

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
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- USDA Trueness to Variety Field Trials
- Weights & Measures Program Performance
- Feed Program Performance
- Horticulture Program Planning Advisory Council
- Horticultural Inspection Society, Southern Charter (HIS/SC) Meeting
- Grape Pests Survey
- Virginia Imported Fire Ant Quarantine
- Thousand Canker Disease of Black Walnut
- ONLA Convention and Tradeshow
- Phytosanitary Certificates Fee Changes
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CONSUMER PROTECTION SERVICES DIVISION

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USDA Trueness to Variety Field Trials

by Wade Krivanek

The USDA Seed Regulatory and Testing Branch in Gastonia, North Carolina, recently began their second trueness to variety (TTV) field trials. As requested, the Department's seed program has forwarded 52 samples of different annual and perennial ryegrass varieties, taken by field inspectors from across the state, to be tested in these trials. Once received, the samples will be grown out in a particular region of the US that is best adapted for each variety. Known

check samples, provided by certified seed agencies, or the original developer of the variety, will also be planted and grown out with the samples being tested in order to serve as a comparison.

The TTV program is a precise way to determine if the ryegrass seed is properly labeled as to variety and helps protect the owners of the varieties from infringement. The Department's cooperation in this program will also assist

the USDA in taking enforcement action on mislabeled seed based on the rules and regulations of the Federal Seed Act.



Ryegrass

Anhydrous Ammonia Release by Kenny Naylor

On July 18th, an anhydrous ammonia pipeline near Skeegee, Oklahoma, was vandalized causing an anhydrous ammonia release resulting in the evacuation of local residents from their homes. Approximately 100 townspeople and an

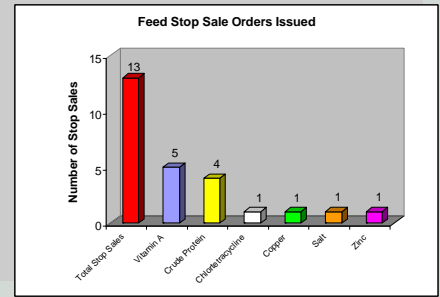
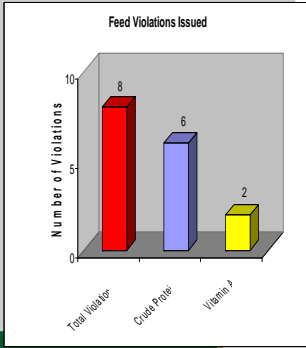
additional 50 people from the surrounding area were evacuated due to the release. The evacuees were not allowed back into their homes for several days following the release to ensure their safety. The anhydrous ammonia released from the pipeline

saturated the surrounding soil which required the soil to be excavated and then land applied to area properties at agronomic rates. This portion of the cleanup was overseen by the Department to ensure it was done properly.

Feed Program Performance by Aaron Elam

One hundred and sixty two feed samples were analyzed with 513 feed determinations made from those samples. These determinations resulted in the issuance of 8 violations for feeds or feed ingredients that did not meet established tolerances based on their guaranteed analysis. All of these violations were issued for products deficient in either crude protein or vitamin A. Thirteen stop sale orders were issued for feeds with

severe deviations from their guaranteed analysis. Five stop sales were issued for vitamin A deficiencies, and four were issued for crude protein deficiencies. The remaining stop sales were issued for deviations in animal drug content, copper, salt, and zinc.



Weights and Measures Program Performance by Tyler Hicks

Four hundred and thirty two small scales and eight platform scales were tested, rejecting 13 of the scales checked. There were also 31 random pack inspections and 46 standard pack inspections resulting in 16 letters of warning and three stop sale orders.

Two hundred and ninety eight price verification inspections were conducted with letters of warning issued for 41 of those inspections. Twenty scale companies received letters of warning for not

properly servicing scales, and six received stop work orders for failure to renew their service agency licenses.

