

USDA APHIS Policy Statement for Interstate Movement of Western Corn

Rootworm, *Diabrotica virgifera*. November 29, 2010. colin.stewart@aphis.usda.gov

The interstate movement of western corn rootworm (WCR) for laboratory use outside of an inspected containment facility will be permitted among States in which the beetle naturally occurs. Waste materials from all cultures must be disposed of by autoclaving, deep freezing, or other approved procedure.

APHIS permits for laboratory, greenhouse, and field studies involving WCR will be valid for no more than two years. APHIS will evaluate all WCR sources for field and greenhouse studies.

APHIS has designated Illinois as generally infested. The interstate movement of variant and non-variant beetles into Illinois under permit from within the continental United States for all purposes is allowed.

All companies within the infested zone that wish to ship stock to areas out of the infested zone for greenhouse and field studies must have their facilities inspected. These companies will have two options. First, insects may be collected in the State or county outside of the infested zone, brought back to the rearing facilities under permit, and their descendants may be released in the original State or county of origin. Standard operating procedures must be in place describing how these cultures from individual locations will remain separate. Second, beetles may also be brought in from an approved source such as the USDA Agricultural Research Service facility in Brookings, South Dakota, and cultured. Their descendants may then be sent to States inside or outside the infested zone under permit. Such cultures must have been established after August 2008.

Companies that wish to deliberately perform greenhouse or field studies using the variant must do so under a permit separate from those for the non-variant. Variant beetles must be collected in a given county, brought back to the approved culturing facility under permit, and have their descendants released in the original county of collection. Releases of the variant will only be allowed well inside the generally established infested zone. Standard Operating Procedures must be in place.