FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2008-39
August 5, 2008

SUBJECT: Confirmation of Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) in Mercer County, Pennsylvania, and Expansion of the Quarantine Area

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed the identification of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), in Mercer County, Pennsylvania, on June 25, 2008. This EAB detection is at the Keystone Welcome Center at Shenango Valley on Interstate 80, .5 miles east of the Pennsylvania/Ohio border. The initial detection was made on June 23, 2008, by employees from the Ohio Department of Agriculture, who had been setting EAB traps along Interstate 80 in Ohio. Mating adults were collected and confirmed as *Agrilus planipennis* by APHIS PPQ Entomology Identifier, Dr. James Zablotny, on June 25, 2008.

In response to this detection, APHIS is working closely with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to carry out delimiting surveys around the initial detection site. The Federal Order is attached placing this infested area under quarantine in order to prevent the further spread of EAB. Effective immediately, all interstate movement of EAB-regulated articles from Mercer County must be done in accordance with the attached Federal Order. Specifically, the interstate movement of EAB-host wood and wood products from Mercer County is regulated, including firewood of all hardwoods species, nursery stock, green lumber, waste, compost, and chips of ash species. Due to a parallel quarantine established by Pennsylvania, only those counties with EAB will be quarantined and placed under regulatory controls.

EAB is present in some parts of the United States, but is subject to official control to prevent further spread. Five counties in western Pennsylvania: Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Lawrence and the addition of Mercer County, are now quarantined EAB areas. Recently, an EAB infestation was newly detected in Fairfax County in northern Virginia. The entire county is now a Federal quarantine area for EAB; however, the State of Virginia has expanded its intrastate phytosanitary regulations to include adjacent counties as a precautionary measure. Currently, the entire State 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.

EAB is an invasive wood boring pest that is native to China and East Asia. It probably arrived in North America hidden in wood packing materials commonly used to ship goods in commerce. The first U.S. detection of EAB occurred in southeastern Michigan. Since then, EAB has been responsible for the death and decline of over 30 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 Area Code (301) 734-0917.

/s/ Paul R. Eggert /for

Rebecca A. Bech
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Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment:
Federal Order