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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ohio Department of Agriculture Lab Director Recognized with National Award

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (Nov. 27, 2007) – The American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians recently recognized Dr. Beverly Byrum, director of laboratories at the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA), with its most prestigious honor, the E.P. Pope Memorial Award. Byrum received the national recognition during the association’s annual conference in Reno, Nev.

“This recognition is a direct reflection of the hard work and dedication of the staff members at the department’s Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory,” Byrum said. “Our staff has established a nationally renowned laboratory that provides timely, accurate expertise to veterinarians and producers, which ultimately protects consumers throughout the state of Ohio.”

Byrum, who oversees the ODA Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (ADDL) and the Consumer Analytical Laboratory (CAL), has been with the department since 1994. Under her oversight, the labs have accomplished:

- National accreditation of the ADDL since 1997, now after meeting internationally recognized standards outlined by the World Organization of Animal Health guidelines.
- The addition of the ADDL to the National Animal Health Laboratory Network and the membership of the CAL as a cooperative laboratory within the Food Emergency Response Network.
- The integration of the Analytical Toxicology Laboratory (ATL) – the official lab for the Ohio State Racing Commission – to the ODA’s laboratory system.
- Three laboratory capital improvement projects, resulting in a combined 75,000-square-foot renovation and building additions that include a state-of-the-art necropsy suite, an alkaline hydrolysis unit, and biosafety level 3 laboratories.
- The co-location of the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency in a new laboratory housed at the ODA campus. This multi-agency complex better facilitates the state’s response to emergency and emerging zoonotic disease outbreaks.

The ODA ADDL members conduct more than 300 diagnostic tests, including those for avian influenza, chronic wasting disease, West Nile virus, scrapie, and others. The ADDL, under the office of the state veterinarian, works in conjunction with federal partners like the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service’s Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, for better surveillance and response.

- 30 -

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