Ohio | Department of Agriculture

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Ohio Agriculture Department Opens Public Comment Period For Logan County**

*Gypsy Moth Aerial Treatments Planned For Spring*

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (Feb. 9, 2009) – The Ohio Department of Agriculture has opened the public comment period for Logan County, which is scheduled to receive gypsy moth aerial treatments this spring to slow the spread of the destructive insect. Official public comments about the proposed treatment blocks will be accepted by the department through March 15.

Citizens can visit www.agri.ohio.gov to view a map of the treatment areas, or contact the department's Plant Pest Control Section at 614-728-6400 for more information.

Letters can be sent via e-mail to gypsymoth@agri.ohio.gov or by hard copy to the attention of the Gypsy Moth Program, Ohio Department of Agriculture, 8995 E. Main St., Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068.

In Ohio, 49 counties are currently under gypsy moth quarantine regulations. Gypsy moths are invasive insects that attack trees and shrubs by defoliation. In its caterpillar stage, the moth feeds on the leaves of 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.

The department uses different types of treatment strategies to slow the spread of gypsy moth in Ohio. Officials have three programs aimed to manage the pest, including:

- The "Suppression" program, which occurs in counties where the pest is already established but landowners voluntarily request treatment to help suppress populations.
- The "Slow-the-Spread" program, which occurs in counties in front of the larger, advancing gypsy moth population. In these counties, officials work to detect and control isolated populations in an effort to slow the overall advancing gypsy moth infestation.
- The "Eradication" program, which occurs in areas where an isolated population occurs because citizens have carried the pest to the area through infested firewood or outdoor equipment. Officials work through aggressive eradication efforts to eliminate gypsy moth from these areas.

Treatments used for gypsy moth control include:

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- Foray (Btk), a microbial compound naturally found in some agricultural and forest insects
- Mating Disruption Flakes, flakes that disrupt the male moth's ability to locate females for mating
- Dimilin, an insecticide that attacks gypsy moth larvae
- Gypchek, a bio-insecticide specifically used for control of gypsy moth

The department uses different types of treatments, depending on the location and extent of infestation. All treatments require an aerial application. Chemical treatments will take place in early to mid-May, and mating disruption treatments will begin in mid-June. The treatments are nontoxic to humans, pets, birds, or fish.

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