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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gypsy Moth Aerial Treatments Planned for Putnam and Hardin Counties

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (June 10, 2009) – The Ohio Department of Agriculture will begin aerial treatments designed to disrupt the mating of the gypsy moth in Putnam and Hardin counties. The treatment area includes 1,076 acres in Putnam County and 25 acres in Hardin County.

The process involves the use of a low-flying aircraft just above the tree tops and will take place between June 17 and June 20. All treatments should be completed within three to four days, weather permitting.

In all counties receiving treatment, the department will use a single application of the product SPLAT. The treatment involves the application of small, waxy dollops infused with a synthetic female gypsy moth pheromone into the tree canopy. Approximately 200 grams of the product are used per acre.

SPLAT does not kill the moth but disrupts the mating process by confusing the male as it searches for a female mate, thus reducing the gypsy moth population. SPLAT is not harmful to birds, plants, pets or humans. More information including a fact sheet, label, and material safety data sheet is available at www.agri.ohio.gov by clicking on “gypsy moth program” under the regulatory programs tab.

Pre-recorded daily updates regarding planned treatment blocks are available to citizens by calling (614) 387-0907 or (800) 282-1955 ext. 37, after 5 p.m. Maps of application areas are also available 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 past 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.

Blocks across Ohio to be treated for mating disruption include: 1,225 acres in Champaign County; 25 acres in Hardin County; 517 acres in Jackson County; 1,076 acres in Putnam County; 11,282 acres in Ross County; 3,041 acres in Vinton County; and 10,929 acres in a combination block in Gallia, Vinton and Jackson counties.

For more information about the gypsy moth, visit www.agri.ohio.gov.

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Note: For more information about gypsy moth, or to view treatment block maps, please visit www.agri.ohio.gov and click on “gypsy moth program.”

