Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ)

APHIS PPQ Permits: What, Why, and How

Dr. Timothy Miller, PHSS
Jeffery Marker, PHSS
APHIS Permits

• Permitting Overview
• PPQ’s Role
  – What we do
  – What we don’t do
• Permitting Home Page
  – ePermits
  – eAuthentication
• PPQ Permitting Specifics
• Questions


Tim – Specifics on permits, eligibility for permits, plant, insect, soil permit apps, State of Nebraska involvement
APHIS Mission

• To protect the health and value of U.S. agriculture, natural, and other resources.

This mission is accomplished in many different ways. Pest survey, animal welfare checks, disease monitoring, wildlife damage control, and...
permitting.
...promote trade, regulate GE (genetically engineered) organisms, administer the AWA (Animal Welfare Act), carry out wildlife damage control...
Animals, animal products, soils, insects, plants, plant pathogens, etc....that are brought into Nebraska from the US and the world, can pose specific risks to our rural and urban agriculture and environment. Accidental introductions of agricultural pests...happens. But we want to make sure, that if a purposeful introduction of a pest into the US from a foreign source, or the introduction of a non-cosmopolitan pest from a domestic source, is not responsible for agricultural damage (Chestnut blight, Dutch elm disease)

The permitting process is somewhat complex and there is a lot of information found on the following websites. That information is a very condensed version of the regulations that it is based on.
PPQ’s Role

- APHIS issues permits for the import, transit, and release of regulated animals, animal products, veterinary biologics, plants, plant products, pests, organisms, soil, and genetically engineered organisms.


Some of the common things that might need a PPQ permit:
- Butterflies and moths
- Bees (Dead bees of any genus, beeswax of beekeeping, honey for bee feed)
- Snails and slugs
- Federal noxious weeds and parasitic plants
- Earthworms
- SOIL – whether for isolation and/or culturing of soil inhabiting organisms or for non-biological analyses
We will not be discussing these permitting programs today. If you need more information about animal product permits or BRS permits we will provide that information.
PPQ permits do not fulfill the requirements of other federal or state regulatory authorities.

As appropriate, please contact the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the APHIS Veterinary Services unit, or your State’s Department of Agriculture to ensure proper permitting.

Keep in mind that having a PPQ permit does not necessarily fulfill the requirements of other federal agencies.
Receipt or use of foreign isolates or samples from countries under OFAC (Office of Foreign Asset Control) sanctions requires specific permission from the U.S. Department of Treasury. Comprehensive sanction programs include Burma (Myanmar), Cuba, Iran, Sudan, and Syria. Non-comprehensive programs are in place that affect other countries. OFAC programs change frequently, for current information see:

http://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Pages/default.aspx

If you country of interest is on the list, contact OFAC for definitive information.
APHIS Home Page

www.aphis.usda.gov
Clicking on the Permits link in the left hand column of the APHIS home page will take you to information that covers all APHIS permits.
The Contact Us link
The **Contact Us** link – will take you to a page with multiple customer service contacts for a variety of relevant plant and animal programs including those shown.
Plants, organisms and soil...all covered by PPQ.
Back to the APHIS home page → click on Plant Health. This will take you to the PPQ Permitting
Click on the Permits link about half way down in the center of the Plant Health Home Page

If you click to the PPQ Permit page, the permit info is streamlined to invertebrate organisms, plant pests, and soil...the things that PPQ regulates
This is the jumping off point for most of the PPQ permit information and one way to navigate to ePermits

What to find on this page:
- Links to Organism/Soil Permit info
- Link to Plants and Plant Product Permit info
The most common permit applications is the 526.

526 – Import of insects, mollusks, nematodes, mites, noxious weeds, parasitic plants, earthworms,

For UN-L – The most common applications are for Plant Pathogens and Insects and Mites.

525 – Soil – currently have 5 UN-L soil permit holders
Less used Permit applications for Nebraska destinations

585 – timber and timber products
621 – Import, export, or re-export of CITES material
586 – Transit permit for plants, plant products, plant pest, and/or soil through the US
546 – Post entry quarantine permits

Most frequently used application types.

587 – plants and plant products (including plants for planting)
588 – Plants and plant products for experimental purposes
Establishing an eAuthenticated Account to submit applications in ePermits

Register to use ePermits
Note the Tech support link
Note that a Level 2 authentication account is required to apply for a PPQ permit. - An account with Level 2 access allows the user to enter USDA website portals and applications that have been determined to have the need of higher security requirements or restrictions than are accessible through a Level 1 account. An additional requirement for Level 2 access is the need for a verified identity for each User ID and profile.

