

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION

DA-2025-22

June 23, 2025

Subject: APHIS Reduces Karnal Bunt (*Tilletia indica*) Regulated Areas in Maricopa 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 (*Tilletia indica*; KB)-regulated areas in Maricopa County, Arizona, in accordance with [7 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) 301.89](#) *et. seq.* This action follows a recent review of field survey results of KB-regulated areas in Arizona.

Specifically, APHIS is removing one field in Maricopa County from the list of regulated areas because this field has met the five-year cumulative tillage requirement included in the criteria for deregulation listed in [7 CFR § 301.89-3\(e\)\(2\)](#). Release of this field from quarantine, including all fields regulated by proximity, will deregulate 1,148 field acres (32 fields) on the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Tribal land. With this change, the new total regulated area in Arizona is 2,973 field acres (79 fields).

Accordingly, there are no more restrictions on the interstate movement of KB-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 as required by [7 CFR § 301.89-3\(b\)\(1\)\(i\)](#).

KB 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 KB. 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 KB.

The attached Federal Order describes the regulated areas, which are also on the [APHIS Karnal Bunt webpage](#). APHIS will publish a notice of this change in the Federal Register.

For additional information about the KB program, you may contact:

Lynn Evans-Goldner

National Policy Manager

301-851-2286

lynn.evans-goldner@usda.gov

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of sharp, vertical strokes followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line.

Matthew A. Rhoads
Acting Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment: Federal Order

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

FEDERAL ORDER

**APHIS Reduces Karnal Bunt (*Tilletia indica*) Regulated Areas
in Maricopa County in Arizona**

DA-2025-22
June 23, 2025

Effective immediately, this Federal Order updates the Karnal bunt (*Tilletia indica*, KB)-regulated areas in Arizona. Specifically, it reduces the overall regulated area in Maricopa County by 1,148 field acres (32 fields) on the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Tribal land. Accordingly, there are no more restrictions on the interstate movement of KB-regulated articles from these areas; however, other portions of Maricopa and Pinal Counties remain regulated. With this change, the new total regulated area in Arizona is 2,973 field acres (79 fields). The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will publish a notice of this change in the Federal Register. This Federal Order supersedes [KB Federal Order DA-2025-12](#) issued on March 20, 2025.

This Federal Order is issued in accordance with the regulatory authority provided by the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2000, as amended, [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 likewise issued pursuant to the regulations promulgated under the Plant Protection Act found at [7 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) 301.89 et. seq.](#)

[7 CFR § 301.89-3\(b\)](#) allows the designation of less than an entire state as a KB-regulated area only when the APHIS Administrator has determined the following: the first being that [7 CFR § 301.89\(b\)\(1\)\(i\)](#) requires that the state enforce an intrastate KB quarantine that is equivalent to Federal KB regulations. As required, the Arizona Department of Agriculture (AZDA) has confirmed the establishment of intrastate regulated areas for KB that mirror the Federal regulatory requirements. Second, the designation is adequate to prevent the interstate spread of KB in accordance with [7 CFR § 301.89-3\(b\)\(1\)\(ii\)](#).

APHIS is reducing the KB-regulated areas in Arizona following a recent review of field survey results. Specifically, APHIS determined that one field in Maricopa County has met the five-year cumulative tillage requirement included in the criteria for deregulation listed in [7 CFR § 301.89-](#)

[3\(e\)\(2\)](#). Release of this field from regulation, including all fields regulated by proximity, will result in the deregulation of 1,148 field acres (32 fields). Accordingly, APHIS will no longer restrict the interstate movement of KB-regulated articles from these areas. APHIS, however, continues to regulate the movement of regulated articles from the remaining KB-regulated areas in Arizona. The list of regulated areas below can also be found on the [APHIS Karnal Bunt webpage](#).

Regulated areas ([7 CFR § 301.89-3\(a\)](#)):

Arizona – regulated portions of the State:

Maricopa County:

- (1) Palo Verde: Sections 7 and 18 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.

We appreciate the cooperative relationship with the Ak-Chin Indian Community, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, the wheat industry, and the AZDA in the effort to limit the spread of KB.

For more information on the APHIS KB Program, you may contact:

Lynn Evans-Goldner
National Policy Manager
301-851-2286
lynn.evans-goldner@usda.gov