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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Gypsy Moth Aerial Treatments Planned for Gallia and Jackson Counties**

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (June 16, 2008) – The Ohio Department of Agriculture will begin aerial treatments designed to disrupt the mating of the gypsy moth in Gallia and Jackson Counties. Treatment blocks include:

- **Jackson County** - Total treatment of 1,078 acres in the Jackson block.  
Total treatment of 2,292 acres in the Petersburg block.
- **Gallia County** - Total treatment of 264 acres in the Gallipolis block.

The process will involve the use of a low flying aircraft just above the tree tops and will begin between June 20 and June 22. All treatments should be completed within three to four days, weather permitting.

In all counties receiving treatments, the department will use a single application of the product Disrupt II. The treatment involves the placement of tiny plastic flakes infused with the female gypsy moth pheromone into the tree canopy. Six grams, or approximately one-fourth cup, of the product will be used per acre.

Disrupt II does not kill the moth but disrupts the mating process by confusing the male as it searches for a female to mate with, thus reducing the gypsy moth population. Disrupt II is not harmful to birds, plants, pets or humans. More information including a fact sheet, label and material safety data sheet are available by visiting [www.ohioagriculture.gov](http://www.ohioagriculture.gov) and clicking on “gypsy moth updates.”

Pre-recorded daily updates on planned treatment blocks will be available to citizens by calling (614) 387-0907 or (800) 282-1955 ext. 37, after 5 p.m. Maps of application areas may also be viewed on the department’s Web site.

The gypsy moth is a non-native, invasive species that advanced into Ohio from Pennsylvania and Michigan over the last several years. In its caterpillar stage, it feeds on the leaves of more than 300 different trees and shrubs and is especially fond of oak. A healthy tree can usually withstand only two years of defoliation before it is permanently damaged or dies. To date, 49 of Ohio’s 88 counties have established gypsy moth populations.

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***Gypsy Moth Treatments – Ross and Jackson Counties***

Blocks across Ohio to be treated for mating disruption include: 3,370 acres in Jackson County; 51,903 acres in Ross County; 507 acres in Highland County; 200 acres in Greene County; 790 acres in Montgomery County; 358 acres in Clark County; 117 acres in Madison County; 943 acres in Hardin County; 1,770 acres in Allen County; 264 acres in Gallia County; 1,014 acres in Van Wert County; and 1,009 acres in Paulding County.

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*Note: For more information about gypsy moth, or to view treatment block maps, please visit [www.ohioagriculture.gov](http://www.ohioagriculture.gov) and click on “gypsy moth updates.”*