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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ODA Announces Open House and Public Meeting **On Pheasant Run Draft Permits**

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (May 5, 2009) – The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) will hold an open house and public meeting on the draft Permit to Install (PTI) and draft Permit to Operate (PTO) for Pheasant Run farm. The open house and public meeting will be held June 16 at the Evergreen Lane Office Complex (large meeting room), 06879 Evansport Road, in Defiance. The open house will be held from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. and the public meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.

The department will provide an opportunity for oral or written comments concerning these draft permits at the public meeting. Written comments can also be delivered or mailed to ODA Livestock Environmental Permitting Program, 8995 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068. These comments must be received by ODA no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 23, which is five business days after the public meeting. Comments received after June 23 will not be considered by the director before making a determination on the Pheasant Run final Permit to Install and final Permit to Operate.

Owned by Cooper Farms, Inc., Pheasant Run is located at 09504 Farmer-Mark Road in Mark Center, Ohio. The Defiance County farm is in Mark Township situated in the Upper Maumee River Watershed.

Pheasant Run would have a design capacity of 7,100 swine weighing 55 pounds or more. The permitting threshold for swine weighing 55 pounds or more is 2,500 head; therefore, this facility has applied at ODA for both a draft Permit to Install and a draft Permit to Operate.

The draft Permit to Install is for two new breeding/gestation barns that would house approximately 2,360 head of sows each, an acclimation building to house approximately 1,468 swine, two farrowing buildings - each with a design capacity of approximately 456 sows - and a mortality compost building.

The draft PTO would regulate operations with plans for manure management, insect and rodent control, mortality management and emergency response. It would be valid for a five-year period, at which time the owner would be required to renew the operating permit.

Copies of the Pheasant Run draft Permit to Install and draft Permit to Operate may be reviewed or copies made at the ODA Livestock Environmental Permitting Program office. The permits can also be viewed at the Defiance Soil and Water Conversation District Office, 06879 Evansport Rd., Suite C, in Defiance. Those interested should call the SWCD office at 419-782-8751 and make an appointment. Written comments cannot be submitted to the Defiance SWCD office.

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