



Capital Press File

Trees infected with sudden oak death were previously cut down as part of sudden oak death eradication treatments near Brookings, Ore. Two infestations outside Oregon's quarantine area have been discovered so far in 2021.

Sudden oak death disease found outside Oregon quarantine area

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

As a researcher studying sudden oak death, Ebba Peterson keeps a close watch on the landscape when driving through Southwest Oregon.

"You always keep your eye open for dead tanoak," a tree species vulnerable to the disease, said Peterson, a research associate at Oregon State University.

During a trip this spring, Peterson noticed some dead tanoaks near Port Orford, Ore., and decided to get a better look.

Among them, she found a sprout with disease symptoms, which laboratory tests later confirmed were caused by *phytophthora ramorum*, the fungal-like pathogen responsible for sudden oak death.

Her discovery was distinctive for two reasons.

The outbreak was discovered 21 miles outside the sudden oak death quarantine area in southern Curry County — farther than expected for a new infestation.

The disease was also caused by a strain of sudden oak death, NA2, that previously wasn't detected in the wild, though it's been found in West Coast nurseries since 2004.

It stands to reason the strain moved from nursery stock to forest plants at some

point, though it's unknown whether that's how it got to the site in Southwest Oregon, Peterson said.

"This whole area is susceptible to *phytophthora ramorum*," she said.

The infestation marks the second discovery of sudden oak death outside Oregon's 515-square-mile quarantine area this year, after an outbreak was confirmed in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest earlier this spring.

That site was infected with another strain, EU1, so the two infestations are not related, said Sarah Navarro, sudden oak death pathologist with the U.S. Forest Service.

The first discovery was less surprising because it was about six miles from the quarantine area, which is in line with the distance the pathogen naturally spreads, she said.

It's concerning that three sudden oak death strains — NA1, NA2 and EU1 — have now been found in Oregon, though the state's quarantine area is still in one county as opposed to 16 counties in California, Navarro said.

At the initial site found outside the quarantine area this year, infected trees and those within a 600-foot buffer have already been cut down, she said. The second

site will also undergo eradication treatments and the surrounding area is being moni-

tored to see if the pathogen is more widespread.

"We do have boots on the ground looking every day where this disease could be," Navarro said.

Douglas firs and other commercial conifers can be infected with sudden oak death, though it's not known to kill them in Oregon, she said. However, the disease has been found to kill conifers in the United Kingdom.

The EU1 strain spreads more aggressively than the NA1 strain, but further testing will be needed to assess the threat from NA2 in the wild, Navarro said. "We don't know the aggressiveness or how it's going to spread in Oregon forests."

More information is also needed to figure out if the 2021 discoveries are isolated incidents or part of a trajectory of spread outside the quarantine area, said Chris Benemann, nursery and Christmas tree program manager at the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

It's possible that additional information could lead to an expansion of the quarantine area, with discussions about that decision expected to occur this summer, she said. The discovery of NA2 in the wild won't bear on that analysis.

"How we treat it from a regulatory standpoint is not impacted by that information," Benemann said.

USDA to strengthen meatpacker antitrust enforcement efforts

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS
Capital Press

USDA says it will begin work on three proposals to strengthen its enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards Act.

The 100-year-old law was designed to protect poultry, hog and cattle producers from unfair, deceptive and anti-competitive practices in meat markets.

The Packers and Stockyards Act is a vital tool for protecting farmers and ranchers, but it needs to take into account modern market dynamics and should not be used as a safe haven for bad actors, USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack said Friday in announcing the proposed action.

USDA intends to take three actions related to rulemaking in the months ahead. First is to propose a new rule to provide greater clarity to strengthen enforcement of unfair and deceptive practices, undue preference and unjust prejudices. Second is to propose a new poultry grower tournament system rule. Third is to re-propose a rule to clarify parties do not need to demonstrate harm to competition to bring legal action against a meatpacker.

National Cattlemen's Beef Association said in a statement USDA's announcement signals the start of a lengthy process, not the conclusion.

