

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2024-41
October 11, 2024

Subject: APHIS Reduces Karnal Bunt (*Tilletia indica*) Regulated Areas in Pinal County in Arizona

To: State, Tribal, and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is reducing the Karnal bunt regulated areas in Pinal County, Arizona. This follows a review of the results of the Spring 2024 survey of Karnal bunt-regulated areas in Arizona.

Specifically, APHIS is removing four fields in Pinal County from the list of regulated areas because these fields meet the five-year cumulative tillage requirement included in the criteria for deregulation listed in 7 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) [§ 301.89-3\(e\)\(2\)](#). Release of these four fields from quarantine, including all fields regulated by proximity, will result in the deregulation of 842 field acres (36 fields). None of this acreage is on Tribal land. With this change, the new total regulated area in Arizona is 4,990 field acres.

Accordingly, there are no more restrictions on the interstate movement of Karnal bunt-regulated articles from these areas; however, other portions of Maricopa and Pinal Counties in Arizona remain regulated. The Arizona Department of Agriculture (AZDA) has established a parallel state quarantine.

Karnal bunt is a fungal pest that affects wheat quality. APHIS regulates this plant disease because many trading partners require that U.S. wheat be certified as grown in areas free of Karnal bunt. APHIS appreciates the cooperative relationship with the Ak-Chin Indian Community, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, the wheat industry, and AZDA in the effort to limit the spread of Karnal bunt. APHIS will follow this action by publishing a notice in the Federal Register.

More information about the Karnal Bunt Program and Federal Karnal bunt regulations are available at the following website: [APHIS Karnal Bunt webpage](#).

For more details on the Karnal Bunt Program and Federal Karnal bunt regulations, please contact:

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Dr. Mark L Davidson
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Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment: Federal Order

**United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Plant Protection and Quarantine**

FEDERAL ORDER

**Domestic Quarantine Reduction in Pinal County, Arizona for
Karnal Bunt (*Tilletia indica*)**

DA-2024-41
October 11, 2024

Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is reducing the total regulated area in Pinal County, Arizona by 842 field acres (36 fields). Accordingly, there are no more restrictions on the interstate movement of Karnal bunt-regulated articles from these areas; however, other portions of Maricopa and Pinal Counties remain regulated. None of this acreage is on Tribal land. With this change, the new total regulated area in Arizona is 4,990 field acres.

This Federal Order is issued pursuant to the authority provided by the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2000, Section 412(a), 7 U.S.C. 7712(a). The Act 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. The regulatory authority provided by 7 U.S.C. 7754 allows the Secretary to issue orders to carry out this provision of the Plant Protection Act. This Federal Order is also issued pursuant to the regulations promulgated under the Plant Protection Act for Karnal bunt found at [7 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) § 301.89 et seq.](#)

Section 7 CFR § 301.89-3(b) allows the designation of less than an entire state as a Karnal bunt regulated area only when the APHIS Administrator has determined that the state has adopted and is enforcing restrictions on intrastate movement equivalent to the Federal regulations, which was confirmed by the State Plant Regulatory Official for Arizona. Additionally, the APHIS Administrator determined that designating less than an entire state will prevent the spread of Karnal bunt.

Following a review of the results of the Spring 2024 survey of Karnal bunt-regulated areas in Arizona, APHIS is reducing the regulated area. Specifically, APHIS is removing four fields in Pinal County from the list of regulated areas because these fields meet APHIS' requirements and criteria for deregulation. 7 CFR § 301.89-3(e) provides for the release from regulation of fields previously infected with Karnal bunt if the field is tilled at least once per year for a total of 5 years (the years need not be consecutive). After tilling, the field may be planted with a crop or left fallow. If the field is planted with a host crop, the crop must test negative, through the absence of bunted kernels, for Karnal bunt.

Regulated areas (7 CFR § 301.89-3(a)):

Arizona – regulated portions of the State:

Maricopa County:

- (1) Scottsdale: Sections 28, 29, 32, and 33 of Township 2 North and Range 5 East.
- (2) Palo Verde: Sections 7 and 17 through 20 of Township 1 South and Range 4 West; and Sections 12 and 13 of Township 1 South and Range 5 West.

Pinal County:

- (1) Maricopa: Sections 11 and 14 of Township 5 South and Range 3 East.

In accordance with 7 CFR § 301.89-3(a), this Federal Order supersedes Federal Order DA-2024-05 issued on February 14, 2024. A list of the revised Karnal bunt regulated areas is published on the [APHIS Karnal Bunt webpage](#). APHIS will follow this action by publishing a notice in the Federal Register.

For more details on the Karnal Bunt Program and Federal Karnal bunt regulations, please contact National Policy Manager, Lynn Evans-Goldner, at lynn.evans-goldner@usda.gov or (301) 851-2286.

We appreciate the cooperative relationship with the Ak-Chin Indian Community, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, the wheat industry, and the Arizona State Department of Agriculture in the effort to limit the spread of Karnal bunt.