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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ohio Department of Agriculture Offers Tips for Purchasing Firewood

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (Nov. 4, 2010) – As winter quickly approaches and more Ohioans look to firewood to help heat their homes, the Ohio Department of Agriculture officials ask Ohioans to be aware of some basic tips to help when purchasing wood.

Prior to purchasing, the following firewood rules and regulations are helpful to know:

- If firewood is advertised and sold as “seasoned,” it must have a moisture content of less than 50 percent. “Unseasoned” wood will only produce two-thirds of the heat of “seasoned” wood.
- If the firewood is advertised and sold as a certain type of wood, the load must contain at least 90 percent of that species.
- Non-packaged firewood must be sold by the cord or by fractions of a cord. One cord, when properly stacked, should be 8 feet long by 4 feet high and 4 feet wide (128 cubic feet).
- If sold in bulk, firewood must be purchased by the weight in ton measurements. This must be weighed on a certified scale.
- It is illegal to sell firewood by any other unit of measurement such as a rick, rack, face cord or truckload. If a consumer believes that a seller did not comply with these rules and regulations, the person should immediately contact the seller.
- If non-packaged firewood is purchased, the seller must present the consumer with a delivery ticket or sales invoice that includes contact information and the terms and conditions of the sale.

If a problem occurs with a firewood sale, and the seller will not correct the problem, consumers should contact the Ohio Department of Agriculture’s Division of Weights and Measures at 1-800-282-1955 or contact a local weights and measures inspector.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture strongly urges Ohioans to purchase firewood locally because limiting firewood movement helps the state protect against the artificial spread of many pests.

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