



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

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Media Inquires Call:
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KEY MESSAGES: The Environmental Assessment (EA) regarding eradication activities for the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) from the Clermont County area is now available for comment. Individuals can access the document through the following link: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/ea/alb.shtml. Or copies of the document can be obtained by contacting Dr. Brendon Reardon at Brendon.Reardon@aphis.usda.gov or at 4700 River Road, Unit 137, Riverdale, MD 20737. Interested persons should request the document entitled “Asian Longhorned Beetle Cooperative Eradication Program in Clermont County, Ohio, May 2012.” A copy can also be obtained through the Ohio ALB Cooperative Eradication Program Office at the following address: USDA-APHIS-PPQ ALB, 1761-A State Route 125, Amelia, OH 45102. Anyone wishing to comment on the document should send their remarks to the address of Dr. Reardon by July 9, 2012. Any comments received will be considered and may result in changes to the proposed activities. Once all comments are received and considered, a determination of the environmental impacts regarding proposed eradication activities will be made available at the website listed above. To learn more about the Environmental Assessment process, please read “A Citizen’s Guide to the National Environmental Policy Act: Having Your Voice Heard.” This guide is issued by the Council on Environmental Quality of the Executive Office of the President and can be found online at http://ceq.hss.doe.gov/nepa/Citizens_Guide_Dec07.pdf.

Clermont County

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.

Infested tree removals in Clermont County began on November 14, 2011. Property owners are asked to communicate any concerns with the contractor in advance of tree removal work being conducted by calling (573) 785-1501. Ground and tree-climbing 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:

7,416	Number of ALB infested trees removed as of 5/19/12 (since removals starting on 11/14/11)
8,284	Number of ALB infested trees confirmed as of 5/19/12 (since detection on 6/17/11)
116,471	Number of trees surveyed as of 5/19/12 (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

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.

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.