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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Emerald Ash Borer Found in Clermont County** *Ohio Agriculture Department Expands Quarantine*

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (Oct. 14, 2008) – The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) expanded the state’s Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) quarantine area today to include Clermont County. The state’s quarantine, which is designed to slow the spread of the ash tree-killing insect, prohibits the movement of ash trees, parts of an ash tree, and all hardwood firewood from infested areas.

USDA officials confirmed an EAB infestation after receiving specimens from sampling conducted by a Clermont County OSU Extension employee. The sampling process, which involved removing sections of bark from a dying ash tree, exposed galleries and EAB larvae in samples taken at the intersection of Old 74 and State Route 32. To date, this is Clermont County’s first known EAB infestation.

Since EAB was first discovered in Ohio in 2003, the department has placed 44 counties under quarantine. This quarantine has been established to stop the movement of firewood and ash logs, which are the largest contributors to the spread of EAB. For the latest quarantine map, visit the Department of Agriculture’s Web site: [www.ohioagriculture.gov/eab/plnt-eab-maps.stm](http://www.ohioagriculture.gov/eab/plnt-eab-maps.stm).

With the quarantine in effect, it is illegal to take ash trees, parts of ash trees, and all hardwood firewood from any quarantined county into a non-quarantined county without a compliance agreement from ODA. Firewood dealers, businesses or woodlot owners interested in marketing and transporting ash trees or firewood from quarantined areas can do so only with a department-approved compliance agreement. These agreements stipulate handling practices that reduce the spread of EAB. Violators of this quarantine may face fines up to \$4,000. It is also illegal to take these items from the state of Ohio, per federal quarantine.

Ash trees infested with EAB typically die within five years. The pest belongs to a group of metallic wood-boring beetles. Adults are dark green, one-half inch in length and one-eighth inch wide, and fly only from early May until September. Larvae spend the rest of the year beneath the bark of ash trees, and when they emerge as adults, they leave D-shaped holes in the bark about one-eighth inch wide.

For information on the Emerald Ash Borer, compliance agreements, firewood restrictions, purple traps, and quarantine updates, call 1-888-OHIO-EAB.

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