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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Gypsy Moth Suppression Area Treatment Application Deadline Approaching**

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (Aug. 5, 2010) – The Ohio Department of Agriculture today reminds Ohioans in the gypsy moth quarantined counties that the deadline to apply for the Gypsy Moth Suppression Treatment Program is Sept. 1. The suppression area includes 51 counties in Ohio with established gypsy moth populations. The goal of treatment is not to eliminate the gypsy moth, but to suppress the population levels to protect trees and reduce defoliation.

The program is funded by the department and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service. Suppression area treatment costs are split evenly with the landowner.

In order to qualify for treatment, the proposed area must meet the following criteria:

- Be located in a county within the gypsy moth quarantine
- Have a minimum of 50 contiguous forested acres
- Contain an average of 250 egg masses per acre based on a survey by the department
- Have a tree canopy that covers no less than 50 percent of the area
- Consist of at least 35 percent of tree species that are susceptible or slightly resistant to the gypsy moth
- Receive a favorable assessment from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service

The gypsy moth is a non-native, invasive species that advanced into Ohio from Pennsylvania and Michigan during 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, 51 of Ohio's 88 counties have established gypsy moth populations.

For more information about the gypsy moth program, visit [www.agri.ohio.gov](http://www.agri.ohio.gov).

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