

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Ohio Department of Agriculture Issues** **Final Permits for Pitstick Pork Farm**

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (Sept. 29, 2009) – The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) yesterday issued a final Permit to Install (PTI) and final Permit to Operate (PTO) for the Pitstick Pork Farm at 1146 Herr Road in Fairborn, Ohio. Owned by Pitstick Pork Farms, Inc. at the same address, the Greene County farm is in Bath Township which is 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. Since the farm did not have the design capacity to house 10,000 or more pigs under 55 pounds or 2,500 or more pigs over 55 pounds with the unremodeled farrowing barns, 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 final Permit to Install is for remodeling the existing farrowing barns on the property to house 2,795 additional finishing pigs, increasing the total design capacity to 4,695 finishing pigs along with its 2,400 nursery pigs. The facility will not be constructing any additional hog buildings or manure storage.

The Pitstick Pork Farm draft Permit to Operate is for the entire farm and will 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 Pitstick Pork 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 p.m. on Nov. 2, 2009. A copy of the appeal must be served on the Director of Agriculture within three days after filing the appeal with ERAC.

- 30 -

*Media Contact: Bill Schwaderer, Livestock Environmental Permitting Program, 614-387-0914*