

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2009-19
APRIL 28, 2009

SUBJECT: Houston County, Minnesota added to the quarantine area for Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) (*Agrilus planipennis*)

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

On April 22, 2009, Minnesota established a quarantine area for emerald ash borer (EAB) which included all of Houston County. EAB has not been detected in Houston County, but Minnesota has established Houston County as a quarantine area due to its physical proximity to a known EAB infestation in Vernon County, Wisconsin.

In response to Minnesota's phytosanitary action, APHIS is establishing regulations which are parallel to Minnesota's for EAB in Houston County in order to prevent the further spread of EAB. Effective immediately, all interstate movement of EAB-regulated articles from the quarantine area must be done in accordance with the attached Federal Order. Specifically, the interstate movement of EAB-host wood and wood products from Houston County, Minnesota is regulated, including firewood of all hardwood species, nursery stock, green lumber, waste, compost, and chips of ash species.

APHIS is working closely with the States of Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin to carry out delimiting surveys around the detection site in Vernon County, Wisconsin. Due to a parallel quarantine area established by Minnesota, only Houston County will be established as quarantine area and phytosanitary measures applied.

EAB is present in some parts of the United States. Currently, Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Lawrence, Mercer, and Mifflin Counties in Pennsylvania are regulated for EAB, together with the entire States of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. Portions of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, the entirety of Michigan's Lower Peninsula, Prince George's and Charles Counties in Maryland, and Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudon, and Prince Williams Counties, along with the independent Cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, and Manassas Park in Virginia, Fayette County in West Virginia, Wayne County in Missouri, and Crawford, Fond du Lac, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, Vernon, and Washington Counties in Wisconsin are also regulated.

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 30 million ash trees in the United States. The interstate movement of firewood from regulated 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, EAB National Program Manager, at (301) 734-0917.

/s/ John H. Payne for

Rebecca A. Bech
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Attachment:
Federal Order