



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

June 13, 2012

Media Inquires Call:  
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**KEY MESSAGES:** On Tuesday, June 19 from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. the Ohio Asian Longhorned Beetle Cooperative Eradication Program will host an informational forum to provide information about proposed actions outlined in the Environmental Assessment, as well as provide current information on eradication activities and answer questions. The forum will be held at the Clermont County Fairgrounds in the OSU multi-purpose building, 1000 Locust Street, Owensville, Ohio. Please note: there will not be a formal presentation provided at the Informational Forum, but rather various tables/stations will offer a variety of information and allow for individual conversations to take place with eradication program officials and representatives from partnering organizations. Attendees will be able to ask questions and offer comments about the assessment itself. The forum will be an open house-style format, with stations and tables. The forum will also include a comment station for the purpose of collecting comments about the assessment itself. People are free to come and go as they please during the 3 hour window of time the forum will be held.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) regarding eradication activities for the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) from the Clermont County area is currently available for comment through Monday, July 9. Individuals can access the document through the following link: [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/ea/alb.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/ea/alb.shtml). Anyone wishing to comment on the document should send their remarks to Dr. Reardon by July 9, [Brendon.Reardon@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:Brendon.Reardon@aphis.usda.gov) or at 4700 River Road, Unit 137, Riverdale, MD 20737

### 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](http://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:

7,636	Number of ALB infested trees removed as of 6/9/12 (since removals starting on 11/14/11)
8,459	Number of ALB infested trees confirmed as of 6/9/12 (since detection on 6/17/11)
120,287	Number of trees surveyed as of 6/9/12 (since surveys began on 7/1/11)
56	Square-miles under regulation; see "Regulated Area" map: <a href="http://www.agri.ohio.gov/TopNews/asianbeetle/docs/ALB_quarantine_map.pdf">http://www.agri.ohio.gov/TopNews/asianbeetle/docs/ALB_quarantine_map.pdf</a>

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 FORUM:** Tuesday, June 19 from 4:00—7:00 p.m., Clermont County Fairgrounds (OSU multi-purpose building), 1000 Locust Street, Owensville, OH. Open house-style format. People are free to come and go as they please.

**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.*