Maryland. Five counties in western Pennsylvania are also quarantine EAB areas.

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

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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 Paul Chaloux, Acting EAB National Program Manager, at (301) 734-0917.

/s/ Michael A. Lidsky for

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