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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State Offers Gypsy Moth Open Houses Across Ohio

Ohio Department of Agriculture Experts to Discuss Aerial Treatments Planned for Spring

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (Jan. 29, 2010) – Areas across Ohio are slated to receive gypsy moth aerial treatments by the Ohio Department of Agriculture in early spring to slow the spread of the destructive insect. Department staff members will host several open houses in the treatment areas that will offer attendees the opportunity to speak directly with those who work with the program, learn about the pest and view maps of treatment areas.

Citizens can also visit www.agri.ohio.gov to view a map of the treatment areas. Those with questions who live near a treatment area will have the opportunity to talk with experts at the following open houses:

Hocking and Vinton counties – Feb. 8, 6 – 8 p.m., Vinton County Airport, 66285 Airport Rd., New Plymouth, Ohio

Highland and Pike counties – Feb. 8, 6 – 8 p.m., Brush Creek Community Center, West Grand St., Sinking Springs, Ohio

Jackson and Gallia counties – Monday, Feb. 8, 6 – 8 p.m., Oak Hill Public Library, 226 S. Front St., Oak Hill, Ohio

Pickaway and Fairfield counties – Feb. 9, 6 – 8 p.m., Washington Township Building, 21339 Ringgold Southern Rd., Circleville, Ohio

Franklin and Madison counties – Feb. 9, 6 – 8 p.m., Girl Scout Camp, 1295 Hubbard Rd., Galloway, Ohio

Allen, Putnam and Hardin counties – Feb. 10, 6 – 8 p.m., Bath Township Hall, 2880 Ada Rd., Lima, Ohio

Butler County – Feb. 10, 6 – 8 p.m., Monroe Fire Department, 6262 Hamilton-Middletown Rd., Monroe, Ohio

Greene and Clark counties – Feb. 10, 6 – 8 p.m., Yellow Springs Community Library, 415 Xenia Ave., Yellow Springs, Ohio

Marion County – Feb. 11, 6 – 8 p.m., Marion City Recreation Center, 240 W. Church St., Marion, Ohio

Delaware County – Feb. 11, 6 – 8 p.m., High Banks Metro Park, Nature Center, 9466 Columbus Pike, Lewis Center, Ohio

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Wood County – Feb. 11, 6 – 8 p.m., Wood County Fairgrounds, Jr. Fair Building, 13800 W. Poe Rd., Bowling Green, Ohio

Logan and Union counties – Feb. 16, 6 – 8 p.m., Logan County District Library, AcuSport Community Room, 220 N. Main St., Bellefontaine, Ohio

Montgomery County – Feb. 16, 6 – 8 p.m., Dayton Metro Library, Kettering Branch, 3496 Far Hills Ave., Dayton, Ohio

Paulding County – Feb. 16, 6 – 8 p.m., Latty Township Hall, 204 E. Jackson St., Grover Hill, Ohio

Franklin County – Feb. 17, 6 – 8 p.m., Little Turtle Golf Club, Grill Room, 5400 Little Turtle Way, Westerville, Ohio

Pickaway, Franklin and Madison counties – Feb. 22, 6 – 8 p.m., Harrisburg United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall, 1160 High St., Harrisburg, Ohio

In Ohio, 51 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.

To combat this problem, 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 not infested where an isolated population occurs because citizens have carried the pest to the area through infested firewood or outdoor equipment. Department officials work through aggressive eradication efforts to eliminate gypsy moth from these areas.

Treatments used for gypsy moth control include:

- Foray (Btk), a microbial compound naturally found in some agricultural and forest insects
- Mating disruption product, flakes or liquid 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

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The department uses different types of treatments, depending on the location and extent of infestation. All treatments require an aerial application. Foray, Dimilin and Gypchek treatments will take place in early to mid-May, and mating disruption treatments will begin in mid-June. The treatments are not toxic to humans, pets, birds or fish.

Citizens who cannot attend the open houses and would like to provide official comment about the proposed treatment blocks should send correspondence to the department by March 1. Letters can be sent by 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.

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