Ohio Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) Cooperative Eradication Program
MEDIA UPDATE

February 1, 2012

Media Inquires Call:
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KEY MESSAGES: Residents in the ALB regulated areas established within Clermont County cannot move firewood or wood debris outside of the regulated area and outside of East Fork State Park. Residents are also discouraged from moving firewood and wood debris inside the regulated area. For answers to questions about regulated materials and permits, or to report wood movement or suspected ALB infested trees, residents are asked to call the program office at 513-381-7180. Residents can also report suspected ALB infestations online at www.BeetleBusters.info.

Clermont County
Infested tree removals in Clermont County began on November 14th, 2011. During removal operations, program personnel are onsite to oversee the contractors at all times. There will be no cost to the homeowners for removal of infested trees. Tree removals will not take place without prior notification to the property owner. The program will work directly with property owners to address any concerns or special circumstances. Property owners are asked to communicate any concerns with Young's General Contracting by calling (573) 785-1501 and/or the program by calling (513) 381-7180 in advance of tree removal work being conducted on their property. Ground and aerial survey crews continue to conduct delimiting surveys, inspecting all host trees throughout the regulated areas in Clermont County. Staff survey for the presence of ALB by examining individual host trees for signs of beetle damage. The following numbers pertain to the infested tree removals and surveys currently being conducted:

2,524 Number of ALB infested trees removed as of 1/28/12 (since removals starting on 11/14/11)
6,062 Number of ALB infested trees confirmed as of 1/28/12 (since detection on 6/17/11)
81,656 Number of trees surveyed as of 1/28/12 (since surveys began on 7/1/11)
56 Square-miles under regulation; see "Regulated Area" map:
http://www.agri.ohio.gov/TopNews/asianbeetle/docs/ALB_quarantine_map.pdf

In the event of inclement weather, surveys and infested tree removals may be delayed or cancelled.

The quarantine restricts the movement of hardwood logs, firewood, stumps, roots and branches out of the regulated area and also restricts the sale of nursery stock, green lumber, and logs of the following trees: maples, horse chestnut, buckeye, mimosa, birch, hackberry, ash, golden raintree, katsura, sycamore, poplar, willow, mountain ash, and elms. Program staff continue to monitor regulated areas, respond to service calls and conduct training sessions for compliance agreements.

INFORMATION MEETINGS: There are no ALB program public meetings planned for the upcoming week.

ONLINE RESOURCES:
USDA ALB information site: www.BeetleBusters.info
USDA APHIS ALB newsroom: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/hot_issues/alb/alb.shtml
ODA ALB information: http://www.agri.ohio.gov/TopNews/asianbeetle/
ODNR ALB information: http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/health/asianlonghorned/tabid/5197/Default.aspx
OSU Clermont County Extension: http://clermont.osu.edu/
Clermont County ALB page: http://bugs.clermontcountyohio.gov/

BACKGROUND: The Asian longhorned beetle (Anoplophora glabripennis, ALB) is an invasive pest from Asia that came to the United States concealed in solid wood packing material; pallets, crates and dunnage, used to transport goods from overseas. ALB was first detected in the United States in 1996 in Brooklyn, NY. Ohio is the fifth state to detect the destructive ALB.

The Ohio ALB Cooperative Eradication Program is comprised of USDA APHIS, Ohio Department of Agriculture, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio State University Extension, USDA's Agricultural Research Service and Forest Service.