



Emerald Ash Borer Trap Demonstration

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Jasper County

Summary Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) traps were placed at predetermined locations throughout Jasper County in a dual effort to monitor the advance of the EAB into Texas and also to help raise awareness of the growing threat of the EAB. According to the US Forest Service, since its discovery in Michigan in 2002 the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has:

- Killed tens of millions of ash trees in southeastern Michigan alone, with tens of millions more lost in Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Ontario, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Quebec, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.
- Caused regulatory agencies and the USDA to enforce quarantines (Michigan, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, New York, Ontario, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Kentucky) and fines to prevent potentially infested ash trees, logs or hardwood firewood from moving out of areas where EAB occurs.
- Cost municipalities, property owners, nursery operators and forest products industries tens of millions of dollars.

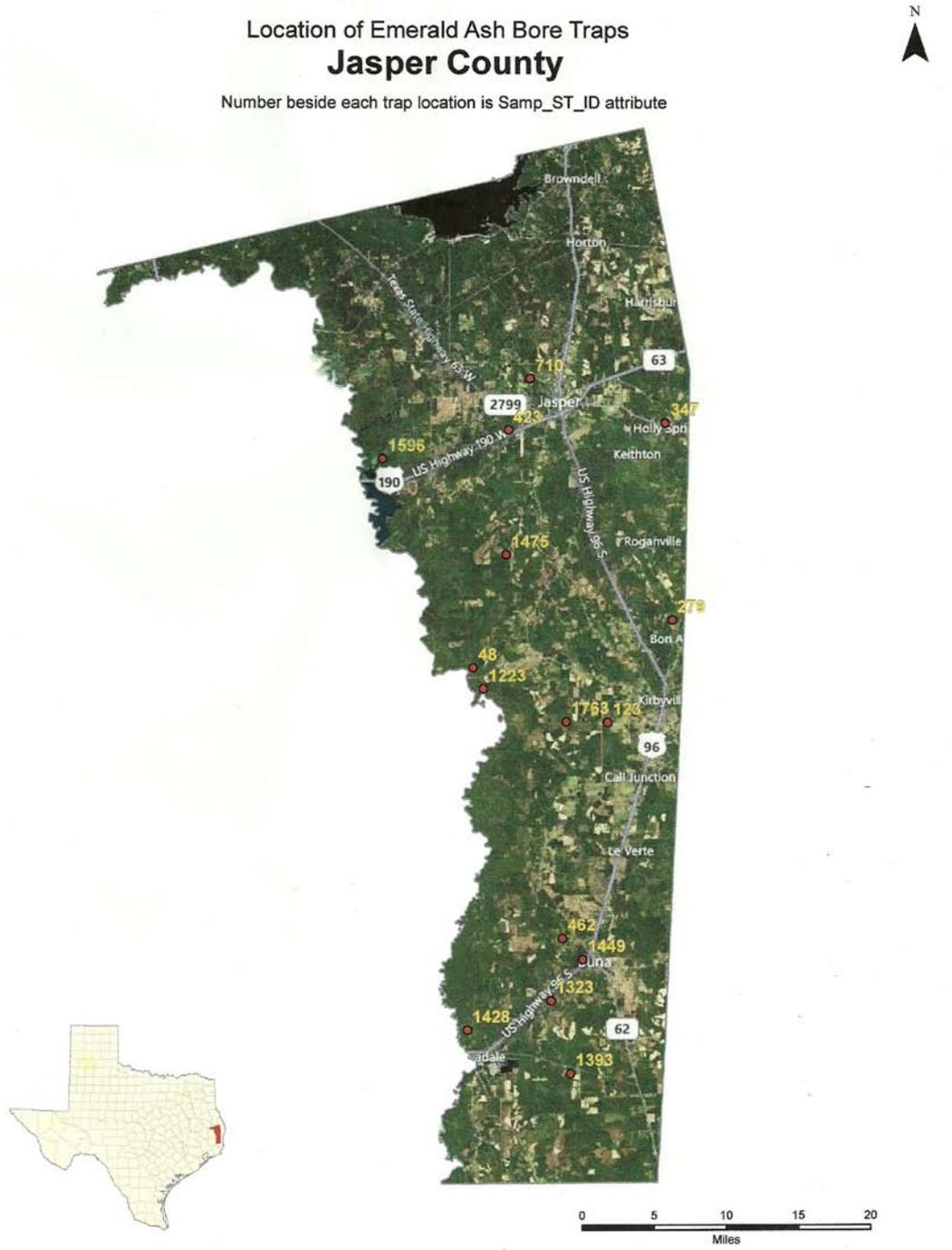
With the Timber industry in Texas, especially East Texas having such an impact on the local economy, both corporate and private land owners, it is important that we stay ahead of the EAB advance to new territories and monitor its invasion progress.

A total of 716 traps were placed throughout the state of Texas with 15 being located in Jasper County. These traps were placed by TFS employees and Ag Agent Chadd Caperton.

During the trapping period of March through September of 2012, no EAB beetles were found in any of the traps placed throughout the state of Texas including Jasper County.

Objective The objective of this demonstration was to raise awareness of the growing threat of the EAB and also to monitor its possible movement into Texas. Blue insect traps covered in a non-toxic adhesive and baited with a species specific pheromone were placed in predetermined locations chosen by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). A total of 15 traps were placed in Jasper County by the Ag Agent and Texas Forest Service (TFS) during this trapping period from March to September 2012.

Materials and Methods 15 blue EAB traps baited with species specific pheromones were placed in predetermined locations throughout Jasper County in the month of March. Two alternate locations were used for 2 traps due to the predetermined APHIS locations being inaccessible due to geographic reasons and local landowner consent was not given. The 2 alternate locations were identified through the Ag Agents land owner and producer list. These 2 alternate locations were in as close proximity to the original location as possible to maintain the necessary degree of random placement requested by APHIS. These 15 traps were checked by TFS employees for EAB beetles in the month of June and again in September.



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Blue EAB Trap placed in Ash Tree



EAB Trap with Pheromone packet

Results and Discussion Out of the 716 traps placed across the state of Texas during the demonstration period of March to September 2012, including 15 in Jasper County, there were no EAB found. Since the conclusion of this demonstration research has begun on a possible natural defense and prevention of loss of Ash Trees due to the EAB through a parasitic wasp that preys on the EAB. However, more research is being done on the effectiveness and the possible drawbacks of the use of this prevention method.

Conclusions The objective of the result demonstration was met. Awareness of the growing threat of this invasive species was raised through the collaboration of local land owner's, TFS and Texas A&M AgriLife. The absence of EAB in the traps indicated that movement of the EAB into the state of Texas has still not begun. APHIS discouraged the use of private property for trap placement during this demonstration period. To improve future trials it should be encouraged throughout the trapping area to utilize more private land owner's involvement and select more locations placed on private property. This will increase the opportunity for community involvement and increase the level of awareness throughout the state.

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