**Note the 180 days and 400 days with no login cautions – this is a very common problem with UN-L applicants.** Logging in and out of your account at least every 180 days should keep both your password and account active. Follow the instructions to change your password when the program prompts you to do so.
Acceptable government-issued photo ID’s include: U.S. state-issued or Canadian province-issued driver’s license, valid passport issued by any country listed on the U.S. Dept. of State website., or U.S. military or U.S. federal government employment PIV/CAC (Smart) ID card.
LRA's are available at our office in the Trade Center at 5940 South 58th St.

There is also generally at least one LRA at each USDA Service Center housing NRCS and/or FSA personnel.

A USDA Service Center Locator for Nebraska offices is available at:

http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=ne&agency=fsa

Call ahead to make sure one is on duty.
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APHIS PPQ Permits: What, Why, and How

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PPQ Permits - Eligibility

- Residency requirements vary among permit types. Take note of any draft permit conditions that deal with residency and make sure you meet the qualifications before confirming your ability to comply. Failure to do so may invalidate your permit.
- Permits are only issued to individuals, not to institutions.
- Permits are not transferable to other individuals or locations.
- Permits are not renewable. New permits must be applied for and obtained before the expiration of the current permit in order to maintain continued authorization to possess the regulated material.
- Students generally don’t have the authority to control the assets and procedures required to insure safeguarding requirements are met. Responsible faculty members should obtain the permit and supervise the student’s work.
- The permittee is the responsible party.
Required PPQ Authorizations
- Organisms -

Required for the importation, interstate movement and environmental release of plant pests (plant feeding insects, mites, snails, slugs, and plant pathogenic bacteria, viruses, fungi, nematodes, etc.), biological control organisms of plant pests and weeds, bees, parasitic plants and Federally listed noxious weeds.
Required PPQ Authorizations
- Soil -

Required for the importation and subsequent interstate movement of untreated soil imported for “non-biological” uses (uses not involving PPQ P526P-authorized organism isolation or culturing).

Required for the interstate movement of untreated domestic regulated soil crossing a quarantine boundary.
Required PPQ Authorizations
- Plants and Plant Products -

Required for the importation of:

- Plants for Planting such as nursery stock, small lots of seed, and postentry quarantine;
- Plant Products such as fruits and vegetables, timber, cotton, and cut flowers;
- Protected Plants and Plant Products such as orchids, and Threatened and Endangered plant species;
- Transit Permits to ship regulated articles into, through, and out of the U.S.; and
- Controlled Import Permits (CIP) to import plants or plant products for experimental, therapeutic, or developmental purposes.
I’ll display the page’s web address at the top of the slide. Beginning at the Plant Health Permits home page...
To improve visibility of the relevant contents, screenshots will be cropped to remove the blue link boxes on either side.

I’m going to remove the side link boxes and the banner and limited the screen shots to the relevant content sections to attempt to make it a little easier see.
Going first to the Organism and Soil Permits page...
Authorization to move an organism requires submission of a PPQ 526 application. The permit that is issued is a P526P. Permits are required for importation into the country and to move an organism across a state line. They are issued separately – a P526P will not be written with both foreign and domestic origins.

Movement of organisms from Canada is considered a foreign import.

Movement from Hawaii and U.S. possession is considered domestic interstate movement.
Additional information on the indicated topics is available by clicking the links
Further down on the Organism and Soil Permit page is the Compliance, Enforcement and Inspections section. Clicking on the “More” link will take you to the page with the information displayed below the dashed line.

Note that permits are required even if the organism is already present.


PPQ P526P Permit is required for importation and for interstate movement of any plant pest or Federal noxious weed despite the distribution of the organism within the U.S. or the state.
Also further down on the Organism and Soil Permits page is the section on permit processing.

One of the most common mistakes made by first-time applicants is underestimating the time required to process an application. They wait until a couple of weeks before they need it and anticipate that it can be issued in time.

Clicking on the “More” link will take you to the table on processing steps.
This is a partial breakdown of the different portions of a 526 application approval process and illustrates why you need to submit the application well in advance of the need. The process also generally involves the preparation and submission of an SOP by the applicant. This, and the applicant’s response to the draft permit conditions (and any other inquiries by the permit staff) can add significantly to the time if the applicant is slow in responding. Communication is generally by email and there have been instances where the applicant did not recall receiving the inquiry. The State Department of Ag has a role in evaluating a PPQ 526 application and is allotted up to 30 days for the procedure. If you are concerned with where your application is in the system, your local PPQ office can check on it’s status for you on the application’s Tracking Sheet. If the Tracking Sheet entry indicates that a response from the applicant is required and the applicant has no record of receiving the inquiry, the PPQ officer can request that the Permit Specialist re-send it.

