

CONSUMER PROTECTION SERVICES DIVISION

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Emerald Ash Borer Update, Plant Protection Program

by Jeanetta Cooper

Kentucky officials have confirmed emerald ash borer was found in a private woodlot in one county and in a residential landscape in another county. Emerald ash borer (EAB), is an exotic beetle that was first discovered in Michigan in the summer of 2002 and now is established in, Ontario, Canada, Ohio (2003), Indiana (2004), Illinois and Maryland (2006), Pennsylvania and West Virginia(2007), Wisconsin, Missouri and Virginia (2008), and Minnesota and now Kentucky in the spring of 2009. Since its discovery, EAB has:

- Killed tens of millions of ash trees in southeastern Michigan alone, with tens of millions more lost in Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Minnesota, Missouri, Wisconsin, Virginia, Ontario, and Quebec.
- Caused regulatory agencies and the [USDA](#) to enforce quarantines ([Michigan](#), [Illinois](#), [Indiana](#), [Maryland](#), [Minnesota](#), [Missouri](#), [Ohio](#), [Ontario](#),

[Pennsylvania](#), [Quebec](#), [Virginia](#), [West Virginia](#), and [Wisconsin](#)) and fines to prevent potentially infested ash trees, logs or hardwood firewood from moving out of areas where EAB occurs.

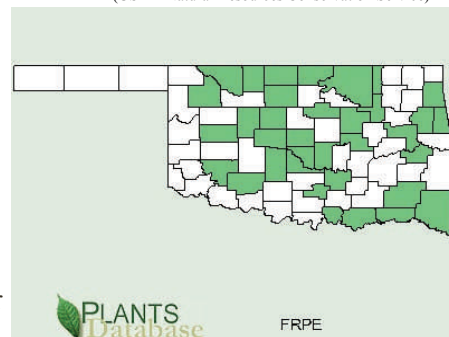
- Cost municipalities property owners, nursery operators and forest products industries tens of millions of dollars.

EAB only attacks ash trees. The adult beetles nibble on ash foliage but cause little damage. The larvae (the immature stage) feed on the inner bark of ash trees, disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients, resulting in tree death. Emerald ash borer probably arrived in the United States on solid wood packing material carried in cargo originating in native Asia. The Plant Protection Division and USDA APHIS PPQ have set 200 EAB traps in the eastern half of the state to monitor for EAB.

Early detection can help prevent pests from becoming established in Oklahoma and/or distributed to other states.

Officials in many states are taking steps to help keep EAB from spreading by using public information messages about transporting firewood. Homeowners are urged to identify ash trees on their property and to examine them for signs and symptoms of EAB. Symptoms include tree canopy dieback, epicormic sprouts growing from roots and trunk, split bark, D-shaped exit holes, and signs of woodpecker activity.

Distribution of green ash trees in Oklahoma
(USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service)



Imported Fire Ant (IFA) Quarantine Expansion

by Jeanetta Cooper

Two additional educational outreach meetings regarding the expanded quarantine were held addressing the impact on stakeholders and producers in the newly quarantined counties. On May 12th, 28 attended the meeting in Stephens County and 40 attended in Jefferson County. The programs featured the history, health concerns, biology, chemical and biological

controls of IFA, and the regulatory requirements of the quarantine. Many hay producers were present with questions regarding the effect of the quarantine on hay production and compliance with the regulations. Other stakeholders present were concerned with transporting topsoil, rock and gravel, and earth-moving equipment from the quarantined counties. The question

was raised whether custom harvesting equipment working in quarantined counties would be allowed to move outside the quarantine. Approved treatment for that category would be for the equipment to be washed or brushed free of non-compacted soil to be eligible for movement.



Image of Fire Ant

Plant Protection Inspector Activity by Jeanetta Cooper

Inspectors continue to install emerald ash borer traps, grape pests traps, and pine pests traps for the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) and Japanese beetle traps for the nursery compliance survey. The purpose of CAPS is for early detection of pests or to be able to provide pest-free status for export enhancement.

Inspectors have taken 37 plant tissue samples for the sudden oak death survey.

