

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION

DA-2025-34

August 19, 2025

Subject: APHIS Removes Doña Ana County in New Mexico from the Imported Fire Ant (*Solenopsis invicta* and *S. richteri*) Quarantined Area

To: State, Tribal, and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is removing the entire area of Doña Ana County, New Mexico, from the imported fire ant (*Solenopsis invicta* and *S. richteri*; IFA) quarantined area. APHIS is removing this county based on three consecutive years of negative survey results in accordance with criteria listed in the “Guidelines for Deregulation” in [the Imported Fire Ant Program Manual](#). The attached Federal Order includes the associated reference to [7 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) §§ 301.81 through 301.81-11](#), that lists the provisions for establishing and updating quarantined areas, and the interstate movement of IFA-regulated articles from quarantined areas.

The Federal IFA quarantine prevents artificial (human-assisted) spread of IFA. In 1999, Doña Ana County, New Mexico, became the only county in the State quarantined for IFA. With this change, the remaining States federally regulated for IFA are Alabama, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and the United States territory of Puerto Rico.

The [APHIS IFA webpage](#) contains the full lists of IFA-quarantined areas and regulated articles. APHIS will publish a notice of this change in the Federal Register.

For additional information regarding the APHIS IFA Program, you may contact:

Ron Weeks
National Policy Manager
Ron.D.Weeks@usda.gov
919-559-4311



Matthew A. Rhoads
Acting Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment: Federal Order

**United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Plant Protection and Quarantine**

FEDERAL ORDER

APHIS Removes Doña Ana County in New Mexico from the Imported Fire Ant (*Solenopsis invicta* and *S. richteri*) Quarantined Area

DA-2025-34
August 19, 2025

Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is removing the entire area of Doña Ana County, New Mexico, from the imported fire ant (*Solenopsis invicta* and *S. richteri*; IFA) quarantined area. APHIS is removing this county based on three consecutive years of negative survey results in accordance with criteria listed in the “Guidelines for Deregulation” in the [Imported Fire Ant Program Manual](#). APHIS will publish a notice of this change in the *Federal Register*.

This Federal Order is issued in accordance with the regulatory authority provided by the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2000, as amended, [7 U.S.C. §§ 7701-7786](#). Section 412(a) of the Plant Protection Act ([7 U.S.C. § 7712\(a\)](#)) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture, among other things, to prohibit or restrict the movement in interstate commerce of any plant, plant product, article, or means of conveyance, if the Secretary determines the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the dissemination of a plant pest within the United States. The regulatory authority provided by [7 U.S.C. § 7754](#) allows the Secretary to issue orders to carry out this provision of the Plant Protection Act. This Federal Order is likewise issued pursuant to the regulations promulgated under the Plant Protection Act found at [7 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) §§ 301.81 through 301.81-11](#).

The Federal IFA quarantine prevents artificial (human-assisted) spread of IFA. In 1999, Doña Ana County, New Mexico, became the only county in the State to be quarantined for IFA. With this change, the remaining States federally regulated for IFA are Alabama, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and the United States territory of Puerto Rico.

IFA-quarantined areas can be updated in accordance with [7 CFR § 301.81-3](#). The provisions for the interstate movement of regulated articles from quarantined areas are found in [7 CFR § 301.81-4](#). The [APHIS IFA webpage](#) contains the full lists of IFA-quarantined areas and regulated articles.

For more details on the Imported Fire Ant Program and Federal imported fire ant regulations, please contact National Policy Manager, Ron Weeks, at Ron.D.Weeks@usda.gov or (919) 559-4311.