The large capacity scale technicians inspected 152 vehicle scales, nine livestock scales, and one ranch scale. Eleven weighing and measuring devices were reported out of service. Thirty-seven large capacity scales were rejected for repairs.

The weights and measures office staff issued three service agency licenses and four

device technician licenses.



Weighing and Measuring device



Weights used for weighing and measuring

Horticultural Inspection Society, Southern Chapter (HIS/SC) Meeting by Jeanetta Cooper



Barbara Shove, John Nunnery, and Joe Rackley, Plant Protection Specialist, attended the 2009 HIS/SC meeting in Hot Springs, Arkansas, September 15th - 17th. HIS is an organization of inspectors, laboratory, and field personnel who regulate plant movement to prevent the spread of plant pests and disease. These individuals enforce laws and regulations for their state agencies which deal with pest prevention and the annual meetings provide an opportunity for inspectors to interact with their peers on a professional level. This year's program included one entire day of EPA Worker Protection Safety

training, "Breaking Barriers: Conducting WPS Inspections and Interviews with the Hispanic Workforce." The inspectors learned that an estimated 80% of agricultural workers are Hispanic and less than 10% of those speak English, according to the National Agricultural Workers Survey. They learned how different cultural norms may affect an interview, such as using some hand gestures that are considered offensive, lack of eye contact, loose grip handshakes, and perception that time is relevant rather than strict.

Pest and disease updates were provided for emerald ash borer and dogwood anthracnose. One of the most valuable topics, according to those attending, was by Dr. Calvin Shumway, Arkansas State University. His presentation, "Pesticide or Disease? Using Plant Symptomology to Determine the Difference" provided inspectors with tools to discern in the field

some of the differences that plant pest problems or symptoms of pesticide damage. The attendees were given a training CD that has hundreds of comparative photographs for their use in the field.

The benefits of attending HIS meetings are the interaction among field inspectors; the affirmation of a field inspector's job purpose; and the communication between states about regulatory issues so that actions are consistent and all work toward collective goals.

Horticulture Program Planning Advisory Council by Jeanetta Cooper

The Horticulture Program Planning Advisory Council is comprised of OSU Extension, ODAFF Plant Protection Section, Oklahoma Arborists Association, Oklahoma City Parks & Recreation, Oklahoma City Storm Water Quality, a commercial landscape company, and a lawn care company. The

committee's purpose is to promote horticulture, review training sessions, develop tools for the horticulture industry for marketing, and produce and distribute plant pest and pest management guides. The council met September 3rd to outline projects for the next year. Projects include developing a Nursery Aid Program for

distribution this winter designed for organic growers, Master Gardeners, commercial landscapers and arborists, Oklahoma City schools, and the landscape industry.



A plant

Virginia Imported Fire Ant Quarantine

by Jeanetta Cooper

On August 4th the Virginia Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services imposed a permanent Imported Fire Ant (IFA) quarantine for 2 counties and 11 cities of that state. The localities have been under temporary quarantine since June 24th and include the entire counties of James City and York and the entire cities of Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk,

Virginia Beach, and Williamsburg. The quarantine restricts the movement of articles that are capable of transporting fire ants out of the quarantine area; movement within the quarantined area is not restricted. Regulated articles include any article or means of conveyance that presents a risk of spreading the imported fire ant, including soil, plants with soil attached, grass sod, used soil-moving equipment,

used farm equipment, hay/straw/pine straw, honey bee hives that have been in contact with the ground, and logs, pulp wood or stump wood with soil attached.

Virginia becomes the 12th state now regulated under IFA quarantine, along with Puerto Rico.

Grape Pests Survey

by Jeanetta Cooper

A second vineyard has tested positive for Pierce's disease, which was in Tulsa County. ODAFF Plant Protection specialists and OSU insect and disease specialists met at the vineyard to assess the extent of infestation and take additional samples. The origin of the diseased plants may have come from vines

transplanted from an abandoned vineyard. One of the essential messages that ODAFF and OSU wants to develop for the grape industry is the importance of clean nursery stock when establishing or replanting a vineyard. Survey data from this project will reinforce this message. Twenty vineyards were selected for survey this year and an additional 10 vineyards will be added to the survey for 2010,

pending USDA APHIS PPQ funding.



