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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, February 23, 2015**

## **Dakota County residents invited to public meeting concerning emerald ash borer**

*Public can also weigh in on adoption of a formal quarantine of Dakota County*

ST. PAUL, Minn. – Residents in Dakota County are invited to a public meeting on Thursday, March 5 regarding the discovery of emerald ash borer (EAB) in the county.

On December 23, 2014, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) confirmed an EAB infestation in Dakota County. The find was in an ash tree in Lebanon Hills Regional Park in the city of Eagan, just north of the border with Apple Valley.

Those attending the upcoming meeting will have an opportunity to listen to presentations on EAB, hear about local plans to deal with the insect, and learn how residents can limit the spread of the bug. Experts from the MDA and other local, state, and federal partner agencies will be available to answer questions.

The public will also have an opportunity to provide input on the adoption of a formal EAB quarantine of Dakota County. An emergency quarantine was placed on the county in December when EAB was discovered. The MDA will take comments on the formal quarantine from March 2 – April 17, 2015 and proposes to adopt the quarantine on April 30, 2015. The quarantine limits the movement of ash trees and limbs, and hardwood firewood out of the county.

Emerald ash borer larvae kill ash trees by tunneling into the wood and feeding on the tree's nutrients. Minnesota is highly susceptible to the destruction caused by invasive insect. The state has approximately one billion ash trees, the most of any state in the nation. For more information on emerald ash borer, go to [www.mda.state.mn.us/eab](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/eab).

### **Emerald Ash Borer Informational Meeting**

- WHAT:** Public meeting to answer questions about the recent discovery of emerald ash borer in Dakota County.
- WHEN:** Thursday, March 5, 2015, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
- WHERE:** Eagan Municipal Center, Eagan Room  
3830 Pilot Knob Rd., Eagan, MN 55123
- WHO:** Representatives from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and other local, state, and federal partner agencies will be available to answer questions.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Allen Sommerfeld / MDA Communications

651-201-6185 / [allen.sommerfeld@state.mn.us](mailto:allen.sommerfeld@state.mn.us)