



IOWA NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

NEWS

INLA Committee Meeting - June 18, 2014

All members are welcome to join us our committee meeting, on June 18 at Reiman Gardens.

INLA will meet to discuss matters pertaining to the convention, membership and certification committees, at 10 A.M. with lunch being provided after the meeting adjourns.

If you have further questions about the meeting and its contents please contact Joan O'Brien by emailing joano@agribiz.org or by calling the office at 515-262-8323.



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Final Deer Rule

Please see the attached proposal from the Iowa DNR related to the number of antlerless tags to be issued by the DNR.

Instead of reducing antlerless tags by around 10,000 statewide, as DNR indicated, the proposed rule would reduce the number available by 31,375 or down to the number that was sold in each county last year.

There will be a public comment opportunity until June 17. Written comments may be sent the DNR Wildlife Bureau Chief, Wallace State

Office Building, 502 E. 9th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319; by e-mail at: wildlife@dnr.iowa.gov or by Fax at: (515) 281-6794.

There will be a public hearing on June 17 at 2 P.M. at the Wallace Building, third floor conference room.

All the details are in the attached rule. More information can be found on their website at: www.iowadnr.gov/InsideDNR/BoardsCommissions/

3rd Annual INLA Service Day!



The third Annual INLA Service Day will be September 11, 2014. The project will take place on the ISU Campus in Ames, IA and will be a fun filled event with lunch provided.

We had a great group of volunteers in Des Moines last year and we would love to see even more participate this year.

More details will be shared throughout the Summer. Please feel free to call Joan O'Brien with any questions. She can be reached by email at joano@agribiz.org or by calling 515-262-8323.

Hope to see you all there!

Cultivate'14: ANLA & OFA Annual Convention Renamed

The formerly known OFA Short Course, now known as the newly configured AmericanHort Annual Convention:

Cultivate'14, will take place on **July 12-15, 2014** at the Greater Columbus Convention Center and will continue to offer premier educational and networking experiences, and more than 7 acres of trade show exhibits including

technology, new products and services, and new plant varieties.

This year also sees an expansion of products and services for retailers, nursery production, and landscaping.

Thousands of attendees from more than 20 countries are expected this year.

Honey Bee Losses May be Slowing

By: Tom Steever - BROWNFIELD

There were fewer bee colony losses this past winter than in recent years. An annual survey of beekeepers indicates losses were just over 23 percent compared to more than 30 percent the previous winter. USDA bee research leader Jeff Pettis tells Brownfield the numbers have to be put into perspective.

"We think that normal losses should be around 15 percent to 18 percent, so we're still at a relatively high number, but it's better than it has been," said Pettis Thursday. "Some people say that, well, we went from really bad to only partly bad as far as colony losses."

Beekeepers say losses are still higher than what they consider to be sustainable, but it's a glimmer of hope from the depths of the puzzling colony collapse disorder that came to light a few years ago.

"Some years we've easily been over 50 percent loss and

that's really bad; it's really hard for the beekeeper to make up, and it results in growers paying more for pollination, for bees to come in to pollinate," said Pettis. "I'm optimistic, but I don't want to say that we're out of the woods yet."

And the efforts to stop the losses are valuable. Pettis says one in every three bites of food is thanks to pollinators such as bees.

The cause of the disorder and resulting bee losses is still not definitely known, but Pettis says best management practices have led to improvements. Pettis says beekeepers have employed more aggressive mite control and have done supplemental feeding to offset shortages of pollen and nectar. "Most of the weight of these colony losses has been borne by the beekeeper," he said. "They're putting in a lot of hard work to keep colonies alive."

2014 North Central Forest Pest Workshop

Iowa is hosting the 2014 North Central Forest Pest Workshop in Chariton, IA this year **September 8-11**. Information on the workshop, agenda, and registrations can be found in the Agenda/Registration link below.

This workshop will qualify for both SAF and ISA

credits. Details on that to come.

Here are the links about the program and the agenda: www.forestpathology.org/hosted/ncfpw/
www.forestpathology.org/hosted/ncfpw/ncfpw14/webpage2014.pdf

EPA Proposes Bold Clean Water Act Expansion

By: Craig Regelbrugge - AmericanHort

EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have jointly released a proposed rule intended to "clarify protection under the Clean Water Act (CWA) for streams and wetlands that form the foundation of the nation's water resources."

Under current law, the CWA applies to "navigable waters." Under the draft rule's definition of a tributary, many additional waters, including ditches, could be subject to Clean Water Act regulation. The proposed rule could expand CWA jurisdiction over many man-altered and man-made water bodies, including residential lakes, ponds, golf course water hazards, and ditches.