Pierce's Disease



Pierce's Disease

Thousand Canker Disease of Black by Jeanetta Cooper



Numerous
Cankers found

Several western states have observed an unusual decline of black walnut trees in the past 10 years as the result of attacks of a beetle and 2 associated fungi. Although named the walnut twig beetle, this small insect tunnels into larger branches and even the tree trunk. The insect has been reported in New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Oregon, and Washington. Where large numbers of walnut trees were occurring, drought was suspected as the cause of decline and death of trees and the beetle was considered a secondary pest. Recently, the presence of an associated canker-producing pathogen carried by the twig beetle has been documented when 2 different types of cankers were observed on declining walnut trees. Small dark-brown to black cankers caused by an unnamed fungus in the genus develops around the tunnels of the twig beetle and the fungus has been

cultured from beetles that emerge from black walnut trees. The cankers are not visible unless the outer bark is shaved to expose the tunnels. The cankers expand rapidly and eventually multiple cankers coalesce to produce girdling that results in dieback. The enormous number of cankers that form on branches and the trunk led to the name ‘thousand cankers disease.’ A second canker type then may occur on black walnut trees in advanced stages of decline. This fungus produces much larger cankers and can extend from the ground into the branch scaffold.

Walnut trees are not native in the areas where the disease is currently found and are the result of intentional plantings. Concerns from eastern states that if infective walnut twig beetles were allowed to colonize areas where black walnut grows as a native tree, there could be uncontrollable outbreaks and walnut tree decline could be catastrophic. Such an outbreak could have the potential to destroy black walnut in its native range in a manner previously

demonstrated by introduced species, such as the emerald ash borer now affecting North America ash trees and Asian long horned beetle or pathogens that produce Dutch elm disease affecting American elm and chestnut blight affecting American chestnut.

Although Oklahoma does not have large populations of walnut trees, the tree has been recorded in all but 10 counties by the Oklahoma Biological Survey.



Adult Walnut Twig Beetle

Phytosanitary Certificates Fee Changes

by Jeanetta Cooper

In addition to the user fee increase, USDA

\$6.00 and \$12.00.

Thirty-six certificates were issued in PCIT in September.

APHIS will charge an administrative fee for each PC issued.

This administrative fee is applicable for every certificate issued by state cooperators. This

fee is \$3.00 if the PC is applied for in the Phytosanitary Issuance and Tracking system (PCIT) or \$6.00 for each PC when PCIT is not used. This fee also increases in 2011 to

PCIT is an online version of applying for a PC and allows stakeholder to set up accounts for direct payment of fees that must be collected. Currently, Clint Williams Company, our largest exporter, has utilized PCIT for the PC they need. PCIT allows the office to immediately review an application and inform the shipper of any requirements the must be met before inspection and shipping can be done.

Effective October 1, 2009, USDA-APHIS user fees for Federal Phytosanitary Certificates (PC) will incrementally increase yearly until 2011

October 1, 2009 – September 30, 2010	\$77
October 1, 2010 – September 30, 2011	\$104
October 1, 2011	\$106



Image of a graph

ONLA Convention and Tradeshow

September 24th – 25th by Jeanetta Cooper

Jeanetta Cooper, Plant Protection Program Administrator, conducted one of the educational sessions for the

Oklahoma Nursery & Landscapers Association annual convention and tradeshow. The topic of regulatory updates focused on emerald ash borer, the imported fire

ant quarantine, Japanese beetle, light brown apple moth, hosta virus X, and other pests that impact the nursery industry.



