



Governor Ted Strickland
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Director Boggs Appoints New Grape Industries Committee Member

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (Jan. 2, 2009) – Ohio Department of Agriculture Director Robert J. Boggs recently appointed Tony Debevc, of Madison, Ohio, to serve on the Ohio Grape Industries Committee.

“Tony’s extensive knowledge and experience with the grape and wine industry will be a tremendous asset to the committee,” said Boggs. “I am pleased to have him at the table as we discuss and implement ways to improve this growing Ohio industry.”

Debevc is involved in the grape industry with his family business, Debonne Vineyards, which has been in the family since it was founded in 1916. The family established world-class standards in the Lake Erie and Grand River Valley District, and with these standards they have developed one of the most successful wineries in the Midwest. Producing 115 acres of high-quality grapes, Debonne Vineyards is Ohio’s largest estate vineyard.

The committee, chaired by Boggs, consists of the Ohio Department of Agriculture Marketing Division chief, the Ohio Department of Commerce Division of Liquor Control superintendent, and five members who represent the grape industry, as appointed by the chair.

Established in 1981 by the Ohio General Assembly, the Grape Industries Committee works to create viable, income-producing grape enterprises in the state of Ohio by providing marketing and promotion efforts to generate and expand new markets for grapes and grape products and conducting research to improve the quality of grapes and profitability of grape growing as an agribusiness.

For more information about the Ohio wine industry, visit www.tasteohiowines.com.

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