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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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For Immediate Release

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# **Emerald Ash Borer Threatens All North American Ash Trees**

Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman has declared May 17-23, 2009 as Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week in an effort to raise public awareness about the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). EAB is an invasive pest from Asia that kills all species of ash trees, regardless of a tree's health, size or age.

EAB has not yet been found in Nebraska, so it is vital for people to help delay the pest's spread to our state. Since the primary means of EAB's spread is through the transportation of ash wood (firewood, pallets, sawlogs, etc.), the simplest way to prevent the spread of the pest is to use only local ash wood products, according to John Thorburn, Tri-Basin NRD manager and Holdrege Tree Board member.

"The insects can only fly a few miles a year on their own, but they have been spread across eight states by people hauling infested firewood," said Thorburn.

For more information about Emerald Ash Borer, contact your tree board or call Tri-Basin NRD at 1-877-995-6688.