Images of plants

Federal Certificates Issued

by Jeanetta Cooper

Country	# Certificates Issued	Commodity	Total
Italy	24	Peanuts	407.88 metric tons
Mexico	8	Peanuts	159.18 metric tons
Spain	14	Peanuts	275.38 metric tons
Barbados	1	Cornmeal	1,539 packages
Canada	1	Nursery plants	3,479 plants
China	1	Mouseceear cress seed	1 gram
India	1	Wheat seed	5 kgs.
Nicaragua	1	Wheat flour	27,500 pounds
Tajikistan	1	Wheat seed	9 kgs.
United Kingdom	1	Mouseear cress seed	1 gram
total	53		

State Certificates Issued

by Jeanetta Cooper

State	# Certificates Issued	Commodity	Total
California	4	Plants	27
Idaho	1	Plants	4
Nevada	1	Plants	1,564
New Mexico	41	Plants	19,486
Oregon	4	Plants	13
Utah	2	Plants	10
Washington	1	Plants	7
total	54		

Stop Sale Orders

by Jeanetta Cooper

Stop Sale Orders Issued Product	Quantity	Size	Source	Reason
Crape myrtle	137	5-, and 15-gallon	Treetown, USA	Insect infestation
		15-gallon	Ben Wheeler TX	
Chinese elm	8	15-gallon		
Arizona ash	4			Insect infestation
Chinese fan palm	4	7-gallon	Acosta Farms	
		15-gallon	Miami FL	
Mandevilla	9	2-gallon		

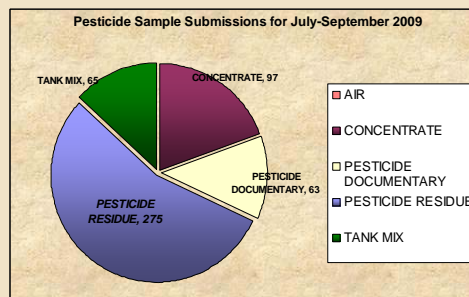
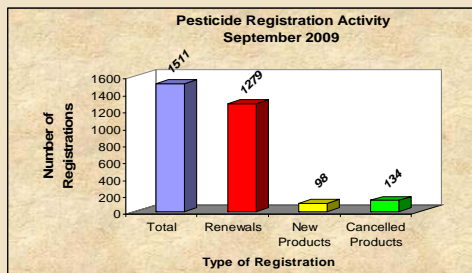
Pesticide Related Inspections by Jason Baker

Inspection Count for August – September			
Inspection Type	Number of Inspections		
	August	September	Two Month Total
Experimental Use Permit	0	0	0
Marketplace	35	33	68
Pesticide Applicator Facility	15	32	47
Pesticide Service Inspection	0	0	0
Restricted Use Pesticide Dealer	2	0	2
Producer Establishment	5	0	5
Use	33	46	79
Termite	1	0	1
Wood	0	0	0
Pre-treat	29	9	38
Drift Investigation	11	7	18
Suspect Pesticide Label	9	7	16
Worker Protection	17	20	37
Total	157	154	311

CPS pesticide inspectors took 73 Ag Use samples, 101 Non Ag Use Samples, 82 Market Place Samples and 8 Pesticide Producing Establishment Samples for a two month total of 264. The inspectors also participated in 41 certification and training activities. These activities include inspector training, CEU meetings, test sessions, pesticide applicator training and speaking at meetings.

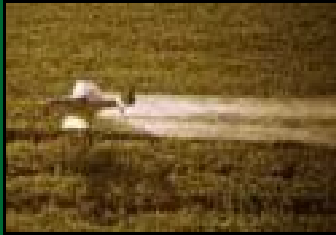
Pesticide Sample Submissions by Chris Townsley

There were 500 pesticide samples submitted for the quarter ending September 30th. The breakdown of samples consists of 275 pesticide residues, 65 tank mixes, 97 concentrates, 63 pesticide documents and 0 air samples.



2009 OPERATION SAFE FLY-IN HELD IN EL RENO

BY JASON BAKER



Crop dusting

determine improvement.

Jeremy Mc Reynolds, Don Molnar, Amity Tivis, Garry Phillips, Dray Williams, and Jerry Jorski, CPS Field Inspectors, provided technical assistance at the flight line during the FLY-IN.



