

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2010-41
September 15, 2010

SUBJECT: Knox and Loudon Counties, Tennessee Added to the Quarantine Area for Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) (*Agrilus planipennis*)

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed the identification of EAB, in Knox County, Tennessee, on July 22, 2010. The detection in Knox County was the result of an Ohio, Division of Forestry employee working for the EAB Program noticing symptomatic trees at a truck stop in Knoxville. We are also including neighboring Loudon County as part of the quarantine area due to proximity to the detection and known movement patterns of regulated articles.

In response to this detection, APHIS will work closely with the State of Tennessee to carry out delimiting survey work around the detection site. The attached Federal Order establishes these counties as quarantine areas in order to prevent the further spread of EAB. Effective immediately, all interstate movement of EAB regulated articles from Knox and Loudon Counties must be done in accordance with the attached Federal Order. Specifically, the interstate movement of EAB-host wood and wood products from Knox and Loudon Counties is regulated, including ash nursery stock, firewood of all hardwood species, green lumber, waste, compost, and chips of ash species. Due to the establishment of a parallel quarantine area by Tennessee, only these counties will be established as quarantine areas and placed under phytosanitary controls.

EAB is present in some parts of the United States. Currently, Brown, Crawford, Fond du Lac, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Sheboygan, Vernon, Washington, and Waukesha Counties in Wisconsin are quarantine areas for EAB, together with the entire States of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and West Virginia. Portions of Michigan's Upper Peninsula and the entirety of Michigan's Lower Peninsula; twenty one counties in Kentucky; Charles and Prince George's Counties in Maryland; Arlington, Clarke, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Loudon, and Prince William Counties, along with the independent Cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, and Manassas Park in Virginia; Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties in New York; Allamakee County in Iowa, Hennepin, Houston and Ramsey Counties in Minnesota; Wayne County in Missouri; and Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Bedford, Butler, Indiana, Juniata, Lawrence, Mercer, Mifflin, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties in Pennsylvania are also quarantine areas.

EAB is an invasive wood boring beetle that is native to China and eastern Asia. It was first detected in the United States in southeastern Michigan. Since then, EAB has been responsible for the death and decline of tens of millions of ash trees in the United States. The interstate movement of firewood from quarantine areas is an especially high risk pathway for spreading EAB. APHIS is working with State cooperators and foresters to raise awareness amongst the public concerning this threat.

For more information about the EAB program and Federal EAB regulations, you may contact Paul Chaloux, EAB National Program Manager, at (301) 734-0917.

/s/ **Paul R. Eggert** for

Rebecca A. Bech
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment:
Federal Order

FEDERAL ORDER

Domestic Quarantine of Knox and Loudon Counties, Tennessee for Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) (*Agrilus planipennis*)

This Federal Order is issued pursuant to the regulatory authority provided by the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2000, as amended, Section 412(a), 7 U.S.C. 7712(a), which authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit or restrict the movement in interstate commerce of any plant, plant part, or article, if the Secretary determines the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the dissemination of a plant pest within the United States and is likewise issued pursuant to the regulations promulgated under the Plant Protection Act found at 7 CFR 301.53.

This Federal Order quarantines, effective immediately, Knox and Loudon Counties for EAB, *Agrilus planipennis*. This action is in response to the detection of EAB in Knox County, Tennessee. Thus, the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) finds it necessary to regulate Knox and Loudon Counties in order to prevent the spread of EAB. Accordingly, effective immediately, all interstate movement of EAB regulated articles from Knox and Loudon Counties must be done in accordance with the regulations promulgated pursuant to the Plant Protection Act found at 7 CFR 301.53 et seq. and any applicable provisions of this Federal Order.

APHIS has confirmed EAB infestations in various areas of the United States for which the Administrator has determined that it is necessary to quarantine these areas in order to prevent the spread of EAB. The areas quarantined due to the continuing spread of EAB are designated in the Federal regulations located at 7 CFR 301.53-3 and the Federal Orders located at the following APHIS website:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/emerald_ash_b/quarantine.shtml

Section 7 CFR 301.53-3(a) allows the designation of less than an entire state as an EAB quarantined area only when the Administrator of APHIS has determined, as in this case, that the designation of less than an entire State as a quarantined EAB area is adequate to prevent the interstate spread of infestations of Emerald Ash Borer. In addition, 7 CFR 301.53-3(a) requires that the state enforces an intrastate EAB quarantine that is equivalent to the Federal EAB regulations. The State Plant Regulatory Official for Tennessee has confirmed the establishment of an intra-state quarantine for Knox and Loudon Counties that mirrors the Federal regulatory requirements as specified in 7 CFR 301.53.

Section 7 CFR 301.53-3 (b) provides for the temporary designation of new quarantined areas pending publication of a rule to add counties to the list shown in 7 CFR 301.53-3(c). The 7 CFR 301.53-3 (b) further requires written notification be given to the owner or person in possession of a newly quarantined area. This is the responsibility of the Federal and/or State regulatory personnel responsible for the EAB program in the affected state.

This September 14, 2010, Federal Order updates the previous Federal Orders pertaining to the expansion of quarantined areas in the EAB domestic regulations, to add these areas in Tennessee. It is the first detection in the State of Tennessee.

If you wish more details on the Federal EAB regulatory program, you may contact the EAB National Program Coordinator, Paul Chaloux, at (301) 734-0917. For information on regulatory requirements for movement of articles out of quarantined areas in Tennessee, please contact the APHIS State Plant Health Director, Ralph Cooley, at (601) 907-3357.

We continue to appreciate the cooperative relationship with the State of Tennessee in our effort to prevent the spread of EAB.