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Memo

TO: Gary Bernon, USDA, APHIS
FROM: Peter W. Shearer
DATE: Aug. 21, 2003

RE: *Halyomorpha halys*

This memo is in response to my Aug. 19, 2003 visit to some of your *Halyomorpha halys* study sites in Allentown, PA. I have been working with stinkbugs off and on my entire professional career and I have never seen such stink bug abundance and damage as I saw in Allentown, PA. *H. halys* was very prevalent and easy to find as was their damage. Putting the nuisance aspect (overwintering in homes) aside, I expect that *H. halys* will become a serious problem to agriculture. I am surprised that more effort has not been focused on this insect. Once *H. halys* becomes established in commercial production areas, I expect that growers will spraying a lot of insecticides to control this insect thus increasing production costs and impact to the environment.

As a result of this visit, I have indicated to my administration that I need to work with this insect. Hopefully we can form a collaborative project and include Dr. Greg Krawczyk, Penn State U. Tree Fruit Entomologist. In addition to your basic biology and survey work, we need to know how to manage this pest before it causes hardships to local agriculture. I have contacted our NJ Department of Agriculture about the serious threat this insect poses to NJ agriculture. It is possible that they may be able to provide additional expertise, possibly with developing a biological control program.

Again, I don't think that senior administrators realize just how serious this insect is. More resources are needed to study this insect and devise ways to manage it and minimize its spread. I look forward to possibly working with you on this insect problem.