



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT of  
**AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY**

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Commissioner

**PEST:** Yellow-legged hornet (*Vespa velutina*)

**BASIC PROFILE:** The yellow-legged hornet (YLH) is a voracious predator of honey bees and even though it may not kill the colony, its threatening behavior at hive entrances may prevent bees from foraging and cause the colony to decline. It is a native of Southeast Asia and is also established in parts of Europe and the Middle East. Adults are about 2 cm long and do resemble some native Louisiana species of yellow jacket wasps (genus *Vespula* and *Dolichovespula*). As their name suggests, adults have yellow legs and a strong yellow stripe on their fourth abdominal segment (see picture with arrow below).

**LDAF ACTIVITY:** LDAF will conduct surveys of honey bee yards and follow up on possible sightings. If YLH is positively identified, LDAF will survey the surrounding area where the specimen was found and attempt to locate the YLH nest location. Once the nest location is found, eradication of the nest would be initiated.

