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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **ODA Accepting Public Comments on Ohio Feedlot Draft Permit to Operate**

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (Nov. 3, 2009) – The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) is accepting public comments on a draft Permit to Operate (PTO) for Ohio Feedlot located in Clark County, Madison Township, at 11000 Huntington Road, South Charleston, Ohio. Owned and operated by Cattle Production Systems, Inc., the facility is in the Little Miami River Watershed.

Any person may submit written comments on the Ohio Feedlot draft permit and request a public meeting, which must be in writing. Where there is significant public interest, the director will hold a public meeting. Written comments and/or public meeting requests must be received by the department no later than 5 p.m. on Dec. 3, 2009. Comments and/or public meeting requests must be hand-delivered or mailed to the ODA Livestock Environmental Permitting Program, 8995 East Main St., Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068. Comments received after this date will not be considered by the director before issuing the final permit.

Copies of the Ohio Feedlot draft Permit to Operate may be reviewed and/or copies made at the ODA Livestock Environmental Permitting Program office. The permit can also be viewed at the Clark Soil and Water Conversation District Office, 4400 Gateway Blvd., Suite 103, in Springfield. Those interested should call the SWCD office at (937) 328-4600 and make an appointment. Written comments cannot be submitted to the Clark SWCD office.

#### ***Overview of the facility***

Ohio Feedlot has a current design capacity of 9,800 head of cattle, which remains the same under the draft Permit to Operate. The current operation manages its cattle manure with a pen pack bedding system, where manure is removed periodically from the housing pens and stored in a separate manure storage barn. The housing pens and manure storage barn provide the facility with 1,500,000 cubic feet of manure storage, which is approximately 232 days of storage based on annual manure production records. Ohio Feedlot produces approximately 53,500 tons of solid manure annually. This manure is utilized by an adjacent composting facility and cooperating crop farmers as a replacement for commercial fertilizer on surrounding cropland.

The facility also has six mortality composting bins that store approximately 3,600 cubic feet each and provide approximately 365 days of compost storage. The feedlot produces 625 tons of finished compost annually.



***Overview of draft Permit to Operate***

The Ohio Feedlot draft Permit to Operate is a renewal application for the previously issued PTO, which was valid for a period of five years. A complete Manure Management Plan (MMP) is provided in the draft PTO that characterizes the volume of manure and amount of nutrients generated at the facility annually. The MMP also identifies the required inspections and monitoring that must be adhered to by the facility for the manure storage structures and storm water control devices around the feedlot.

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. Ohio Feedlot 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 rules and the permit. These records include inspection of the manure storage/treatment structures, groundwater sampling, manure characterization, land application, insect and rodent control and mortality management. These records are inspected by the department a minimum of twice annually.

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