Aerial pesticide applicators

Among agricultural pilots “FLY-INS” have long been seen as a learning experience, an opportunity to improve their performance and increase their professionalism. ODAFF awarded continuing education credits to participants in the latest FLY-IN held in September. One of the keys to the effectiveness of aerial application is in the spray pattern of the aircraft and accuracy of the operators. Operation SAFE FLY-IN increases the operator’s understanding of factors that affect the safe and effective handling and application of agricultural chemicals. Applicators use current technology to assist in interpreting actual application analysis (using water and dye) that assists in determining accuracy and effectiveness of spray nozzles. After recommended changes are made to improve performance, a follow-up test is performed to



Aerial pesticide applicators





ASPCRO logo

ASPCRO Annual Conference in Denver

by Jason Baker

Eric Pearson and Ralph Tyler, CPS Pesticide Field Inspectors, attended the Association of Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials ASPCRO annual meeting. It took place in Denver, Colorado on August 30th - September 2nd. Topics of discussion included nuisance wildlife control, EPA – pesticide 25b exemptions, termiticides and the EPA, Integrated Pest Management programs in schools, “Green”

pesticides and what “Green” means, case enforcement, training needs of states, state enforcement issues, operating on a declining budget, a bed bug update, IPM tour at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, generic termiticides and efficacy data, and the latest in wood destroying organism research. Most of the topics were a panel discussion with representatives from the regulatory community, the commercial pest

control community, and the producers. A tour was provided of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science on learning how they have implemented Integrated Pest Management into the operation of the Museum. Numerous states were represented, as well as several industry representatives from both chemical companies and pest control companies.

High Visibility Pesticide Incidents PREP

by Jason Baker

Jason Baker and Chris Townsley, CPS administrators, attended the Pesticide Regulatory Education Program hosted by the Idaho Department of Agriculture on September 21st-25th in Boise, Idaho. The course offered a unique opportunity for pesticide-specific Incident Command System (ICS) at the 300 level. It was

targeted for senior managers responsible for incident management. The course dealt with natural and terrorist disasters of large or small scale, as well as conventional incidents and included segments on media training and communicating your agency’s message to the public.



EPA logo

Oklahoma Vegetative Management Association

by Mike Vandeventer



Water flowing over an embankment

vegetation management companies and private contractors for right-of-way utilities. There were approximately 300 pesticide applicators in attendance.

Mr. Vandeventer covered topics concerning regulatory issues that relate to right-of-way companies and discussed the coming requirements for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits being required for any pesticide applied over, in or near water.

On September 22nd, Mike Vandeventer spoke to the Oklahoma Vegetative Management Association (OKVMA). OKVMA is an association of right-of-way

Oklahoma Vegetation Management Association Fall Meeting

by Don Molnar

Dr. Don Molnar, Program Manager, gave a presentation on CPS's Pesticide Sensitive Location Viewer, a communication tool to reduce pesticide drift to sensitive crops, to about 300 people attending the Oklahoma Vegetation

Management Association annual fall meeting in Tulsa on September 22nd.



CPS's Pesticide Sensitive Location Viewer map

Africanized Honey Bee Update

by Don Molnar

Bee activity for September continued to remain low with less than 10 calls from the public. Several of the calls were about yellow jackets mistaken as honey bees. Dr. Don Molnar, Apiary Program Manager, and Gerald Jorski, Apiary Inspector, took a sample of bees from a tree in Lamont in Grant County. The colony was destroyed because it was near a playground and posed a risk to children. The bees were identified as European honey bees by OSU Insect and Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab.

A colony was destroyed, after a DNA analysis from the bee colony involved in a stinging incident northwest of Hydro near the Blaine-Custer County line. It tested positive for Africanized honey bees. Follow up sampling and inspection on a hive of Africanized honey bees were re-queened with a known European honey bee queen about three months ago show that the colony is more gentle and more manageable. The DNA test was positive for European honey bees.



Africanized Honey Bees

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