

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Ohio Department of Agriculture Issues** **Final Permits for Deer Run Farm**

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (Oct. 28, 2009) – The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) issued a final Permit to Install (PTI) and final Permit to Operate (PTO) for Deer Run Farm located at 17501 Road 60 in Grover Hill, Ohio. Owned and operated by Cooper Farms, Inc., the Paulding County farm is in Latty Township, which is in the Auglaize River Watershed.

The farrowing facility has a current design capacity of 2,499 swine weighing 55 pounds or more and, upon completion of its expansion, will have a design capacity of 3,500 swine. The permitting threshold for swine weighing 55 pounds or more is 2,500 head; therefore, Deer Run Farm applied for both a PTI and a PTO from the department.

The Deer Run Farm final Permit to Install is for a new acclimation building approximately 41 feet wide by 200 feet long that will have a design capacity for 724 swine. The swine will be housed over a shallow pit that will be flushed weekly to the existing anaerobic treatment lagoon. Also, the existing farrowing building will be expanded another 66 feet to the west to accommodate another 72 farrowing crates.

Finally, the existing interior of the breeding and gestation barn will be remodeled to accommodate another 205 sows. This final Permit to Install is for increasing the design capacity of the existing facility by 1,001 swine weighing 55 pounds or more. No additional manure storage will be constructed under this PTI since the new acclimation building and expanded farrowing building will be shallow pits that will be flushed weekly to the existing anaerobic treatment lagoon. The facility also has an existing manure storage holding pond that would only be used in emergency situations.

The final Permit to Operate is for the entire farm. It is drafted to regulate operations with plans for manure management, insect and rodent control, mortality management, and emergency response. The PTO is valid for a five-year period, at which time the owner will be required to renew the operating permit.

The Deer Run Farm final Permit to Install and final Permit to Operate can be appealed to the Environmental Review Appeals Commission (ERAC) at 309 South Fourth Street, Room 222, in Columbus, Ohio 43215. The appeal period ends at 5:00 p.m. on Dec. 4, 2009. A copy of the appeal must be served on the Director of Agriculture within three days after filing the appeal with ERAC.

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