

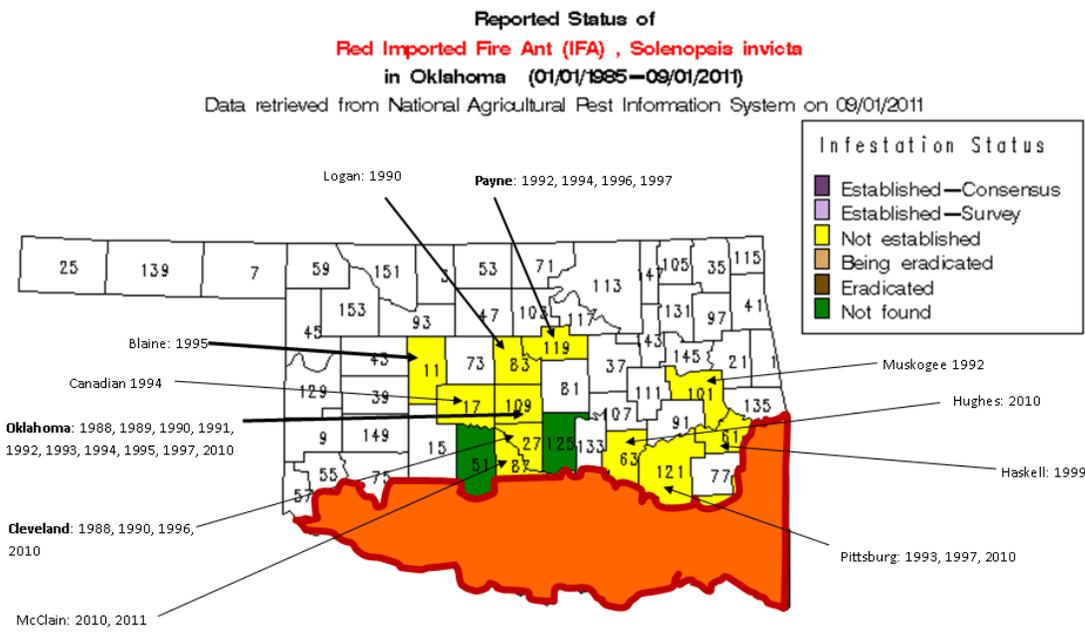
**CAPS**

**Proposed Expansion of the Imported Fire Ant Quarantine**

Imported Fire ant was recently found at an armory in Muskogee, Oklahoma by an OSU extension agent. Upon further investigation, we discovered the infestation was isolated to an area with recent landscape and sod installation. The area was landscaped in the spring of 2010 by a sod company and landscaping company from Tulsa. This is one of many reasons to begin a discussion about expanding our current Imported Fire Ant quarantine.

Data collected over the past twenty-three years supports the expansion of the Imported Fire Ant quarantine to McClain, Cleveland, Oklahoma, Pittsburg, Payne and Tulsa Counties. A county is considered established with IFA when colonies persist after the cold season and populations are distributed beyond an isolated area.

Data from NAPIS, the National Agricultural Pest Information System is incomplete, missing positive entries from 1999-2009. Although NAPIS holds enough information to validate these expansions, OSU provided missing data upon request. Below is a map created with NAPIS, with corresponding years of positive IFA finds.



The Center for Environmental and Regulatory Information Systems does not certify the accuracy or completeness of the map.  
Negative data spans over last 3 years only.

The following data provided by OSU supports the expansion of Oklahoma’s Imported Fire Ant Quarantine:

Counties Eligible for Quarantine Expansion						
Cleveland	McClain	Oklahoma	Payne	Pittsburg	Tulsa	
1988	1999	1988	1992	1993	1998	
1990	2007	1989	1994	1997	1999	
1996	2009	1990	1996	1999	2000	
2004	2010	1991	1997	2003	2001	
2005	2011	1992	1999	2006	2002	
2006		1993	2000	2007	2003	
2009		1994	2001	2009	2005	
2010		1995	2003	2010	2007	
		1997			2011	
		2001				

