Louisiana agriculture is a highly significant segment of the State and national economy. In 2011, Louisiana's agriculture contributed $10.7 billion to the State’s economy. Many Louisiana communities depend on agriculture and forestry commodities as a major job creator and an economic engine. Hungry pests put these commodities at risk. Can you imagine if our beautiful live oaks or pine trees were damaged or destroyed because of something we neglected to do?

Invasive species are threatening Louisiana from all directions. Pathways of introduction are everywhere. If we all pitch in and do our part, we can help protect our agriculture and our environment. LDAF’s Office of Agricultural and Environmental Science (AES), Horticulture and Quarantine Division—in cooperation with USDA’s Plant Protection and Quarantine program—is doing its part by putting an array of pest detection efforts into action. Pest surveys are conducted by AES inspectors who are trained to recognize which pests are threatening our State, what survey methods are most effective at detecting new pest populations, and how to effectively respond when a new pest is detected. These surveys are funded through a national program called the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey; its Web site is caps.ceris.purdue.edu.

Visit www.ldaf.state.la.us to learn more about pests threatening Louisiana.
Many communities in the State depend on agriculture and forestry as job creators.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

Buy Local, Burn Local. Invasive pests and larvae can hide and ride long distances in firewood. Don’t give them a free ride to start a new infestation—buy firewood where you’ll burn it.

Plant Carefully. Buy your plants from a reputable source and avoid using invasive plant species at all costs.

Do Not Bring or Mail fresh fruits, vegetables, or plants into your State or another State unless agricultural inspectors have cleared them beforehand.

Cooperate with any agricultural quarantine restrictions and allow authorized agricultural workers access to your property for pest or disease surveys.

Keep It Clean. Wash animals, tires, and gear between fishing, hunting, or camping trips. Clean lawn furniture when moving it from one home to another.

Learn To Identify. If you see signs of an invasive pest or disease, write down or take a picture of what you see, and then report it to your local State Plant Health Director (www.aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/sphd), State agriculture department (www.nationalplantboard.org/member), or local cooperative extension (www.lsuagcenter.com).

Speak Up. Declare all agricultural items to customs officials when returning from international travel. Call USDA to find out what’s allowed:

- (301) 851-2046 for questions about plants
- (301) 851-3300 for questions about animals

**QUARANTINE ALERT**

To learn more about pests threatening Louisiana, visit www.ldaf.state.la.us and click the following series of links: “Offices,” “Agricultural and Environmental Sciences,” “Horticulture and Quarantine Programs,” “Plant Pest Quarantine Programs,” and finally “Plant Pest Fact Sheets.”

“**DON’T RAT ME OUT... PLEASE!**”

How to report Hungry Pests

To report potential invasive pests or diseases, call the FDACS Helpline at (888) 397-1517.

Learn more at

[Link to USDA website: United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service]