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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ODA Accepting Public Comments**  
**On Draft Permit to Operate Renewal for De Vries Dairy, LLC**

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (Dec. 29, 2008) – The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) is accepting public comments on draft Permit to Operate renewal for De Vries Dairy, LLC located in Marion County, Bowling Green Township, 7188 Sager Road, LaRue, Ohio. It is in the Upper Scioto River Watershed. The dairy is owned by De Vries Dairy, LLC with Auke and Dooitsen De Vries as LLC members.

De Vries Dairy, LLC was issued a Permit to Install and a Permit to Operate by the department on Jan. 24, 2003, to operate for a period of five years, after which time it was required to apply for a PTO renewal, which is also valid for a period of five years. The farm has applied for a renewed operating permit and has met the requirements in OAC 901:10-2.

In accordance with OAC rule 901:10-6-01, the Ohio Department of Agriculture is accepting comments on the draft Permit to Operate for De Vries Dairy, LLC. Any person may submit comments on the draft permit and request a public meeting. Both must be in writing. Comments and/or public meeting requests must be hand-delivered or mailed to the ODA Livestock Environmental Permitting Program (LEPP) at 8995 East Main St., Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068 no later than 5 p.m. on Jan. 28, 2009. Comments received after this date will not be considered by the director before issuing the final permit. Where there is significant public interest, the director will hold a public meeting.

The De Vries Dairy, LLC draft Permit to Operate may be viewed and/or copies made at the ODA Livestock Environmental Permitting Program offices in Reynoldsburg. The permit can also be viewed at the Marion Soil and Water Conservation District Office (SWCD), 1100 East Center Street, in Marion. Those interested should call the SWCD office at (740) 387-1314 and make an appointment. Written comments cannot be submitted to the Marion SWCD office.

The existing facility has a design capacity of 2,500 mature dairy cows, which will remain the same under the renewed draft Permit to Operate. The current operation manages a manure storage pond, with a total manure storage volume of 21,725,000 gallons; a contaminated stormwater pond, with a total storage volume of 1,956,491 gallons; and several concrete pads that are used for storage of separated sand until it is dried, composted and reused for bedding for the cows. The manure storage pond provides a storage period of 294 days and the contaminated stormwater pond provides a minimum of 180 days of storage. All contaminated runoff from the concrete pads and feed storage area is collected, stored and land applied in accordance to the requirements for manure.



De Vries Dairy produces approximately 27.9 million gallons of liquid manure annually and utilizes this manure as a replacement for commercial fertilizer on surrounding cropland. The facility manages approximately 1,400 acres of cropland, utilizing a corn silage/grass hay/rye cropping rotation. Waste feed from the facility is distributed to others as a feed product for beef cattle.

A complete manure management plan is provided within this draft Permit to Operate that demonstrates the effective and responsible use of the nutrients contained in the manure. An Insect and Rodent Control Plan is also required to minimize the presence and negative effects of insects and rodents. A Mortality Management Plan is required for the disposal of dead livestock. Approved methods are burying, burning, rendering and composting and De Vries Dairy utilizes mortality composting as their method of disposal. An Emergency Response Plan is also required to ensure that accidents or emergencies are handled quickly and efficiently to maintain the safety of the environment, wildlife and water supplies and resources.

Finally, an Operating Record is contained in the draft Permit to Operate that includes all forms and information that must be maintained by the facility to show compliance with ODA's rules and the permit. These records include inspection of the manure storage structures, groundwater monitoring, manure characterization, land application, insect and rodent control, distribution and utilization of manure, and mortality management. These records are inspected by the department a minimum of twice annually.

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