In addition to the proposed rule, EPA and the Army Corps issued a separate "interpretive rule" that takes effect immediately. That rule reflects a decision with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to exempt 53 farm

conservation practices from CWA Section 404 dredge and fill permitting requirements. These practices include tree and shrub establishment, tree and shrub pruning, mulching, and other practices. The interpretative rule would only exempt these practices from CWA Section 404 permit requirements if they are implemented according to USDA standards. These practices would not necessarily be exempt from other CWA requirements. EPA and the Army Corps also entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with USDA to continue to review the list of conservation practices under the interpretive rule and determine if that list needs to be expanded.

The rules will be published in the *Federal Register* later this week or early next week, which will begin a 90-day public comment process. A copy of the proposed rule, the interpretative rule and other EPA materials can be found at www2.epa.gov/uswaters.



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XYLEM LTD.

Leading the fight against Emerald Ash Borer

We are pleased to announce that **Golden Valley Hardscapes** has joined **Xylem, Ltd.** as a certified, USDA compliant landscape material supplier for interstate commerce inside the EAB quarantined area. As a group, we are determined to meet the stringent requirements called for by the *USDA APHIS - Plant Protection & Quarantine Compliance Agreement*.

As this infestation spreads within the Central United States, we will continue to work seriously and diligently to do our part to stop the spread of this destructive insect.



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AmericanHort Requests Worker Protection Comment Extension

By: Craig Regelbrugge - AmericanHort

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed extensive and complicated revisions to its Worker Protection Standard regulation. Member nursery, greenhouse, and Christmas tree growers will be affected.

AmericanHort is collaborating with other interested national organizations, state partners, and affected growers to assess the proposal and develop official comments, which

are due by June 17. Unfortunately for much of our industry, this proposal's timing could not be worse. It is Spring, and horticulture businesses are extraordinarily busy!

With this in mind, AmericanHort and partners have submitted to EPA an official request to extend the comment deadline by 90 days, to September 16, 2014. To keep informed of their progress visit: www.americanhort.org/.

House Agriculture Hearing on Pollinators

By: Joe Bischoff - AmericanHort

On April 29, the U.S. House Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on Horticulture, Research, Biotechnology and Foreign Agriculture held a hearing "to review current research and application of management strategies to control pests and diseases of pollinators." Jeff Stone, Executive Director and CEO of the Oregon Association of Nurseries (OAN) was one of the witnesses providing testimony and was staffed by AmericanHort's regulatory and legislative affairs director Joe Bischoff.

In kicking off the hearing, Subcommittee Chairman Austin Scott (GA-08) described the vital role bees play in pollinator services for over 30 percent of the crops produced in the U.S. and the importance of looking, "at the current state of pollinator health in an attempt to gain a better understanding of the status of research on causes of and possible solutions to Colony Collapse Disorder." In addition to Stone, the other witnesses were Mr. Dan Cummings, CEO of Capay Farms and CFO of Olivarez Honey Bees in Chico, CA; Dr. Jeff Pettis, Research Leader of the USDA's Bee Research Laboratory in Beltsville, MD; and Bayer's Dr. David Fischer, Director of Pollinator Safety and Manager of the Bayer North American Bee Care Center in Research Triangle Park, NC.

All witnesses described the challenges surrounding pollinator health as multi-faceted and how no single factor could be identified for the increased mortality rates for overwintering bee colonies. However, all agreed that the introduction of the Varroa mite was causing the greatest impact. In both his written and oral testimony, Dr. Pettis succinctly described the increased difficulty that honeybee managers are facing as "when *Varroa destructor* was first found in the United States in 1987, beekeepers managed more than 3 million colonies for crop pollination and their winter losses were typically about 10 percent to 15 percent. Today, beekeepers are having trouble maintaining 2.5 million managed colonies; winter losses are averaging over 30 percent a year."

Stone described the difficulties the Oregon "green industry" faced when the misapplication of a systemic insecticide, Dinotefuran, to Linden trees in flower caused the unfortunate death of 50,000 bees. He addressed the initial calls by some to ban the insecticide, a reaction based more on emotion than science. When a bill would have substantially limited access to the chemistry class (neonicotinoids) was initially introduced in the state legislature that, he described how cooler heads prevailed and "instead, stakeholders listened to one another and determined that a science-based approach to pollinator health would lead to a better solution." The Oregon bill eventually led to a two-year effort where, "stakeholders will roll up their sleeves and work with Oregon State University – our land grant university –, legislators, and state agencies to determine the most appropriate path forward," said Stone.

In Chairman Scott's concluding remarks he referenced Stone's statements when he spoke about the need to look to the science to guide decision making, while recognizing that insecticides play an important role in controlling invasive and other problematic pests. Throughout the hearing, the need for a balanced approach in tackling bee health concerns was clear, including control of the Varroa mite, steps to improve forage opportunities, better understand the fungal, bacterial and viral pathogens, as well as efforts to limit bee exposure to pesticides.

To read the full testimony of the witnesses please visit the House Agriculture Committee site.

