**Introduction**

The emerald ash borer (EAB), *Agrilus planipennis Fairemaire* (Coleoptra: Buprestidae), is an invasive species that has killed millions of ash trees (*Fraxinus spp*.) in North America since it was discovered here in 2002. Although it had likely been in the US since the late 1990’s, the EAB has spread throughout much of the eastern half of the contiguous US and parts of Canada, destroying tens of millions of ash trees in its path. Because these beetles spend most of their life as larvae feeding on the inner vascular tissue of ash trees, most of their movement can be accredited to unintentional human transportation of infested wood. As a result, this pest is particularly hard to track and predict where it will move, making early detection of new infestations is a difficult task.

The effort to slow the spread of this pest is headed up at a federal level by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and typically by the individual Departments of Agriculture at the state level. Since the EAB was first found in Minnesota in 2009, it has spread rapidly to 14 different counties as of 2016. Currently, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA)

As the Emerald Ash Borer is making its way through Minnesota, early detection through public engagement and volunteer efforts may be the most effective and economically viable plan of attack. When new sightings are discovered in new counties, it is imperative to institute a quarantine as quickly as possible so the MDA has the authority to prevent firewood from spreading to new locations. If the MDA is able to prevent infested wood from leaving a quarantined area, it may provide enough time to introduce biocontrols to eradicate the local populations of EAB.