

CONSUMER PROTECTION SERVICES DIVISION

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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AUGUST 2009

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American Burying Beetle

by Jeanetta Cooper

The Plant Protection Program conducts several surveys each year for USDA Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) with the goal of first detection of agriculture pests or for certification of pest-free status for plant and plant products export. Among the CAPS surveys for 2009 is the pine pest trapping in 10 counties: Atoka, Choctaw, Cleveland, Haskell, Latimer, Le Flore, McCurtain, Oklahoma, Pittsburg, and Pushmataha. Traps were placed at commercial Christmas tree farms, state parks, national forest, lakes, and areas where wood industries are located. There are 9 exotic pine pests listed in the survey guidelines that include bark beetles, sawyer beetles, woodwasps, and moths. Barbara Shove, Plant Protection Specialist, inspects the traps and trap collections are sent to OSU Plant disease & Insect Diagnostic Laboratory for

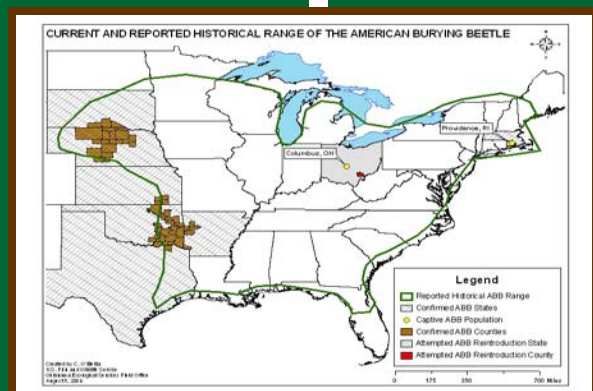
identification. One of her collections in July



contained an American burying beetle (ABB) listed as an endangered species since July 1989.

ABB is the largest species of the scavenger or carrion feeders in North America. They bury the carcasses of small vertebrates, such as

birds and rodents, and use as a food source for their larvae. Once widely distributed throughout eastern U.S., the species has disappeared from over 90% of its' historic range. The loss, alteration, and degradation of the beetle's habitat, along with a low reproductive rate have attributed to the decline of ABB and led to the determination of endangered and threatened status for the insect. Oklahoma's oak-hickory woodlands and mixed grassland provide ideal soils suitable for the beetle's burying activity. Eighteen animal and 2 plant species are on the Oklahoma endangered or threatened species list.



Oklahoma Invasive Plant Council by Jeanetta Cooper

The annual meeting of the Oklahoma Invasive Plants Council was held July 8th in Stillwater with 56 attending from Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas. Speakers and topics included: An introduction to the Oklahoma Invasive Plant Council invasive plant species list developed by the Oklahoma Native Plant Society; Oklahoma Biological Survey; OSU Natural Resource Ecology and Management; and the Oklahoma Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. The current list names 32 possible problem species, 23 species to watch for; and 127 species listed as problems in bordering states. A presentation provided by Jeanetta Cooper, Program Administrator, on

species that would have a regulatory, quarantine, or enforcement impact on Oklahoma's agriculture. An audit by The Nature Conservancy invasive species who uses the Nesom ranking of threat to evaluate a species: F1, plant negatively affects native species by altering the biodiversity, competition, and hybridization in the habitat; F2, plant is abundant in number & widespread; or F3, plant is relatively few in number, in few localities. An overview of the aquatic nuisance species management plan developed by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. A presentation provided by James Harris,

Environmental Biologist from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers shared the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control management systems developed for aquatic nuisance species. A report from the National Association of Exotic Pest Plant Councils. An update on the weed program by The State Weed Specialist from the Kansas State Plant Protection & Weed Control on the successes since the noxious weed law went into effect in 1937.

Critical issues that face many states and invasive species programs are lack of proper training and education, funding, and public awareness.