Stop Sale Orders Issued

Product	Qty	Size	Source	Reason
Azaleas	82	1- and 3-gallon	Tri-B Nursery Hulbert OK	Aphids
Rhododendron	27	1-and 3-gallon	Tri-B Nursery Hulbert OK	Aphids

Plant Protection Inspections

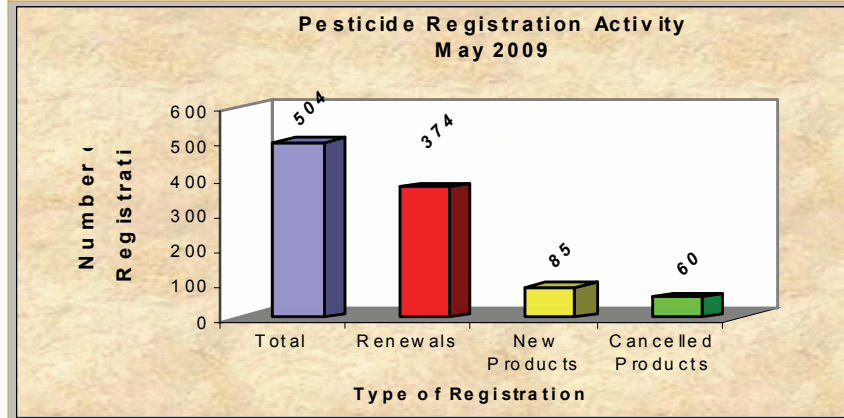
Grower Inspections	Dealer Inspections	IFA Inspections	Phyto Inspections
48	104	66	282



John E. Kirkpatrick Horticulture Center

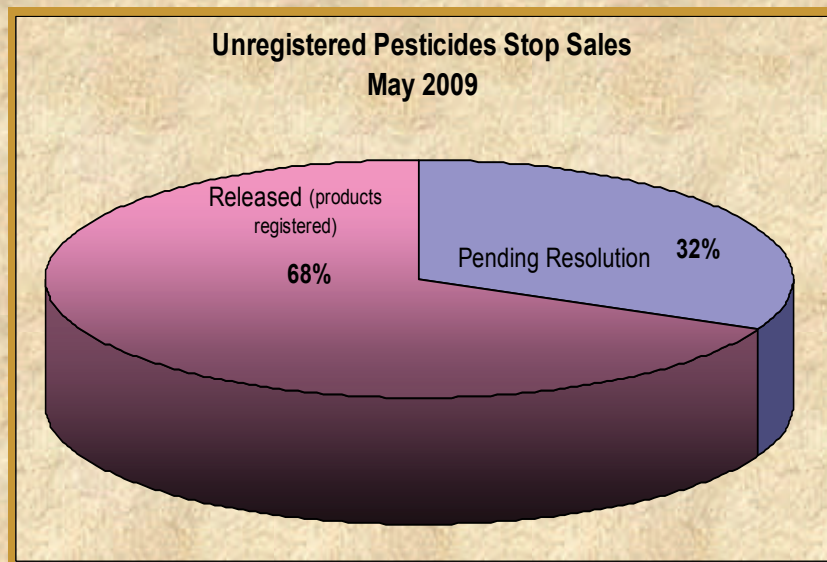
Pesticide Registration Activity by Debbie Cunningham

Registration activity that occurred during May is presented in the following chart. Five hundred and four products were registered. Of the products registered, 374 were renewals and 85 were new. There were 60 products cancelled.



Pesticide Compliance Action by Debbie Cunningham

Stop Sale orders were issued due to unregistered, cancelled, and/or misbranded products found during routine marketplace inspections. These orders are broken down as follows: 44 issued, 30 released and 14 pending. The status of these orders is reflected in the chart.



Section 18's by Debbie Cunningham



Image of a sunflower

Section 18's are used to counter an unusual pest or set of circumstances, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture requests the Environmental Protection Agency grant Section 18 emergency specific label exemptions or a more immediate crisis exemption. This allows use of a new pesticide product or one not approved for a specific crop to stem a problem that may plague Oklahoma growers.

ODAFF must provide EPA with data showing that the requested pesticide will do the job safely and effectively. The difference between a farmer making a crop or suffering a disaster often depends on the relief a Section 18 pesticide offers.

A Section 18 for Bermuda grass pastures and hay meadows has also been assembled and sent to the EPA which has been approved. This Section 18 is for Prowl

H2O to control sandburs in pastures. Bermuda grass pastures and hay meadows are a significant segment of agriculture in Oklahoma providing high quality forage for grazing and hay production for the cattle and horse industry.

An application package for a section 18 crisis on a DuPont product called Pastora has been assembled in conjunction with Texas Department of Agriculture. This crisis application is approved and a specific exemption package has been assembled and sent to the EPA and is awaiting approval.

