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2006 ANNUAL MEETING Milwaukee, Wisconsin

RESOLUTION NO. 3

REQUEST TO INCLUDE PINE STRAW AS A REGULATED ARTICLE

The USDA, APHIS, PPQ has enacted regulations to minimize the artificial spread of the Imported Fire Ant, *Solenopsis invicta*, to parts of the United States not already infested. The regulations address movement of soil, plants and plant material, hay, sod and soil moving equipment. However, the movement of pine straw from infested areas is not regulated. On January 2004, USDA, APHIS, PPQ issued an industry alert publication entitled "Pine Straw Retailers Protect Your Employees and Customers". Within this publication are comments concerning how pine straw has been documented to harbor imported fire ant populations. This publication also notes the movement of pine straw from fire ant infested areas is currently not regulated.

Furthermore, the movement and use of pine straw as a mulching material has become increasingly popular outside the fire ant regulated areas. In addition, there have been several incidences of Imported Fire Ant infestations in pine straw in the southeastern United States, both within and outside the current fire ant distribution. Reviewing these facts, gives just cause for expanding the current imported fire ant regulations to include pine straw.

RESOLVED, by the National Plant Board at its annual meeting held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on Wednesday, August 16, 2006, that the USDA, APHIS, PPQ amend the current Red Imported Fire Ant regulations in 7 CFR 301.81 to include pine straw as a regulated article. Pine straw should be required to be handled in a manner to preclude infestation during storage.

Motion to Adopt: Gene Cross, Chair, Resolutions/Policy Committee
Seconded by: Dan Hilburn, OR Member

Distribution:

Honorable Michael Johanns, Secretary of Agriculture, USDA
Dr. Chuck Lambert, Acting Under Secretary, USDA
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