The process summarized in the table on the slide expands to 91 different task lines on a 526 Tracking Sheet. A 587 Tracking Sheet has 264 task lines (a 587 application may lead to one of 17 different permit types and the tracking sheet has to accommodate all the possibilities).
If you wish to import or move interstate soil in order to isolate and/or culture an organism from it then you need to submit a 526 application for the organism of interest and specify that you want it shipped to you in soil.

If you wish to import soil for non-biological analyses, then you need to submit a PPQ 525 application (if you wish to conduct both biological and non-biological procedures, submit only a 526 application and describe both procedure types on the application).

Clicking on the Soil link on the Organism and Soil Permits page will take you to the Soil Permits page for the non-biological uses.
For non-biological analyses of soil (not involving the isolation and/or culturing of organisms) you need to submit a PPQ 525 application for a P330 soil import permit. All permit applications are routed directly to the Permit Unit in MD, except for a 525. A 525 routes to the local PPQ office. The Permit Unit will not process a 525 application until the local PPQ office issues the applicant a Soil Compliance Agreement (with the exception of an 525 application for sample treatment at a Plant Inspection Station). Movement of domestic soil for non-biological purposes is regulated if the soil is defined as a regulated article in a domestic Federal quarantine. Movement of domestic regulated soil is authorized by a soil compliance agreement, a limited permit, or a certificate, depending on the regulations in the specific quarantine. Unlike the case with the 526, movement of soil for non-biological uses from Canada is regulated as domestic and interstate movement from Hawaii and the U.S. possessions is regulated as importation and requires a P330 permit. The circulars provided on the various permitting sites are, for the most part, very good sources of information.
Further down on the Soil Permit page you will find these additional information links. There is an option to hand carry both 526 and 525 permitted samples through a port of entry. The option must be requested on the permit application and the designated procedures must be followed.
There is an option to import soil and have it heat treated at a Plant Inspection Station after which the de-regulated soil will be shipped to you. This option is restricted to samples of less than 3 pounds.
It is also permissible to arrange for an existing permittee to import soil for you under their permit and have them heat treat it before turning it over to you, if they are willing to do so. At the bottom of the Soil Permit page is a link to the USDA Approved Soil Laboratories page which lists the P330 permit and Soil Compliance Agreement holders. The ***DOMESTIC ONLY*** notation indicates that the individual only has a Soil Compliance Agreement and not a P330 soil permit. The dates in parentheses following an individual’s name indicates the expiration date of their P330 permit. If the list is not recently updated there will be expired entries still posted, so make sure you only work with individuals whose permits are current.
This is the list of Nebraska P330 soil permittees.

Nebraska has no “DOMESTIC ONLY” authorizations.

Including Dr. Wienhold, there are 6 permittees at UN-L; 4 on City Campus and 2 on East Campus

NEBRASKA
Ag Source Harris, (Kevin Klink), Lincoln, NE (06-24-2015)
Midwest Laboratories, Inc. (Jerome King), Omaha, NE (12-28-14)
Olsen's Agricultural Lab, (Kevin Grooms), McCook, NE, (01-04-15)
University of Nebraska-Lincoln (Dr Paul Hanson) Lincoln, Nebraska (12-17-2013)
University of Nebraska (Dr. Sabrina Russo) Lincoln, NE (09-21-2013)
University of Nebraska, Water Science Laboratory, (Daniel D. Snow), Lincoln, NE (09-02-2013)
University of Nebraska, (Dr. Johannes Knops), Lincoln, NE (01-11-2014)
University of Nebraska, (Dr. Sherilyn Frits), Lincoln, NE (06-29-2015)
USDA-NRCS-NSSC-Kellogg Soil Survey Laboratory, (Dr. Richard Ferguson), Lincoln, NE, (05-04-2016)
USDA-NRCS, National Soil Mechanics Center, (Stephen Reinsch), Lincoln, NE (09-07-2013)
USDA/ARS, Agroecosystem Management Research Unit (Brian Wienhold), Lincoln, NE (06-19-2015)
Ward Laboratories, Inc., (Duane Osmanski), Kearney, NE (01-30-2015)
Be aware that due to the way the regulations are currently written, a Soil Compliance Agreement only authorizes movement of untreated regulated soil from the three domestic quarantines in the top section. Other regulatory instruments are required to authorize movement from the other three quarantines.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Insect/Pathogen</th>
<th>Authorized Areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Imported Fire Ant</td>
<td>All of LA, MS, AL, GA, SC, FL, PR  - Portions of TX, OK, AR, TN, NC, VA, NM, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Witchweed</td>
<td>Portions of NC, SC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Nematode</td>
<td>Portions of NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pale Cyst Nematode</td>
<td>Portions of ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit Fly (several species)</td>
<td>Portions of TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phytophthora ramorum</td>
<td>Portions of CA, OR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Information on the location of the various quarantines (other than the Witchweed quarantine) can be found under the Plant Pest Program Information page.

