

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2012-16
April 23, 2012

SUBJECT: APHIS Adds Five Counties in Kentucky to the Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) Regulated Area

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is adding Anderson, Boyle, Bracken, Garrard, and Harding Counties, Kentucky to the list of regulated areas for the emerald ash borer (EAB), *Agrilus planipennis*. APHIS is taking this action to prevent the spread of EAB from these infested areas.

The attached Federal Order outlines specific conditions for the interstate movement of EAB-regulated articles from Anderson, Boyle, Bracken, Garrard, and Harding Counties. Specifically, the interstate movement of EAB-host wood and wood products from these areas is regulated, including firewood of all hardwood species, nursery stock, green lumber, waste, compost, and chips of ash species.

EAB is present in some portions of the United States. Due to the continuing spread of EAB, APHIS has established regulated areas, which are designated in the Federal regulations located at 7 CFR 301.53-3 and the Federal Orders located at the following APHIS website:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/emerald_ash_b/quarantine.shtml

EAB, an invasive wood boring beetle, is native to China and eastern Asia. Since its first U.S. detection in Michigan, EAB has been responsible for the death and decline of tens of millions of U.S. ash trees. The interstate movement of firewood from regulated areas is an especially high-risk pathway for spreading EAB. APHIS works with State cooperators and foresters to raise public awareness about this pest and the potential threats associated with long distance movement of firewood.

For more information about the EAB program and Federal EAB regulations, you may contact Paul Chaloux, EAB National Program Manager, at (301) 851-2064.

/s/ **Rebecca A. Bech**

Rebecca A. Bech
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment:
Federal Order

FEDERAL ORDER

Domestic Quarantine of Anderson, Boyle, Bracken, Garrard, and Hardin Counties in Kentucky for Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) (*Agrilus planipennis*)

**DA-2012-16
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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 301.53.

This Federal Order regulates, effective immediately, Anderson, Boyle, Bracken, Garrard, and Hardin Counties in Kentucky for EAB, *Agrilus planipennis*. This action is in response to the detection of EAB in these five counties in Kentucky. Thus, the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) finds it necessary to regulate Anderson, Boyle, Bracken, Garrard, and Hardin Counties in order to prevent the spread of EAB. Accordingly, effective immediately, all interstate movement of EAB regulated articles from these counties must be done in accordance with the regulations promulgated pursuant to the Plant Protection Act found at 7 CFR 301.53 et seq. and any applicable provisions of this Federal Order.

APHIS has confirmed EAB infestations in various areas of the United States for which the Administrator has determined that it is necessary to regulate these areas in order to prevent the spread of EAB. The regulated areas are designated in the federal regulations located at 7 CFR 301.53-3 and the Federal Orders located at the following APHIS website:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/emerald_ash_b/quarantine.shtml

Section 7 CFR 301.53-3(a) allows the designation of less than an entire state as an EAB regulated area only when the Administrator of APHIS has determined, as in this case, that the designation of less than an entire state as a regulated EAB area is adequate to prevent the interstate spread of infestations of EAB. In addition, 7 CFR 301.53-3(a) requires that the state enforces an intrastate EAB quarantine that is equivalent to the Federal EAB regulations. The State Plant Regulatory Official for Kentucky has confirmed the establishment of an intrastate quarantine for these counties that mirrors the Federal Regulatory requirements as specified in 7 CFR 301.53.

Section 7 CFR 301.53-3 (b) provides for the temporary designation of new regulated areas pending publication of a rule to add counties to the list shown in 7 CFR 301.53-3(c). The 7 CFR 301.53-3 (b) further requires written notification be given to the owner or person in possession of a newly regulated area. This is the responsibility of the Federal and/or State regulatory personnel responsible for the EAB program in the affected state.

The previous Federal Orders pertaining to the expansion of regulated areas in the EAB domestic regulations have been necessary due to the continuing spread of EAB. This April 23, 2012, Federal Order further expands the regulated areas as described in the previous EAB Federal Orders.

If you wish more details on the Federal EAB regulatory program, you may contact the EAB National Program Coordinator, Paul Chaloux, at Area Code (301) 851-2064. For information on regulatory requirements for movement of articles out of regulated areas in Kentucky, please contact the Acting APHIS State Plant Health Director, Yvonne DeMarino, at Area Code (502) 228-8224.

We continue to appreciate the cooperative relationship with the Commonwealth of Kentucky in our effort to prevent the spread of EAB.