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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EMERALD ASH BORER FOUND IN GUERNSEY, COLUMBIANA COUNTIES

Residents Urged to Use Caution When Transporting Firewood this Spring

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (April 5, 2012) – Ohio Department of Agriculture officials have confirmed the presence of emerald ash borer in Guernsey and Columbiana counties. Residents are being urged to use caution when transporting firewood to help protect against the artificial spread of this and other insect pests.

In June of 2011, the Ohio Department of Agriculture's emerald ash borer quarantine was officially rescinded because the pest has been found throughout most of the state, including Wayne National Forest. Despite lifting the state quarantine, officials recommend that Ohioans continue to exercise caution when moving ash and other woody materials. Residents are encouraged to buy and burn local firewood.

A federal quarantine for Ohio, enforced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, remains in effect. This quarantine makes it illegal to transport ash trees, parts of ash trees and all hardwood firewood out of the state of Ohio.

Left untreated, 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, visit www.agri.ohio.gov.

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