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I'm a native mid-westerner hailing from the flatlands of Illinois. I grew up on a sheep farm in a rural area south of Chicago. I always knew I would

work in the biological sciences and have ties with agriculture and our natural resources. I did my undergraduate work at the University of Illinois in Biology and was awarded my Master's Degree in entomology from Washington State University. I worked several entomology related jobs, including extension entomology and beneficial insectary work, before beginning work with USDA APHIS PPQ in 1983. I worked in Los Angeles/ Long Beach and then spent 15 years in San Diego as the APHIS entomologist/plant pathologist working with foreign agricultural imports and domestic exports. I came to the Emerald Ash Borer program in Michigan in April of 2004 and have been battling the beetle ever since.

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