Arthropods & Emotions by Jeanetta Cooper

Pests and pathogens have had the biggest impact on forests in the last 100 years according to forest ecologists in the emerald ash borer (EAB) weekly situation activity report from USDA. But not only forests and urban landscapes are affected by the millions of dying and destroyed ash trees. Ivy Tech College in Indiana presents “Under the Scope: How Arthropods Affect Human Health,” a program on disease and medical use of insects. This study reports the emotional effects of losing such large numbers of landscape trees to emerald ash borer and other invasive pests. The impact of EAB alone effects humans in such means as: Loss of 40-80% of their communities’ tree coverage in some areas in eastern states.

Many people have reported losing a tree that had memorable or special significance; Decline of natural forests and other recreational sites affect outdoor activities that are often part of family traditions; Death of numerous trees leading to increases in temperatures in urban areas; and dying trees and devastated landscapes are associated with economic losses, causing physical and emotional stress.

Activities seldom associated with agriculture, such as the Family Motor Coach Association meeting in Bowling Green, Indiana are impacted by the EAB quarantine and regulation. USDA EAB Plant Health Survey Specialist and the event organizer worked

cooperatively to ensure that EAB regulations were not violated by the 3,000 motor homes arriving at the fairgrounds. The group was not allowed to transport firewood from the location since the fairgrounds were in an EAB quarantined area.

EAB quarantines are in place in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Federal Phytosanitary Certificates Issued, July by Jeanetta Cooper

Country	# Certificates Issued	Commodity	Total
Barbados	1	Cornmeal	1,539 packages
France	3	Peanuts	34.474 metric tons 2 pounds
Italy	10	Peanuts	173.277 metric tons
Mexico	2	Peanuts	39.958 metric tons
Netherlands	1	Peanuts	2 pounds
Spain	9	Peanuts	193.07 metric tons
total	26		

State Phytosanitary Certificates Issues, July by Jeanetta Cooper

State	# Certificates Issued	Commodity	Total
California	9	Plants	34
New Mexico	75	Plants	28,015
Oregon	2	Plants	14
Washington	3	Plants	5
total	89		

USDA Annual Cooperator's Meeting by Jason Baker

Jason Baker, Program Administrator, attended the USDA Annual Cooperator's Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 14th – 15th. Topics included cooperators web site update, electronic forms and their use in the program, technology in the field, GPS used by private applicators, and

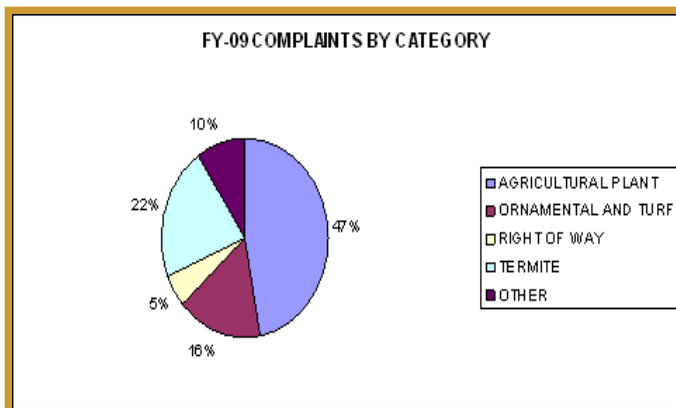
termite and general pest control in New Orleans. The group toured the USDA – ARS Southern Regional Research Center, Jackson Square and surrounding streets to show areas where termites are a problem and what pest control

techniques have been implemented. Approximately 35 states were represented.

termites



Pesticide Complaints, FY09 by Mike Vandeventer



During fiscal year 2009, the Pesticide Section investigated 198 consumer-generated complaints. Forty-seven percent of the complaints were agricultural applications and 22% of complaints involved structural pest.

