

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2011-25
April 29, 2011

SUBJECT: APHIS Adds the Entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to the Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) Quarantined Area

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is adding the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to the list of quarantine areas for the emerald ash borer (EAB), *Agrilus planipennis*. Prior to this action, APHIS established quarantine areas in 43 Pennsylvania counties and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture established and enforced an equivalent State-level quarantine. However, on April 15, 2011, Pennsylvania rescinded its EAB quarantine. For this reason, APHIS is establishing the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a quarantine area in order to prevent the spread of EAB to other states.

The attached Federal Order outlines specific conditions for the interstate movement of EAB-regulated articles from Pennsylvania. Specifically, the interstate movement of EAB-host wood and wood products from the State is regulated, including firewood of all hardwood species, nursery stock, green lumber, waste, compost, and chips of ash species.

EAB is present in some portions of the United States. Currently, Brown, Crawford, Fond du Lac, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Sheboygan, Vernon, Washington, and Waukesha Counties in Wisconsin are established EAB-quarantine areas, together with the entire States of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. In addition, portions of Michigan's Upper Peninsula and the entirety of Michigan's Lower Peninsula; Allamakee County in Iowa; 22 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, Manassas Park and Winchester in Virginia; 18 counties in New York; Hennepin, Houston and Ramsey Counties in Minnesota; Knox and Loudon Counties in Tennessee; and Wayne County in Missouri are considered EAB 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 quarantined 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 pest and of the potential threats associated with long distance movement of firewood.

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/ Rebecca A. Bech

Rebecca A. Bech
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment:
Federal Order

FEDERAL ORDER

DA-2011-25

April 29, 2011

**Quarantine Notice for
Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) (*Agrilus planipennis*)
for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**

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, the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), *Agrilus planipennis*. This action is in response to the detection of EAB in eighteen counties in Pennsylvania. Previously, APHIS had quarantined only a portion of the state due to the establishment and enforcement of equivalent quarantines by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania has now rescinded their quarantine. Thus, the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) finds it necessary to regulate the entire State in order to prevent the spread of EAB. Accordingly, effective immediately, all interstate movement of EAB regulated articles from Pennsylvania 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(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). Section 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.

The previous Federal Orders pertaining to the expansion of quarantined areas in the EAB domestic regulations have been necessary due to the continuing spread of EAB. This **April 29, 2011**, Federal Order further expands the quarantined area to include the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

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 Pennsylvania, please contact the APHIS State Plant Health Director, Coanne O'Hern, at

(717) 241-0140. We continue to appreciate the cooperative relationship with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in our effort to prevent the spread of EAB.