



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

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Media Inquires Call:

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KEY MESSAGES: The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is making available to the public a revised environmental assessment for the proposed Asian longhorned beetle cooperative eradication program in Clermont County, OH. Anyone wishing to obtain a copy of the document should contact Dr. Robyn Rose: 4700 River Road, Unit 137, Riverdale, MD 20737 or follow the link to the document at the following website: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/ea/alb.shtml. Interested persons should request the document entitled, Asian Longhorned Beetle Cooperative Eradication Program Revised Environmental Assessment. Anyone wishing to comment on the document should send comments to the address shown above by February 16, 2013. Any comments received will be considered and may result in changes to the proposed program. Any comments received on the EA can and may be made available to the public.

To learn more about the revised environmental assessment, please read "Questions and Answers: Revised Ohio Environmental Assessment for the Asian Longhorned Beetle Cooperative Eradication Program in Clermont County" available online at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/plant_health/2013/faq_alb_oh_ea_2013.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 are ongoing. Property owners are asked to communicate any concerns with the contractor in advance of tree removal work being conducted by calling 513-226-9138. 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:

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| 9,001 | Number of ALB infested trees removed as of 01/12/13 (since removals started on 11/14/11) |
| 9,291 | Number of ALB infested trees confirmed as of 01/12/13 (since detection on 6/17/11) |
| 257,365 | Number of trees surveyed as of 01/12/13 (since surveys began on 7/1/11) |
| 61 | Square-miles under regulation; see "Regulated Area" map: http://www.agri.ohio.gov/TopNews/asianbeetle/docs/ALB_ohio_quarantine_082112.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 insect 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. Eradication has been declared in Illinois, Hudson County, NJ, and Islip, NY. Eradication operations continue within Ohio, Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey.

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.