To read more pertinent legislative updates presented by AmericanHort, please go to: americanhort.theknowledgecenter.com/.

Experts Offer Information, Advice on Emerald Ash Borer

By: Kate Allt - KTVO

Fairfield residents learned from the experts how to deal with the invasive beetle infesting their ash trees.

The Fairfield Arbor Committee held a public meeting with Gretchen Paluch, Bureau Chief of the Iowa Department of Agriculture's Pesticide Bureau, Mark Schur, Entomologist with Iowa State Extension and Robin Pruisner, State Entomologist with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

The focus of the briefing was threefold; to give background and information on the emerald ash borer, to present treatment options and explain regulatory issues, such as state pesticide regulations.

There is a section of Iowa Code that deals with the state's authority to regulate pesticide use in different communities. The Pesticide Bureau aims to make sure all pesticides are being used properly and under the guidelines of Iowa code. "We do have an enforcement area under the state pesticide programs that responds to reports and complaints pertaining to pesticide use," Paluch said. "That includes any inquiries to pesticide regulation, sale use and distribution."

Any questions regarding pesticide use in Iowa can be answered by calling the bureau at 515-281-8591.

As far as treatment options go, Schur told residents there are three; the "do nothing" option, preventative treatments like soil drenching or granular treatments or a curative option. Preventative options must be done to healthy trees and must be done every year for a long period of time. Insecticide treatment will not save a tree entirely from an EAB infestation, but when applied properly, it can control it.

Iowa was put under a state-wide quarantine due to EAB on February 4. So far, the beetle has been identified in nine counties, including Jefferson and Wapello Counties. But with the transportation of firewood and other materials from county to county, awareness of EAB is a state-wide issue.

"This year, we've done 36 meetings in one sort or another, either green industry or public meetings and I've got at least another dozen scheduled, so we're trying to get the word out across the state as best we can," Schur said.

To determine whether or not your tree is ash to go:

www.extension.iastate.edu/forestry/iowa_trees/tree_id.html

To determine whether your ash tree is infested by EAB go to:

[file:///C:/Documents%20and%20Settings/jmaurer/My%20Documents/Downloads/SUL0021%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Documents%20and%20Settings/jmaurer/My%20Documents/Downloads/SUL0021%20(1).pdf)

Help Reduce Runoff Into Our Rivers, Lakes and Streams

In order to help to preserve our rivers, lakes and streams and comply with EPS rules the Iowa DNR has implemented a regulation that among other things **requires that unless infeasible 4" of topsoil remains on the site after construction.** The goal of this rule is to have yards that will be able to absorb rainfalls of up to 1.25" which account for up to 90% of the average rainfall in Iowa. Some developers and builders have expressed a concern that implementing this rule will add excessive cost to the price of a new home placing a burden on the home buyer by increasing the development cost.

Because of these concerns expressed by developers and contractors **Governor Branstad formed a stakeholders group to review whether the rule should be kept, amended or repealed.** The stakeholders committee is made up of a group representing contractors, developers, landscapers a representative from the DNR, Homebuilder Assn. and ISWEP. This group is requesting input from the public. If you believe this issue it is important please let the stakeholders group and Gov. Branstad know how you feel. Please direct your email comments to adam.schnieders@dnr.iowa.gov there will also be a public hearing at the Wallace Building in Des Moines at 10:00 A.M. on May 29 to gather more input from the public. **DNR press release for the public hearing is attached.**

There is a cost to these practices to protect our water resources, just as there are costs to other construction rules such as electrical and plumbing codes which will be passed on to the homebuyer. The estimate for spreading 4" of topsoil onto an average size lot is \$1500-\$5000 about 1-2% of the average cost of a new home. I believe that the cost of the

damage to our resources outweighs the expense of complying with this regulation. If it is left to individual communities to comply it may be an incentive for communities who do not see themselves impacted by water quality to ease enforcement to encourage construction at a cost to homeowners and all of us who use and enjoy our waterways.

Your input will have an effect on the decision making process. The stakeholders group is asking for input about how this rule will affect you and our state. I would like to know if homeowners feel that the value of having the soil replaced on the lot is worth the additional cost. Both as an added value to the home in better growing conditions and reduced water and fertilizer needs, and as a method to protect our rivers, lakes and streams. Do you feel that it is the responsibility of builders and developers to use practices that reduce the impact of development on the environment? Have you been affected by stormwater management issues such as; water quality in rivers, lakes and streams, standing water in your yard, flooding, erosion, or other issues?

Please take a moment to let the EO 80 stakeholders group know how you feel email Adam Schnieders at: Adam.Schnieders@dnr.iowa.gov or attend the public hearing in person or by conference call 10:00 A.M. on May 29.

If you want more information on NPDES General Permit No. 2 here is link to the rule:

http://www.iowadnr.gov/Portals/idnr/uploads/water/npdes/GP2_2012.pdf