



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE

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Press Release - For Immediate Release

State Prepared to Quarantine Northwest MS Boll Weevil Region

Following a vote that fell slightly short of passage requirements to enter the maintenance phase of the boll weevil eradication program, the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce is prepared to initiate quarantine measures beginning January 2004 in Region 1A – including Tunica, Quitman, Sunflower, Leflore, and portions of Tallahatchie Counties.

The region received a majority vote of 65.95% in favor of entering the maintenance phase of the eradication program, but a vote of 66.66% is required for passage. State law dictates quarantine enforcement in the absence of an eradication program.

All cotton produced in the region will be required to be ginned within region boundaries. Cottonseed to be moved from the region will require fumigation at an estimated cost of \$5/ton. Movement of all regulated articles – including boll weevils at any stage of development, cottonseed, cotton plants and bolls, gin trash, and cotton equipment (pickers, tractors, modules, etc.) – will require a certificate showing that the articles have been fumigated or cleaned prior to movement.

A mandatory trapping and spraying program will also be enforced at the cost of producers. This is to ensure that no weevils are present in the region in the event of a future request that the quarantine be lifted in the region.