"We don't yet have language for proposed rules, and we don't expect to see specifics from USDA for some time," said Colin Woodall, NCBA's CEO.

"But we are actively engaging with the agency to get more information and make sure that the needs of our members are front and center in the administration's thought process," he said.

NCBA will fight hard to ensure that any regulations created or revised do not reduce cattle producers' ability to realize higher profits and make the decisions that are best for their business, he said.

NCBA is particularly concerned with cattle producers' ability to use alternative marketing arrangements, which represent value-added opportunities.

The North American Meat Institute issued a statement saying these sorts of proposals in the past have been opposed by many livestock producers and Congress.

"In fact, the concepts embodied in these proposals have been rejected by eight federal appellate courts," said Julie Anna Potts, president and CEO of the Meat Institute.

"Should these proposals be implemented, they will limit producers' ability to market their livestock the way they see fit and will lead to costly, specious lawsuits. The Meat Institute will con-



Carol Ryan Dumas/Capital Press File

USDA is taking steps to increase its enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards Act.

tinue to oppose unnecessary and burdensome government intervention in livestock markets," she said.

American Farm Bureau Federation has long advocated for remedies that provide fairness for chicken farmers while maintaining provisions that keep hog and cattle markets flexible and competitive, said Scott Bennett, Farm Bureau's director of congressional relations.

"We appreciate USDA's commitment to ensuring farmers and ranchers receive their fair share of skyrocketing meat prices. But until the actual language of the new rules is published, we will focus on making sure our members' voices are heard by this administration throughout the rulemaking process," he said.

National Farmers Union welcomed the announcement, saying the Packers and Stockyards Act lacks the teeth to achieve its intended objectives and proposed reforms are a strong step in the right direction.

"After decades of lax antitrust enforcement, farmers are once again subject to many of the same injustices that their ancestors endured," said Rob Larew, NFU president.

The Farm Action Alliance also welcomed the announcement, contending USDA can't rein in abusive corporate monopolies without new, strong regulations.

"Past failures to adequately strengthen the Packers and Stockyards Act left the regulatory environment a safe haven for huge corporations to grow and consolidate power," said Joe Maxwell, president of the alliance.

The Organization for Competitive Markets said the proposed rule in regard to competitive injury is the most needed reform.

"This regulation would clarify that parties do not need to demonstrate harm to competition in order to initiate legal action," said Mike Eby, the organization's executive director.



Save the date!
*There's so much work to be done.
Be a part of the conversation.*

September 23, Powell Butte
Oregon Cattle PAC Fundraiser
.....

October 8-9, Ontario
Stockman & Stewardship Event
Beef Quality Assurance Certification
.....

November 21-23, Pendleton
Annual Convention
& Tradeshow

LEARN MORE & JOIN AT
WWW.ORCATTLE.COM



Best Prices on Irrigation Supplies

Fast & Free Shipping from Oregon

1-844-259-0640

www.irrigationking.com

10% OFF
PROMO CODE:
CAP10




You can help shape Oregon's future.

Share your opinion. Earn money.
Join the OVBC Panel.

panel.oregonvbc.org



WESTERN PACKAGING

Your Future is Our Future...






WE SPECIALIZE IN BULK BAGS!

BAGS:

- Seed Bags
- Fertilizer Bags
- Feed Bags
- Potato Bags
- Printed Bags
- Plain Bags
- Bulk Bags
- Totes
- Woven Polypropylene
- Bopp
- Polyethylene
- Pocket Bags
- Roll Stock & More!

HAY PRESS SUPPORT:

- Hay Sleeves
- Strap
- Totes
- Printed or Plain
- Stretch Film (ALL GAUGES)

WAREHOUSE PACKAGING:

- Stretch Film
- Pallet Sheets
- Pallet Covers

LOCATIONS:

Albany, Oregon (MAIN OFFICE)
Ellensburg, Washington

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Phone: 855-928-3856
Fax: 541-497-6262
info@westernpackaging.com

CUSTOMER SERVICE IS OUR TOP PRIORITY!

www.westernpackaging.com