An application package for a section 18 crisis on a Syngenta product called Reglone, which is a harvest aid desiccant on Canola, was approved by the EPA and a Section 18 specific package was sent to the EPA and is awaiting approval. This specific package was

assembled in conjunction with Kansas Department of Agriculture and the specific exemption package is awaiting approval from EPA.

An application package for a section 18 crisis on a Syngenta product called Dual Magnum, which is a herbicide to control broadleaf weeds in sesame in Oklahoma, was approved by the EPA and a Section 18 Specific package is being assembled and will be sent to EPA for approval.

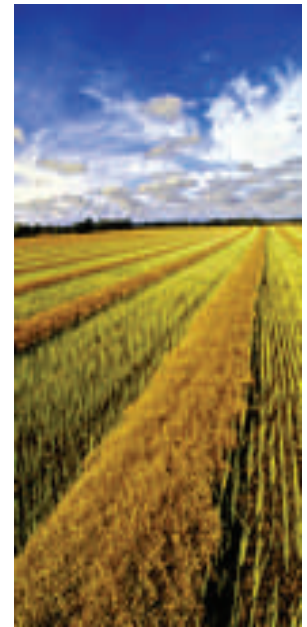


Image of a wheat field

Section 24 C's by Debbie Cunningham



Close up of the Old World Fern

A state may provide registration for additional uses of federally registered products to meet special local

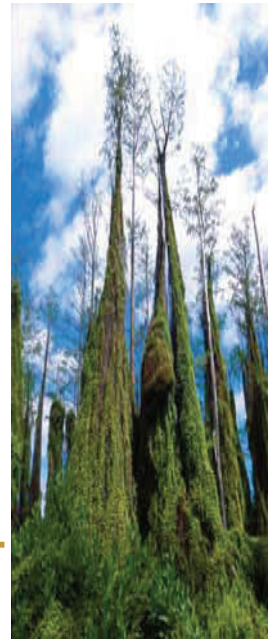
needs, not good for more than 90 days, which is not for food or feed use. A special local need is defined as an existing or imminent pest problem within a

state for which the state lead agency, based upon satisfactory supporting information, has determined that an appropriate product is not sufficiently available.

A package for a 24 C has been assembled and sent to Oklahoma State University for their opinion of need.

This 24 C is for Python ear tags to be used in captive cervids in Oklahoma.

Old World Climbing Fern on Trees



Pesticide Related Inspections, April-May by Jason Baker

Inspection Type	Number of Inspections		
	April	May	Two Month Total
Experimental Use Permit	0	0	0
Marketplace	86	22	108
Pesticide Applicator Facility	90	13	103
Pesticide Service Inspection	0	0	0
Restricted Use Pesticide Dealer	13	2	15
Producer Establishment	1	0	1
Use	171	24	195
Termite	3	0	3
Wood	1	1	2
Pre-treat	9	2	11
Drift Investigation	0	1	1
Suspect Pesticide Label	48	12	60
Worker Protection	32	2	34
Total	454	79	533

CPS pesticide inspectors also took 45 Ag Use Samples and 25 Non Ag Use Samples.

Annual Respirator Fit Testing and Drift Investigation Training by Jason Baker



Chris Townsley, Pesticide Inspector, is being fit tested for a respirator by Eric Pearson, Inspector.

On May 20th, CPS Pesticide Field Staff came into to the Oklahoma City Office to receive training on drift investigations, Mike Vandeventer, Compliance Program Administrator and Jeremy McReynolds, Field Program Administrator, gave the inspectors updates on what their reports should contain, which consists of taking witness statements, documenting samples, digital photo techniques and

mapping the area. The field staff also took their annual respirator fit test.

Honeybee Update by Don Molnar



Honeybees making honey

The bee swarm season continued in May with 35 calls from the public asking for assistance with a bee swarm or colony on their property. Most of the callers were referred to the swarm catcher list or certified pest control company list located on the ODAFF web site. The apiary section responded to calls from

counties that have not had any Africanized honey bee samples identified. Eric Pearson, apiary inspector, sampled a colony of bees in Boswell in Choctaw County. The bees had attacked a woman while she was mowing her yard which resulted in her being stung about 50 times.

Dr. Don Molnar, Apiary

Program Administrator, responded to a call in Kingfisher about a colony of bees that built their nest in a charcoal grill that had not been used in over a year. Two samples were taken and sent to Oklahoma State University Insect and Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory for identification before the swarm was destroyed.