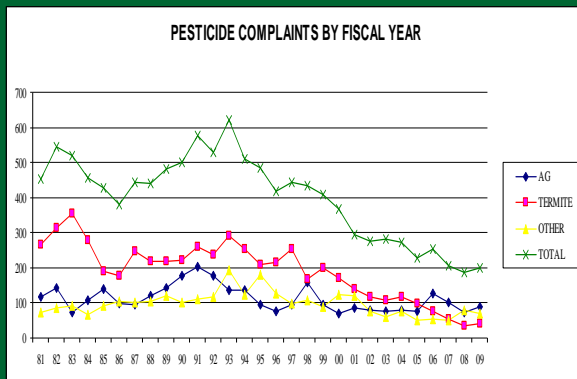
Pesticide Related Inspections, June and July by Jason Baker

Inspection Type	Number of Inspections		
	June	July	Two Month Total
Experimental Use Permit	0	0	0
Marketplace	28	12	40
Pesticide Applicator Facility	21	10	31
Pesticide Service Inspection	0	0	0
Restricted Use Pesticide Dealer	1	2	3
Producer Establishment	0	1	1
Use	35	29	64
Termite	1	0	1
Wood	1	0	1
Pre-treat	17	26	43
Drift Investigation	32	17	49
Suspect Pesticide Label	11	4	15
Worker Protection	1	7	8
Total	148	108	256



Along with the above inspections, CPS pesticide inspectors took 163 Ag Use Samples and 130 Non Ag Use Samples. The inspectors also participated in 13 certification and training activities including inspector training, CEU meetings, test sessions, pesticide applicator training and public speaking.

PESTICIDE COMPLAINTS BY FISCAL YEAR



Structural pest complaints have been declining over the last ten years. In FY-99 the Department worked 200 termite complaints which are more than the total number of complaints worked in 2008. Many factors may have contributed to this decline including better education with the implementation of the Pinkston Educational Facility in Stillwater, increased enforcement, and new chemicals on the market for termite control.

Agricultural plant complaints have remained steady over the last ten years with a slight peak in FY-06 and FY-07 due to drift on cotton related to herbicide.

Honeybee Update by Don Molnar

Of the 10 honeybee related calls received in July, most were referred to swarm catchers or pest control companies; although the bee related calls have decreased compared to prior months. Calls from the public were related mainly to yellow jackets and bumble bees with one call about cicada and one call about cicada killer

wasps building a nest in a homeowner's yard in northwest Oklahoma.

A call was received inquiring about grant availability for starting a bee keeping business to assist in the recent loss of bees due to Colony Collapse Disorder.

Two samples were taken from beehives in the Kellyville area which had been reported as becoming very aggressive in the past several months. The samples were sent to the Insect and Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab at OSU for analysis.



Cicada killer wasp

Anhydrous Ammonia Webcast Safety Training by Kenny Naylor



Anhydrous Ammonia

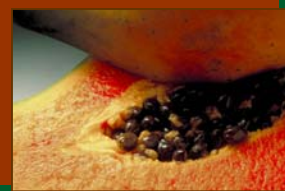
Anhydrous Ammonia dealer webcast training was broadcast on July 15th from Enid. Training was facilitated by Steve Morris, Keith Neugebauer, Lance Kunneman, Rusty Edenborough, Len Keenan, and Lisa Edens, AgResource Inspectors, in remote sites of El Reno, Guymon, Weatherford, Altus, and Lawton. The purpose of the training was to meet risk management training requirements

mandated by the EPA and educate anhydrous dealers on safety measures to reduce anhydrous ammonia accidents.

The webcast training consisted of morning and afternoon sessions with 263 dealers across the state viewing the broadcast. Gary Cless, representative of Fairbanks Equipment Company, presented sessions on the chemical properties of anhydrous

ammonia, maintenance, and how to use safety equipment. Kenny Naylor, AgResource Program Administrator, presented state law requirements, risk management, safety issues, and a video presentation on how to safely transfer anhydrous ammonia. The sessions ended with an exam to reinforce learning.

Unlawful Seed Sales by Wade Krivanek



Seeds of a papaya

License holders of protected wheat varieties are expressing added concern about this year's potential for illegal seed sales of protected wheat varieties. Wheat harvest ended well below average in many parts of the state and some producers are searching for new seed wheat. Investigators for protected variety owners are

becoming more watchful of unlawful sales.

