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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**OHIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANNOUNCES EXPANDED
ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE QUARANTINE**
Firewood cited as source of new infestation

REYNOLDSBURG, OH (Sept. 9, 2011) – Ohio Department of Agriculture Director James Zehringer today announced the addition of 88 contiguous properties to an Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) quarantine zone in Clermont County. The movement of hardwood logs, firewood, stumps, roots and branches within these regulated areas is prohibited.

The center of the newly discovered infestation is the intersection of Lindale-Mt Holly and Concord roads within Monroe Township in Clermont County. The 88 parcels represent all land located within one-fourth mile of the ALB infestation. A map of the properties is available at www.ohioagriculture.gov.

State and federal officials cite the movement of firewood as the source of the new infestation which is located approximately 1.5 miles west of the original Tate Township quarantine zone.

“At this time it appears that this infestation was found very early and we believe that the infested trees are likely confined to a small number of properties,” said Matt Beal, chief of the ODA Division of Plant Health.

The United States Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) believes that only egg sites are appearing on the infested trees and no adult beetles have yet emerged from the trees themselves. The firewood and infested trees are being evaluated further to determine the full extent of the discovery.

“As response efforts continue in Clermont County, we are learning more about where potentially infested material has moved in the recent years, and we appreciate everyone’s understanding and cooperation with this process as we work to eradicate the beetle,” said Christine Markham, national program director of the APHIS ALB eradication program. “It is important for property owners familiarize themselves with the signs of an ALB infestation and monitor your trees and the trees in your community and report any signs of this destructive insect.”

Property owners with infested trees will be notified in advance of any ALB eradication activities on their property. The quarantine restricts the movement of hardwood logs, firewood, stumps, roots and branches out of the quarantine area and also restricts the sale of nursery stock, green lumber, and logs of the following trees: maples, horse chestnut, buckeye, mimosa, birch, hackberry, ash, golden raintree, katsura, sycamore, poplar, willow, mountain ash, and elms. Regulated boundaries are established to help prevent the movement of host material to areas not known to be infested with the pest. ODA and



APHIS will continue to work with state and local partners to survey for ALB and restrict the movement of regulated material to prevent the spread of the insect.

ODA and APHIS also announced today that a public meeting will be held at the Community Center in Bethel, located at 135 North Union Street, on Thursday, September 22 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., to provide an update to interested Clermont County residents.

ODA is working cooperatively with APHIS, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio State University Extension, the USDA Agricultural Research Service, the USDA Forest Service, and local officials to identify infestations and develop a plan for eradication of the pest.

The public can assist the eradication effort by allowing program officials access to their property to evaluate susceptible trees for any signs of ALB infestation.

Adult ALBs are large, shiny black insects with white spots measuring 1 to 1 1/2 inches long, not including antennae. Their white-banded antennae can be as long as the body itself in females and almost twice the body length in males.

Signs of infestation include perfectly round exit holes (about 3/8 to 1/2 inch in diameter) made by adult beetles when they emerge from trees; the pockmarks on tree trunks and branches where female beetles deposit eggs; frass (wood shavings and saw dust) produced by larvae feeding and tunneling; early fall coloration of leaves or dead branches, and running sap produced by the tree at the egg laying sites, or in response to larval tunneling.

To report signs or symptoms of ALB, please call the Ohio Survey Program toll free at 855-252-6450 or report online at www.BeetleBusters.info.

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