



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Plant Protection and
Quarantine

Field Operations-
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State Plant Health
Director

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Dear AAW Attendees and Vendors,

Welcome to North Carolina and to Raleigh...the City of Oaks! We are excited that you have chosen to gather here for your 2019 Symposium. Raleigh is known for its many oak trees, which line the streets in the heart of the city and elsewhere. North Carolina has 18.8 million acres of forests across the state, which spans some 31 million acres, meaning that 61% of the state is covered in forests. The North Carolina Christmas tree industry is ranked second in the nation in number of trees harvested and cash receipts. North Carolina produces over 20% of the Real Christmas Trees in the U.S with most of those being Fraser fir.

Forestry and wood products manufacturing contributes more than \$30 billion to NC's economy and is responsible for 150,000 jobs statewide. We are ranked 7th in the nation for nursery production, have more than 9,000 acres in apple production and 1,200 acres in peaches. Statewide, NC relies on commercially produced and native trees to support our economy.

We work hard to protect our trees and forests from the threat of invasive plant pests, including those easily transmitted on wood and wood products. The AAW, with its proactive mission to help protect America's agricultural and natural resources from these pests, is to be commended on its commitment to helping in this effort.

To this end, we want to share with you information to safely bring raw or unprocessed wood and wood products into North Carolina. Each of you will have different needs and questions based on where you start your travel and the items you plan to import/export. The attached sheet is intended to assist in that process, by providing you a few select websites with additional information that will help you meet all necessary requirements.

As questions arise, contact information is available on each website. If you still have unanswered questions, feel free to contact me or Joy at the numbers listed below. We can direct your question to the appropriate agency and help to facilitate the process.

Again, thank you for choosing North Carolina for your 2019 Symposium. We look forward to hosting you in our beautiful state.

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