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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ohio Agriculture Department Adds Butler and Montgomery Counties to Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (July 2, 2007) – The Ohio Department of Agriculture announced today the expansion of the state’s Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) quarantine to include Butler and Montgomery counties. The state’s quarantine, which is designed to slow the spread of EAB, prohibits the movement of ash trees, parts of an ash tree, and all hardwood firewood out of the counties.

Department officials, after receiving tips from concerned citizens, discovered infested ash trees in Butler County, just one mile west of Interstate Highway 75, and in Montgomery County in a subdivision between state routes 201 and 202. As a result, Butler and Montgomery counties are now entirely quarantined to stop the continued spread of the pest through potentially infested materials. Violators face fines up to \$4,000. It is also illegal to take these items out of the state of Ohio, per federal quarantine.

Firewood dealers, businesses, or woodlot owners interested in marketing and transporting ash trees or firewood out of quarantined areas can do so only with a department-approved compliance agreement. These agreements stipulate handling practices that mitigate the spread of EAB.

Since it was first discovered in Ohio in 2003, EAB has been identified in 31 counties: Allen, Auglaize, Butler, Cuyahoga, Delaware, Defiance, Erie, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Huron, Logan, Lorain, Lucas, Mahoning, Marion, Medina, Mercer, Miami, Montgomery, 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 latest quarantine map, go to 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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