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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ODA Announces Open House and Public Meeting
On Pitstick Pork Farm Draft Permits

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (Aug. 4, 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 Pitstick Pork Farm. The open house and public meeting will be held on Sept. 10, 2009, at the Fairborn Fire Station 2 located at 2200 Commerce Center Blvd. in Fairborn, Ohio. The open house will be held from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. and the public meeting is slated to 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 Sept. 17, which is five business days after the public meeting. Comments received after Sept. 17 will not be considered by the director before making a determination on the Pitstick Pork Farm final Permit to Install and final Permit to Operate.

Copies of the draft permits for Pitstick Pork Farm may be reviewed and/or copies made at the ODA Livestock Environmental Permitting Program in Reynoldsburg. The permits can also be viewed at the Greene Soil and Water Conversation District Office, 1363 Burnett Drive, in Xenia. Those interested should call the SWCD office at 937-372-4478 and make an appointment. Written comments cannot be submitted to the Greene SWCD office.

Pitstick Pork Farm is located at 1146 Herr Road in Fairborn. Owned and operated by Pitstick Pork Farms, Inc., the Greene County farm is in Bath Township which is situated in the Mad River Watershed. Tom Pitstick, president of Pitstick Pork Farms, Inc., is in charge of operations.

Pitstick Pork Farm currently houses 2,400 nursery pigs and 1,900 finishing pigs. The facility is seeking to remodel existing farrowing barns on the property to house 2,795 additional finishing pigs, thus increasing its total design capacity to 4,695 finishing pigs along with its 2,400 nursery pigs.

The facility will be remodeling existing barns and will not be constructing any additional hog buildings or manure storage. Since Pitstick Pork Farms, Inc., with the unremodeled farrowing barns, does not currently have the design capacity to house 10,000 or more pigs under 55 pounds or 2,500 or more pigs over 55 pounds, it was not previously required to obtain an ODA permit.



By remodeling the existing farrowing buildings to house finishing pigs, Pitstick Pork Farm will obtain a design capacity to house 2,500 or more pigs over 55 pounds and is required to obtain a Permit to Install and a Permit to Operate from the department.

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

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