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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Ohio Agriculture Department Adds Allen and Franklin Counties to Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine**

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (May 18, 2007) – The Ohio Department of Agriculture today added Allen County and all of Franklin County to the list of Ohio’s Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) quarantined counties. The quarantine, designed to slow the spread of the ash tree-killing insect, prohibits the movement of materials out of these counties that may harbor the pest, including ash trees, parts of ash trees, and all hardwood firewood.

Department officials, after receiving a suspicious call, discovered an infested ash tree on The Ohio State University Lima campus, marking the first EAB discovery in Allen County. A report from the public also led to the discovery of an infested street tree in Worthington, Franklin County. Both counties are now completely quarantined to stop the artificial spread of the insect out of the area.

These new discoveries reinforce the message of EAB Awareness Week, May 20-26, aimed to highlight the threat of moving firewood. Before heading out over Memorial Day weekend, Ohioans should check the state’s quarantine, abide by it, and make plans to buy local firewood and burn local firewood. More specifically, citizens can move hardwood firewood and ash trees between neighboring quarantined counties, but cannot take these materials out into non-quarantined counties. Violators face fines up to \$4,000. It is also illegal to take hardwood firewood out of the state of Ohio, per federal quarantine.

Since it was first discovered in Ohio in 2003, EAB has been identified in 27 counties: Allen, Auglaize, Cuyahoga, Delaware, Defiance, Erie, Franklin, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Huron, Logan, Lorain, Lucas, Marion, Medina, Mercer, Miami, Sandusky, Seneca, Ottawa, Paulding, Warren, Williams, Wood, and Wyandot counties. All or parts of these counties have been quarantined to stop the movement of firewood and ash logs, which are the largest contributors to the spread of EAB. For the most recent map, go to [www.ohioagriculture.gov/eab](http://www.ohioagriculture.gov/eab).

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, leave D-shaped holes in the bark about one-eighth inch wide.

For more information on the latest quarantine or firewood movement, call 1-888-OHIO-EAB.

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