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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Emerald Ash Borer Confirmed in Pickaway County

Agriculture Department Expands Quarantine

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (Oct. 26, 2009) – Ohio’s Emerald Ash Borer quarantine was expanded today by the Ohio Department of Agriculture to include Pickaway County. The quarantine helps slow the spread of the ash tree-killing insect by prohibiting the movement of all hardwood firewood and ash tree materials.

The specimen, confirmed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, was collected by an ODA surveyor from an ash tree at an ODOT rest area located on U.S. 23, five miles south of Franklin County. This is Pickaway County’s first known infestation.

Since Emerald Ash Borer was first discovered in Ohio in 2003, the department has placed 53 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. Violation of this quarantine could result in fines up to \$4,000. Due to a federal quarantine, it is also illegal to take these items from the state of Ohio.

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, maps, compliance agreements, firewood restrictions and quarantine updates, visit www.agri.ohio.gov or call 1-888-OHIO-EAB.

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