

Wildcat District Ag News Report



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Emerald Ash Borer Meeting Scheduled

An informational meeting concerning the Emerald Ash Borer, an exotic pest that is threatening our communities, is scheduled for Thursday, March 16, at the Southeast Kansas Area Research and Extension Center in Parsons, beginning at 1 p.m. The Southeast Kansas Research and Extension Center is located at 25092 Ness Road (immediately south of the Highway 400 and Ness Road intersection).

Tim McDonnell, Community Forestry Coordinator for the Kansas Forests Service, and Jeremy Maples, Kansas Department of Agriculture Plant Protection Division, are the guest speakers for this informational meeting. Among the important topics to be discussed include the identification of the Emerald Ash Borer, review and update of current infestations, containment plans, economics of pesticide treatments, and regulatory and quarantine issues. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this meeting.

Ash trees are valued for their shade and beauty, and are frequently planted in area parks, streetscapes and residential landscapes. Many of these trees are 50 to 100 years old and have grown to a stately size. Ash trees growing in the riparian forests of southeast Kansas, northeast Oklahoma and western Missouri are also harvested for their valuable timber.

A live, adult Emerald Ash Borer beetle was captured last fall in Delaware county Oklahoma. This suggests a possible infestation within the area and a quarantine order has been issued for wood products harvested from that county. The purpose of the quarantine is to stop or slow the spread of this destructive insect to surrounding communities.

Without a proactive approach there is likely to be a significant increase in the spread of this damaging insect. Reduction in property values, destruction of ash trees in our area forests, and the cost of removing dead and dying trees along city streets and residential landscapes will be among many of the costly effects resulting from an infestation.