

2009 EQIP FORESTRY PROGRAM

INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL

Have woody invasive plants made themselves at home in your southeast or south central Ohio woodland?

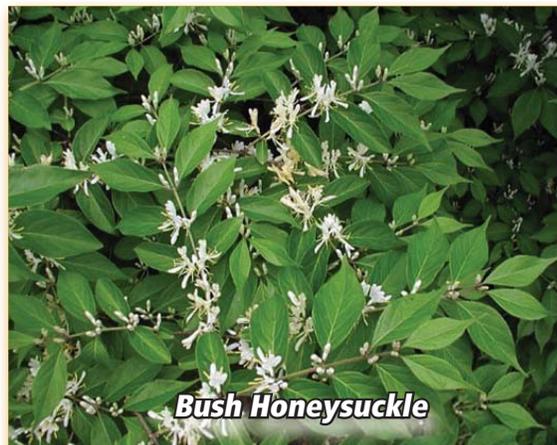
Evict them by taking advantage of a new Forestry Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) which is being offered in 22 Ohio counties and focuses on the control of invasive species. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is providing funding for this program which covers wooded properties in Adams, Athens, Champaign, Clark, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Gallia, Highland, Hocking, Jackson, Lawrence, Madison, Meigs, Morgan, Perry, Pickaway, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Vinton, and Washington Counties.

The Forestry EQIP for invasive species control will provide technical assistance and program payments to woodland owners to control woody invasive plants in their woods. Bush Honeysuckle and Tree of Heaven are

two of Ohio's common woody invasive plants.



Tree of Heaven



Bush Honeysuckle

Bush Honeysuckle and Tree of Heaven are two of Ohio's common woody invasive plants.

Am I Eligible?

The eligibility criteria for the EQIP Forestry program include:

- Owning or managing a minimum of 5 acres of woodland;
- A Forest Stewardship Plan;
- Restricting any livestock from the forested land of interest;
- **A USDA customer service record with the Farm Service Agency.

***You must qualify as an agricultural producer to become a FSA customer. An agricultural producer is defined as a landowner or manager who has an interest in the nonindustrial private land or land that is capable of growing trees. Forest landowners are exempt from the \$1,000 annual sales requirement.*

Applications can be submitted for practices covering up to 50 acres.

Landowners who do not have a written forest management plan can obtain one by contacting a professional forester. An ODNR Service Forester can be found on the Division of Forestry website: www.ohiodnr.com/forestry/ or by calling the toll-free number, 1-877-247-8733. In addition, a list of consulting foresters is available on the Ohio Society of American Foresters website: www.ohiosaf.org.

How Do I Apply?

Applications for the EQIP Forestry program are available at your local USDA Service Center in the NRCS Office. While applications are accepted throughout the year, a selection period will occur approximately once per year, typically in the fall or winter. EQIP is a competitive program; all applications are ranked and evaluated against other applications. Ranking will be determined by considerations such as:

- Are the boundaries of the woodland permanently marked?
- Has the landowner completed another forestry practice (besides marking boundary)?
- Is the landowner a member of a woodland interest group?

For more information on the invasive plant EQIP please contact your local District Conservationist. Information is available on-line at www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ or www.ohiodnr.com/forestry.

USDA-NRCS and ODNR's Division of Forestry have established a partnership to provide technical assistance to forest owners.