Professional Pesticide Applicator Training Program

by Jason Baker

Jason Baker, Certification and Training Administrator, presented training during the Pesticide Applicator Training Program in Kingfisher on May 14th.

Topics included an update of Oklahoma's Combined Pesticide Law and Rules and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, and allied regulations pertaining to recordkeeping. Some of the other topics included Weed ID by Joe Armstrong, OSU; Herbicide

Drift by Jim Criswell, OSU; and outdoor equipment demonstrations on application machines. Approximately 40 applicators attended the meeting.



Image of testing scantron and pencil

Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Technology Review Committee by Don Molnar



Image of three blue light bulbs

The Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Technology Review Committee established as part of the State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) from EPA had their first meeting on May 18th to begin the review process of how

technology can benefit the enforcement and compliance monitoring activities of the pesticide section.

The committee is made up of the CPS Director and individuals from the Pesticide Section, pesticide field inspectors, Information Technology Services, Office of General Counsel, and Laboratory Services. The committee duties are to do a complete review of the pesticide

section in regards to what the work is, how it is carried out, by whom, what processes to automate and how can the pesticide section benefit from new technology. The review process will have the main objective of determining how the various processes of enforcement compliance with FIFRA and state laws can be improved with technology; Such technology would include electronic forms, updated databases, computer hardware, global positioning systems (GPS), geographic mapping programs and web services, etc.

Weights & Measures Program Performance

by Tyler Hlicks

Weights and Measures inspectors checked 1,086 small scales and seven platform scales, rejecting 23 of the scales checked. There were 36 random pack inspections and 90 standard pack inspections resulting in two letters of warning and one stop sale order. Three hundred and eleven price verification inspections were conducted with letters of warning issued for 45 of those inspections. Twelve scale companies received letters of warning for not

properly servicing scales.

The large capacity scale technicians inspected 127 vehicle scales and three livestock scales. There were 10 weighing and measuring devices reported out of service and 26 large capacity scales rejected for repairs.

Weights and Measures office staff issued one service agency license, one device technician license, and two apprentice licenses. The office

staff is preparing for a busy renewal season as both the service agency and technician licenses will expire on June 30th.



Weights & Measures scales

Fertilizer Program Performance by Kenny Naylor

Applicator Fertilizer Facilities Inspection Results, January - May

	# of inspections	Met Requirements	Deficient	Letters of Warning	Stop Sales Issued
Turf	110	83	27	0	0
Bulk Liquid	187	117	31	37	4
Bulk Dry	239	158	47	33	1

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Grain Warehouse Program

by Larry Rudebusch

This year's Grain Grading Schools were a great success, despite the prospect of the worst wheat harvest in over 50 years. The schools were held in Clinton on May 13th and 14th with 57 in attendance. Sessions were also held in Enid on May 18th, 19th, 20th, and 21st with 169 in attendance.

The schools which are the only ones of this type offered in Oklahoma are a cooperative effort between the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry; OSU Cooperative Extension Service; and the Oklahoma Grain and Feed Association. The class is a combination of lecture and hands-on grading of grain including wheat, corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, and canola. Attendees are typically employees from state, federal, and unlicensed grain elevators although attendance is required for grain graders from state chartered elevators.



Image of cowboy, wagon, and grain elevator

FAPC Food Safety Roundup by Aaron Elam

Aaron Elam, Feed Program Administrator, recently participated in the Food Safety Roundup held at the Robert M. Kerr Food and Agricultural Products Center in Stillwater, on May 14th. Mr. Elam presented an overview of the new U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) rule prohibiting the use of cattle material in animal feed.

Cattle Material Prohibited in Animal Feed (CMPAF) is defined as the entire carcass of BSE-positive cattle; the brains and spinal cords from cattle 30 months of age and older; the entire carcass of cattle not

inspected and passed for human consumption (unless the cattle are less than 30 months of age or the brains and spinal cords have been effectively removed); tallow derived from BSE-positive cattle; tallow derived from CMPAF that contains more than 0.15% insoluble impurities; and mechanically separated beef

derived from CMPAF is prohibited from use in all animal feeds including pet food.

This new rule went into effect on April 27th; however, the FDA also established a compliance date of October 26th. The FDA hopes that by delaying the enforcement of the final rule until after the October date it will allow renderers, small meat processors, and farmers' ample time to identify alternative disposal methods for the newly prohibited material.



Robert M. Kerr Food and Agricultural
Products Center logo