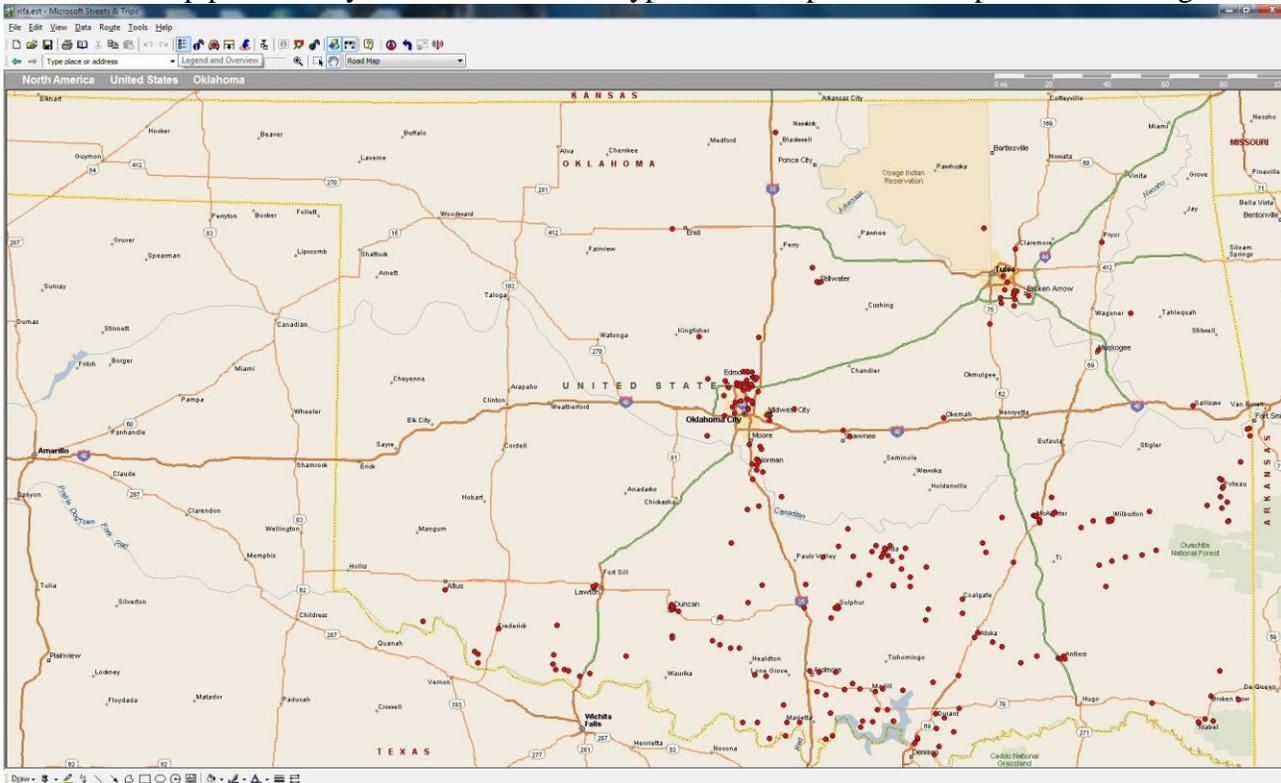
		2003		
		2005		
		2006		
		2007		
		2009		
		2010		

The following counties have had IFA in the past and are not recommended for the quarantine expansion:

Canadian	1994, 2007
Cherokee	2007, 2009
Garfield	2003
Hughes	2010
Logan	1990, 2009
Okfuskee	2001
Pottawatomie	2005
Sequoyah	2009
Muskogee	1992, 2011
Haskell	1999
Latimer	2004, 2007

This is a hyperlink to the complete [data provided by OSU](#).

Below is a map provided by OSU and has been hyperlinked to provide the option of zooming in:



### IFA Blitz

September 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> ODAFF employees Barbara Fuson, Bill Taylor and Gary Phillips worked with USDA/APHIS and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation to enforce the IFA quarantine at a weigh station in Davis, Oklahoma. Semi-trucks with refrigerated cargo, construction equipment, plants, hay, and soil were stopped to check for compliance with the Imported Fire Ant Quarantine and various Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance (SITC) laws.

One Emergency Action Notification was issued by USDA to Tru Liner Nursery from Texas destined to Edmond, Oklahoma.

Gary Phillips took soil samples to detect pesticide residue to ensure the plants were in IFA compliance.



Rick Grantham, Oklahoma State Entomologist from OSU joined the effort and provided on the spot insect identification, even though it was raining. He identified a Lepidoptera sp. on a shipment of produce which was nonthreatening.

### **Phorid Fly Monitoring**

In partnership with the Sam Noble Research Foundation, ODAFF released a biological control of imported fire ants, the phorid fly, in Carter county on land owned by the foundation in 2009. September 12 and 13<sup>th</sup> Barbara Fuson from ODAFF and Stephen Smith from the Sam Noble Research Foundation monitored the release locations to determine the success or failure of the release.

There is one native species of phorid fly in Oklahoma, and we are currently waiting for PCR results to identify the species. Ovipositors of the females are required for species identification, and the sticky cards caught males.

### **Exotic Butterflies come to Oklahoma**

Barbara Fuson, State Survey Coordinator worked with Everette Dale from USDA to inspect an exotic butterfly display. Butterflies on display come from Costa Rica and Guatemala, often carrying parasites that could detrimentally affect Oklahoma's native butterfly population. The exhibitor must follow all the permit conditions to prevent any butterfly from escaping, and failed to do so this year. A violation has been issued to the exhibitor after a butterfly was caught outside of the container, but will be allowed to set up his display at the Tulsa State Fair.