



Governor Ted Strickland  
Lieutenant Governor Lee Fisher  
Director Robert J. Boggs

Office of Communication  
8995 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068  
Phone: 614-752-9817 • Fax: 614-466-7754  
[www.ohioagriculture.gov](http://www.ohioagriculture.gov) • [communications@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:communications@agri.ohio.gov)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Ohio Proud Corn Maze at Maize Valley Market & Winery**

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (Sept. 23, 2008) – The Ohio Department of Agriculture’s (ODA) Ohio Proud program provides numerous opportunities for consumers to recognize, purchase and enjoy food and agricultural products that are made and grown in Ohio. Now, Ohioans can explore the Ohio Proud program in a corn maze built by the Maize Valley Market and Winery, located in Hartville, Ohio.

“With increased interest in purchasing local, as well as more tourists looking for attractions closer to home, Ohio Proud was the perfect theme for our corn maze this year,” said Bill Bakan, owner of Maize Valley Market & Winery.

The Ohio Proud corn maze, open to visitors now through Oct. 31, is an interactive expedition where visitors can learn more about the Buckeye State and Ohio’s No. 1 industry—food and agriculture—all while navigating their way through the 8-acre maze.

“This is the kind of exposure the department relies on from its Ohio Proud partners,” said ODA Acting Assistant Director Greg Hargett. “The more consumers are exposed to the program’s logo, the easier it will be for them to identify and purchase Ohio products.”

Ohio Proud is the department’s signature marketing program that promotes Ohio food and agricultural products. Originally created in 1993, the program was re-launched in 2008 to meet changing consumer trends. Ohio Proud companies support the state’s agricultural economy by employing more than 50,000 Ohioans across 75 counties.

For more information on the Ohio Proud program, visit [www.ohioproud.org](http://www.ohioproud.org) or call 1-800-IM-PROUD (1-800-467-7683).

-30-

*Media Contacts:*

*Kaleigh Frazier, Ohio Department of Agriculture Public Information Officer, 614-728-6211  
Maize Valley Media Contact: Bill Bakan, 330-877-8344*

