

For Immediate Release  
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Contacts: Dustin Vande Hoef, IDALS  
515-281-3375  
515-326-1616

**QUARANTINE OF FIREWOOD AND ASH PRODUCTS ESTABLISHED FOR  
ALLAMAKEE COUNTY TO HELP PREVENT SPREAD OF EMERALD ASH BORER**

*Draft Rules Requiring Additional Labeling of Firewood also Issued*

DES MOINES – Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey today announced that a quarantine of Allamakee County has been issued to prevent the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). State officials announced recently that an EAB infestation had been confirmed along the Mississippi River two miles south of the Minnesota border in Allamakee County.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship has also filed a proposed amendment to the Iowa Administrative Code that would require that firewood sold or distributed in Iowa be identified by the county and state of origin.

“These steps are necessary to help prevent the spread of this destructive insect while hopefully allowing businesses to continue to function,” Northey said. “This quarantine is established to make sure that any ash products that leave Allamakee County do not spread this pest. And, since firewood has been the primary means of transporting the insect and starting new infestations, this rule change focuses on a key risk factor in EAB spreading across the state.”

**Quarantine Information**

The regulated articles under the quarantine include EAB at any living state; entire ash trees; firewood of any hardwood species; any cut or fallen material of the ash; non-heat treated ash lumber with either bark or sapwood attached; and hardwood wood or bark chips larger than one inch in two dimension.

The quarantine orders that the regulated articles cannot be moved from Allamakee County unless a permit has been issued by either the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship or USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) or if the article has been treated to exterminate any pests under the supervision of USDA and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

A full copy of the quarantine can be found on the Department’s website at [www.IowaAgriculture.gov](http://www.IowaAgriculture.gov) under the “Hot Topics” section.

**New Firewood Labeling Rules**

The movement of firewood throughout Iowa and to other states poses the greatest threat to quickly spread EAB even further. Areas currently infested are under federal and state quarantines, but unknowing campers or others who transport firewood can spark an outbreak.

To better track firewood, the Department has issued a Notice of Intended action to Amend Chapter 46 the Iowa Administrative Code, “Crop Pests,” to require that every package of firewood offered for sale, sold or distributed include the harvest location of the wood by county

and state. The harvest location of wood sold in bulk must be included on the delivery ticket. The rules will become effective on January 1, 2011.

A copy of the Notice of Intended Action will also be available on the Department's website at [www.IowaAgriculture.gov](http://www.IowaAgriculture.gov).

Written comments or suggestions on the proposed changes can also be made before August 1, 2010. Written comments should be addressed to Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. 9th St., Des Moines, IA 50319, or faxed to 515-281-6236 or emailed to [Margaret.Thomson@IowaAgriculture.gov](mailto:Margaret.Thomson@IowaAgriculture.gov).