

FOR INFORMATION AND  
ACTION  
DA-2008-37  
July 29, 2008

SUBJECT: Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) in Wayne County, Missouri

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

On July 25, 2008, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) positively identified emerald ash borer (EAB) in Wayne County, Missouri. This is the first detection of EAB in the State of Missouri.

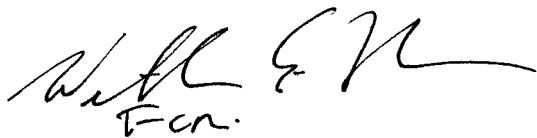
On July 23, 2008, an employee with APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine program collected seven suspected EAB specimens from a purple prism trap placed in the Greenville Campground of the Lake Wappapello Army Corps of Engineers Recreational Area in Wayne County, Missouri. The trap was placed at this location as part of the EAB National Survey, which targets high risk sites for EAB trapping in 48 States. Wayne County, Missouri is located within the Southeast corner of Missouri, in close proximity to the Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Arkansas borders.

APHIS is working closely with the Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA) to begin delimiting survey work as well as the deployment of additional purple traps in the immediate vicinity of the EAB detections. APHIS is also coordinating with representatives with the Missouri State Departments of Conservation and Natural Resources, the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Missouri.

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 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. APHIS plans to expand the Federal EAB quarantine area in Virginia to parallel the State's area soon. 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. Four counties in western Pennsylvania are also quarantine EAB areas and the pest was detected last year in one county in West Virginia.

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 (301) 734-0917.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca A. Bech'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rebecca A. Bech  
Deputy Administrator  
Plant Protection and Quarantine