Representatives from Oklahoma Genetics Incorporated (OGI) and the Kansas Wheat Alliance (KWA) have indicated they are investigating several violations and there will be no tolerance for violators. For example, enforcement proceedings were brought

against a producer from Kansas selling OSU varieties without certification. This case will be the first enforcement litigation filed by OGI since its inception.

Weighing device in produce section of grocery store



Weights & Measures Program Performance by Tyler Hicks

The large capacity scale technicians inspected 185 vehicle scales, 6 livestock scales and 2 ranch scales. Two weighing and measuring devices were reported out of service and 40 scales were

rejected for repairs.

Weights & Measures inspectors checked 562 small scales and 6 platform scales of which 25 were rejected. There were 62 random pack inspections and 43

standard pack inspections, 7 businesses received letters of warning and two received stop sale orders.

Weights & Measures Program Performance by Tyler Hicks

	Random Pack Inspections	Standard Pack Inspections	Scanner Inspections	Scale Inspections	Violations	Cases Forwarded
Total	444	939	4,705	10,038	1,124	
Letter of Warnings	26	112	907			
Stop Sale Issued	2	24				
Rejected				599		
Small & Platform Scale				8,634		
Livestock Scales				38		
Ranch Scales				87		
Vehicle Scales				1,279	44	
Door-to-Door					7	
Scale Owner					3	
Scale Company					25	
General Council						219

Additionally, 427 price verification inspections were conducted with letters of warning issued on 62 of those inspections. Seventeen scale companies received letters of warning for not properly servicing scales. The weights & measures staff issued 217 service licenses, 44 device technician licenses.

Wendy Meyer & Tyler Hicks, Ag Field Inspectors, attended the 94th annual National Conference on Weights & Measures in San Antonio Texas July 12-16. “Getting Involved and Making a Difference” was this year’s motto. There were several voting items which will be added to the handbooks used by state Weights & Measures program administrators as guidelines for inspection procedures. These handbooks impact US retail sales of \$535.4 billion which ensures consistency between federal & state programs.

Grain Warehouse Board Report by Joe Privett

The warehouse examiners inspected harvest conditions statewide. Wheat yields were down 95% in far southern Oklahoma and moderated to a reduction of 25% in the northern part of the

state. The average wheat grade was #3 statewide. This harvest may not have been the worst in 50 years, but it will be remembered as a bad year. Warehouse auditors have begun a new round of yearly

examinations for state chartered warehouses.



Grain warehouse silos

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Harvesting wheat

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www.agblog.ok.gov

2009 AAWCO Summer Meeting by Joe Privett

The 2009 Association of American Warehouse Control Officials (AAWCO) meeting was held in Bozeman, Montana from July 19th through 22nd. Fourteen States, USDA, and the Canadian Grain Commission attended the meeting. Topics include indemnity funds, warehouse bankruptcy, fraud investigation, grain dealer laws, warehouse safety, and USDA issues.

State warehouse programs in some states are interested in starting indemnity funds similar to Oklahoma's program which will

reimburse farmers if a warehouse files bankruptcy. For example, a Missouri warehouse failure resulted in \$1.5 million of farmer claims filed against the warehouse which only had \$184,000 bonds to cover the loss. ODAFF receives \$50,000 annually from interest earned by the fund to help support the cost of the grain warehouse auditors.

USDA representatives spoke about preemption issues and elimination of the uniform grain storage and rice agreement. Preemption issues mainly affect the states with grain dealer laws.

Elimination of the Uniform Grain & Rice Storage Agreement (UGRSA) has numerous affects which most states do not see as a problem even though it will result in a loss of income to the USDA and a cost increase to maintain or acquire a federal warehouse license.

On the final day, Joe Privett, Warehouse Grain Inspector, was nominated and elected to the Board of the Association of American Warehouse Control Officials along with the AAWCO who voted to change its' name to the Association of Grain Regulatory Officials.