On the Plant Health home page, click on the Plant Pest Program Information Link.
Scroll down as needed and click on the link to the quarantine pest of interest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant Pest Program Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Insects and Mites</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Asian Longhorned Beetle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Cotton Pests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Drosophila suzukii (Spotted Wing Drosophila) - Pest Alert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Emerald Ash Borer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- European Grapevine Moth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Fruit Flies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Grasshopper/ Mormon Cricket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Green Meal</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Imported Fire Ant</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Japanese Beetle</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Light Brown Apple Moth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Pine Shoot Beetle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Palm Weevils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mollusks</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Giant African Snails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Temperate Terrestrial Gastropods - New Pest Response Guideline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nematodes</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Golden Nematodes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scroll as needed to find the link associated with the current quarantine information
This is the current map for the area quarantined for imported fire ants.
Following the same procedure you can navigate to the current map for the Phytophthora ramorum quarantine map. The areas designated as “Regulated” have restrictions on the movement of nursery stock. In addition to other items, only the areas designated as “Quarantined” have restrictions on the movement of soil as a regulated article.
A depiction of the NC areas affected by the Witchweed quarantine is available on the NC DoACS web site, as is tabular information on the SC areas.

The 5 NC counties and 2 SC counties that are partially quarantined for Witchweed are all within the larger area where the entire counties are quarantined for Imported Fire Ants (IFA) – so movement of soil to Nebraska from anywhere within a Witchweed county will still be regulated under the IFA quarantine even if it originates from outside the Witchweed quarantine.
Moving now to the plant permits, from the Plant Health Permits home page, click on the link to the Plants and Plant Products Permits page
Applications most likely needed by UN-L personnel are the 587 and 588 applications. The others will not be discussed here other than pointing out the links for additional information.
The Plants for planting link will take you to the section dealing with importation of propagative plant material.

Effective June 3, 2013, the Departmental Permits issued previously to an applicant filing a PPQ 588 were replaced by the CIP’s. A CIP will also be issued in response to a PPQ 546 application for a postentry quarantine agreement.
Take Permit / Entry requirements into account when planning work that will involve imports – make sure that you can bring in what you need, when you need it, and that you can do what you need to do with it when it gets here.

For instance, consider this scenario – you are working collaboratively with a colleague in Mexico to improve a wheat variety and you want to send seed there for increase and then return it and run an additional increase in the field here.

Here’s what the Plants for Planting Manual says about importing common wheat seed from Mexico for planting.
First of all, the fact that the species is listed in the Plant Material column indicates that wheat is not a “Generally Admissible” species. If it’s in the manual, it means that it is at least Restricted Entry. The next thing you notice is there are a number of countries in the “Prohibited/Not Authorized from:” column and Mexico is one of them. If importation is “Prohibited” it means that you will need to file a PPQ 588 application to obtain the appropriate CIP permit. This is required because the level of pest risk associated with this species and this origin is too high for lesser measures to mitigate the risk – and one of those more conservative measures is that it is unlikely that you will be authorized to plant the seed in the field. You will likely be required to grow it under controlled conditions and the scrutiny of a plant pathologist in the greenhouse for a generation before the F1 seed is allowed into the environment.

However, you also note that wheat seed from Mexico is admissible if it is grown in a specified Karnal bunt-free area and the shipment is accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate with the appropriate additional declaration. The FSA-A notation refers to the Federal Seed Act-Agricultural, which means that the seed will need to meet the labeling requirements of the FSA and is subject to being sampled at the quantities specified for an agricultural seed (compared to the quantities specified for a vegetable seed, which is designated by FSA-V).

Admissible seed can be brought in under a permit obtained by submitting a PPQ 587 application and planting in the field would likely be authorized.
So if you were going to increase the seed in Mexico before bringing it back for another increase planting, you need to know before you send it down there that it must be planted in a Karnal bunt-free area or you will not be able to take it to the field when you get it back.
The circulars are an excellent source of relevant information.


With limited exceptions, all material for propagation requires a phytosanitary certificate for entry.

