

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Office of the Secretary

[Docket No. 98-115-1]

#### Declaration of Emergency Because of Classical Swine Fever (Hog Cholera) in the Dominican Republic and Haiti

A serious outbreak of classical swine fever (CSF), commonly known as hog cholera in the United States, is occurring in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. CSF was confirmed in Haiti in October 1996, and in the Dominican Republic in June 1997.

CSF, a highly contagious viral disease of swine, was eradicated from the United States in 1978 after a 16-year effort by industry and Federal and State Governments. If a similar eradication effort were attempted today, the estimated cost would exceed \$500 million. While CSF does not cause illness in people, the more virulent strains can cause high morbidity and mortality in pigs. The less virulent strains can typically cause diarrhea, severe growth retardation, and reproductive losses. CSF is currently found in 36 countries in Europe, Asia, South America, and the Caribbean. The reintroduction of this disease into the United States could devastate the U.S. pork industry.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the U.S. pork industry have recently determined that CSF in the Dominican Republic and Haiti poses a risk to the U.S. swine population. The primary risk to U.S. swine is through the illegal movement of swine and meat products, such as sausage, by airline passengers coming into the United States from the Dominican Republic. The CSF virus can survive for several months in pickled meat and for several years in smoked and frozen meat.

To protect the multi-billion dollar U.S. pork industry, including 600,000 jobs, and to maintain the Nation's food

security and the pork and pork product export market valued at more than \$1 billion, APHIS has already begun to respond to the CSF risk. The Agency has provided technical assistance to both the Dominican Republic and Haiti; enhanced passenger and baggage inspections on flights arriving from these two countries; and increased inspections of garbage feeders in Puerto Rico.

APHIS needs an additional \$5.3 million to take adequate precautions against the introduction of CSF into the United States. Activities that would be funded by the additional money include an inspection program in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, a veterinarian stationed on the Island of Hispaniola, and enhanced surveillance of swine herds in the United States.

Therefore, in accordance with the provisions of the Act of September 25, 1981, 95 Stat. (7 U.S.C. 147b), I declare that there is an emergency which threatens the swine population of the United States and hereby authorize the transfer and use of such funds as may be necessary from appropriations or other funds available to the agencies or corporations of the United States Department of Agriculture for the conduct of a program to enhance surveillance activities and prevent the introduction of CSF into the United States.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This declaration of emergency shall become effective March 9, 1999.

**Dan Glickman,**

*Secretary of Agriculture.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Office of the Secretary

[Docket No. 98-088-2]

#### Declaration of Emergency Because of the Asian Longhorned Beetle

A serious outbreak of the Asian longhorned beetle, *Anoplophora glabripennis*, is occurring in Illinois and New York.

The Asian longhorned beetle, an insect native to China, Japan, Korea, and the Isle of Hainan, is a destructive pest of hardwood trees. It is known to attack healthy maple, horse chestnut, birch,

Rose of Sharon, poplar, willow, elm, locust, mulberry, chinaberry, apple, cherry, pear, and citrus trees. It may also attack other species of hardwood trees. In addition, nursery stock, logs, green lumber, firewood, stumps, roots, branches, and debris of a half an inch or more in diameter are subject to infestation. The Asian longhorned beetle bores into the heartwood of host trees, eventually killing the host trees. Immature beetles bore into tree trunks and branches, causing heavy sap flow from wounds and sawdust accumulation at tree bases. They feed on, and over-winter in, the interior of the trees. Adult beetles emerge in the spring and summer months from round holes approximately 3/8-inch diameter (about the size of a dime) that they bore through the trunks of trees. After emerging, adult beetles feed for 2 to 3 days and then mate. Adult females then lay eggs in oviposition sites that they make on the branches of trees. A new generation of the Asian longhorned beetle is produced each year. If this pest moves into the hardwood forests of the United States, the nursery and forest products industry could experience severe economic losses.

Since August 1996, infestations of the Asian longhorned beetle have been found in a portion of Brooklyn and Queens, NY, an area near Amityville, NY, and in three areas in and around Chicago. The damage and losses that would occur if the Asian longhorned beetle should become established and spread in the United States would be substantial. For example, many species of hardwood trees would be destroyed, severely harming industries that depend on the wood and other products of these trees (e.g., maple syrup, maple sugar, fruit). Hardwood lumber industries would face critical supply shortages and would be forced to try to meet their needs with imported hardwoods. Mature ornamental trees would be attacked, and domestic supplies of trees for nursery and landscaping companies would be reduced or eliminated. Widespread destruction of hardwood trees in public and private forest land would occur, causing enormous direct losses in tourism and related industries and enormous losses that cannot be easily measured to the aesthetics of our woodlands.

In cooperation with the States of Illinois and New York, the Animal and