



The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

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Brief Summary of Public Hearing Held On
August 28, 2013
Kirby C. Stafford III, Acting Director

A public hearing for the addition of Fairfield, Litchfield, and Hartford Counties to the New Haven County interior state quarantine for the emerald ash borer (EAB) and an update on the emerald ash borer was held on August 28, 2013 in the town of Prospect, CT town hall at 7 PM. Legal notices for this hearing were published in the following newspapers on Thursday, August 15, 2013: CT Post, Danbury News Times, Litchfield County Times, Republican American, Hartford Courant, and Manchester Journal-Inquirer. In addition, notice was sent to the CT Nursery and Landscape Association.

Dr. Kirby C. Stafford III, Acting Director of the CT Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) presided over the hearing. Additional panel members were Patricia Douglass, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine (USDA-APHIS-PPQ) and Christopher Martin, Director of the Division of Forestry, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). Mr. Robert Chatfield, Mayor of Prospect, provided some opening comments before the official start of the hearing. The hearing proceedings were recorded by DEEP and CT Network TV (CT-N) and, respectively, are available upon request or can be purchased or viewed online.

Kirby Stafford's opening remarks included the purpose of the hearing, the statutory authority (CT General Statute 22-84) for the quarantine, a statement that proceedings would be recorded, verification for publishing of legal notices in newspapers, and a comment that sign-up sheets were available for persons to speak. The following exhibits were available: copies of the state order to expand the existing quarantine to include Fairfield, Litchfield, and Hartford Counties, copies of application forms for a permit to move regulated articles, and copies of the compliance agreement to move regulated articles. Insect specimens were on display. Mr. Martin and Ms. Douglass also provided opening remarks. Christopher Martin thanked the people for attending and CT-N for taping the session and summarized what we are up against with EAB. Patricia Douglass noted the intent of the federal quarantine is to slow the spread of EAB and work with their state partners.

Kirby Stafford gave summary on the origin, spread, and biology of the emerald ash borer. He provided a timeline on the previous detections of the emerald ash borer in Connecticut, regulatory and other actions taken to date in the state, and the current status of emerald ash borer in CT and other states. He announced that the beetle was first found in the town of Prospect on July 16, 2012 and was subsequently detected in Naugatuck, Bethany, and Beacon Falls. The surveillance methods (i.e., use of a solitary wasp to capture beetles and purple traps) were briefly reviewed. A delimiting survey largely coordinated and conducted by DEEP under the direction of the Connecticut EAB leadership team (Dr. Kirby Stafford, CAES; Mr. Christopher Martin, DEEP; Ms. Patricia Douglass, USDA-APHIS; and Dr.

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Nathan Siegert, US Forest Service) was conducted in spring 2013 that involved sampling ash trees. This resulted in the detection of the insect in three additional towns; Middlebury, Oxford, and Cheshire, all still in New Haven County. Dr. Stafford noted the beetle was also found in Hamden in May 2013.

The next part of Dr. Stafford's review was devoted to regulatory actions taken to date. These included the amendment of agency regulations in 2010 in response to the detection of EAB in Saugerties, New York by adding Sections 22-84-5d through 22-84-5f for the regulation and quarantine of EAB and the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB); the placement of an EAB quarantine on New Haven County on August 9, 2012 following a public hearing on August 8th in the Town of Prospect; and the implementation of emergency firewood regulations on August 9th by adding section 22-84-5g to the regulations to manage the movement of firewood into and within Connecticut. Permanent firewood regulations were established on December 28, 2012. A federal quarantine was placed on New Haven County for EAB on September 12, 2013.

The next part of the program covered the results of the *Cerceris* wasp and purple panel trap EAB surveys in the summer of 2013, which resulted in the detection of the emerald ash borer in 6 additional towns to bring EAB detections to a total of 14 Connecticut towns, comprising four counties (New Haven, Fairfield, Litchfield, and Hartford), but still largely centered on northern New Haven County. The towns are Prospect, Naugatuck, Bethany, Beacon Falls, Waterbury, Cheshire, Oxford, Middlebury, Hamden, North Branford, Southbury, Sherman, Newtown, Southington, and Watertown.

With the detection of EAB in Sherman on July 19, 2013, Southington on July 29, 2013, and Watertown on August 1, 2013, and confirmed by the USDA-APHIS-PPQ, Dr. Stafford then announced that he was amending and expanding the quarantine order for EAB to include Fairfield, Litchfield, and Hartford Counties effective on Thursday, August 29, 2013. He noted that the revised quarantine order was reviewed and approved by the Attorney General's office. Kirby Stafford indicated that the state quarantine must closely follow already established rules and requirements and that a federal quarantine will be placed on the three new counties in several weeks. Time for additional comments regarding the quarantine, regulations, biology of the emerald ash borer, or insect monitoring systems were provided to the other panelists at this time.

The public session of the hearing provided opportunities for citizens to ask questions or make comments. Four individuals signed in. Only one gentleman from Middlesex County addressed the panel seeking clarification on the movement of regulated articles between contiguous quarantined counties and the status of monitoring for the beetle, particularly in Middlesex County. This participant also asked about the submission of written comment and Dr. Stafford noted that he would accept written comment for 14 days following the hearing. Written comment was later received, stating that questions were satisfactorily answered. There was a general dialogue and discussion on the free movement of regulated articles within all the quarantined counties without a permit, general requirements for the movement of regulated articles, and status of the EAB monitoring. Ms. Douglass noted that the traps were still being processed by The University of Connecticut and additional detections, including Middlesex County, might be possible. However, the only positive trap to date was for the Town of Southington in Hartford County. Mr. Martin noted that DEEP will be updating the maps that illustrate more clearly the various scenarios for the

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movement of regulated articles and firewood within and without both the regulated areas and the state. The one attendee addressing the panel was satisfied with the clarifications and information offered.

Kirby Stafford wrapped up the session with comments about the release by Dr. Claire Rutledge, CAES, working with the USDA, of 2 species of parasitic wasps, native to China, to help control the emerald ash borer in Prospect and Middlebury. Dr. Stafford also noted that there was no evidence as yet that the EAB was present in southern Fairfield County or northern Litchfield or Hartford Counties and he pointed out that while free movement of regulated articles was permitted, limiting movement was still the best way to help slow the spread of this destructive pest. Patricia Douglass noted that Dr. Nathan Siegert wanted to be at this hearing, but could not attend and that he will continue to work with Connecticut in addressing EAB. People should contact her office for any questions related to interstate movement of regulated articles. Mr. Martin reminded people that they should continue to report suspected EAB or ALB.

With no further questions, Dr. Stafford concluded the hearing at 7:35 PM.

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