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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (June 18, 2009) – Ohio’s Emerald Ash Borer quarantine was expanded today by the Ohio Department of Agriculture to include Clark County. The quarantine, which is in place to slow the spread of the ash tree-killing insect, prohibits the movement of all hardwood firewood and ash tree materials.

Confirmation was received from USDA officials after an Ohio State University Extension employee discovered several beetles in flight during a survey conducted on a residential property located near the intersection of Innisfallen Avenue and Montgomery Avenue in Springfield. The survey was conducted when an ash tree showing symptoms was reported to the Extension Office. This is Clark County’s first known Emerald Ash Borer infestation.

Since Emerald Ash Borer was first discovered in Ohio in 2003, the department has placed 45 counties under quarantine. The quarantine makes it illegal to transport ash trees, parts of ash trees, and all hardwood firewood from any quarantined county into a non-quarantined county without a compliance agreement from the Ohio Department of Agriculture. For the latest quarantine map, visit the department’s Web site at www.agri.ohio.gov. Violators of this quarantine may face fines up to \$4,000. It is also illegal to take these items from the state of Ohio, due to a federal quarantine.

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 mitigate the artificial spread of Emerald Ash Borer.

Ash trees infested with Emerald Ash Borer 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, one-eighth inch wide, and fly from early May until September. Larvae spend the rest of the year beneath the bark of ash trees and leave D-shaped holes in the bark about one-eighth inch wide when they emerge as adults.

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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