Circulaters
Available circulars for this section. This selection contains the answers to the majority of the questions we get from UN-L applicants on importation of propagative material.
Permit / Entry requirements can be affected by a number of potential variables – including, but not limited to those listed below:

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<th>Species</th>
<th>Intended use</th>
<th>Physical state / condition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Origin:</td>
<td>Propagation</td>
<td>Fresh (including fresh cut)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country:</td>
<td>Controlled environment</td>
<td>Frozen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Quarantined areas</td>
<td>Field</td>
<td>Air-dried</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Pest-free zones</td>
<td>Environmental release</td>
<td>Processed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source:</td>
<td>Non-propagation</td>
<td>Treated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Controlled environment</td>
<td>Food or feed</td>
<td>• Heat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Field collected</td>
<td>Processing</td>
<td>o Hot air</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Packaging</td>
<td>Fresh cut</td>
<td>o Vapor heat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Means of Importation</td>
<td>Safeguarding capabilities</td>
<td>o Steam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port of Entry</td>
<td>Protocols</td>
<td>o Hot water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destination</td>
<td>Facilities</td>
<td>• Cold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Treatment capabilities</td>
<td>• Chemical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Decontamination process</td>
<td>o Aerosol</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The entire permitting process is admittedly both extensive and complex. While the web sites and ePermits may not be the most intuitive, user-friendly resources you’ve encountered, they are infinitely simpler and more straightforward than the written regulations that they attempt to interpret and facilitate.
Should you wish to read the actual regulations on which the decisions and actions regarding permits are based, the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations (e-CFR) is the regularly updated version.
To access the relevant sections, select "Title 7 – Agriculture" from the drop down menu and click on the Go button.
### ELECTRONIC CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

As of October 3, 2013, the e-CFR resides at a new URL. Please visit your bookmarks, favorites, links and download electronic etc. www.ecfr.gov.

#### e-CFR Data is current as of August 8, 2013

**Title 7: Agriculture**

**Chapter III: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture**

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For questions or comments regarding e-CFR technical content, features, or design, email ecfr@bna.gov. For questions concerning e-CFR programming and delivery issues, email ecfr@bna.gov.

Then click on, expand, and search in the section(s) of interest.
The Port program manuals that are used as work aids to interpret the CFR and translate them into the regulatory requirements and actions associated with permitting and entry can be accessed through this link if you care to review them, but that’s a topic that is too complex to discuss in this presentation. The current version of the Plants for Planting Manual alone contains 682 pages.
To add yet another layer of complexity – the individual states also have various quarantine and permit regulations that restrict movement of regulated articles that are not regulated at the Federal level.

State summaries are available for download at the National Plant Board website in the Laws & Regulations section – but you should contact the relevant state department(s) of agriculture (or the equivalent) to confirm your understanding and that the posted summaries are the most current versions.
On the Nebraska DoA web site at:

- Animal & Plant Health Protection
- Plant Health Programs
- Entomology & Apiary

http://www.nda.nebraska.gov/index.html
You will find the links to at least two state quarantines currently in effect that regulate the domestic interstate movement of plant and/or plant pest-related articles that differ from those regulated by PPQ.

Nebraska
Columbia Root Knot Nematode Quarantine

Nebraska
Thousand Cankers Disease of Walnut Quarantine
For assistance with the various aspects of USDA-APHIS permitting – remember that "Contact Us" link for the national contact information.

And for the relevant local PPQ contact(s) Click on the "Contact your Local APHIS Office" link.
And then on the appropriate state outline

To report an animal pest or disease, contact:

Dr. Kathleen Akin
Area Veterinarian-in-Charge
5940 South 58th Street (Pacifica)
P.O. Box 81866 (Letters)
Lincoln, NE 68516
Phone: (402) 434-2303
Fax: (402) 434-2330

To report a plant pest or disease, contact:

Vicki Wobels
State Plant Health Director
5940 South 58th Street
Lincoln, NE 68516
Phone: (402) 434-2366
Fax: (402) 404-2330
And for the contact information for the relevant SPRO(s) – click the “Membership” link on the NPB home page and then on the appropriate state outline(s)

http://www.nationalplantboard.org/
National Plant Board

Nebraska
State Plant Regulatory Official
Julie C. Van Meter, Program Manager/State Entomologist

Mailing Address
Animal and Plant Health Protection
Nebraska Department of Agriculture
PO Box 94756
Lincoln, NE 68509-4756

Phone
402-471-6847
Fax
402-471-6882
Email
Julie.vanmeter@nebraska.gov

Physical Address
301 Centennial Mall south
Lincoln, NE 68509-4756

Web Site
http://www.agr.ne.gov/plant/
APHIS Permits:

Questions?

If we don’t know, we’ll do what we can to find out.