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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Residents Honored for Support of Fairs
22nd Year for Outstanding Fair Supporter Recognition Program

COLUMBUS, Ohio (Jan. 7, 2009) – Nine individuals from across the state were recognized for their outstanding support of their local fair during ceremonies at the 84th Ohio Fair Managers Association (OFMA) Annual Convention at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. Ohio Department of Agriculture Director Robert Boggs presented each recipient with a certificate.

“Congratulations to each of the outstanding district fair supporter award winners,” said Boggs. “It is their generous donations of time, resources, and gifts that help educate the public about agriculture and shape our youth into productive citizens through 4-H and other leadership programs.”

The award recipients were:

- District 1** – James Hoover, Seneca County
- District 2** – David McCleary, Wyandot County
- District 3** – Harold Crowe, Montgomery County
- District 4** – Jerry Bridges, Clermont County
- District 5** – Jim Beattie, Ashland County
- District 6** – Ruth Farrow, Fairfield County
- District 7** – Earl St. Clair, Hocking County
- District 8** – David McElwain, Jefferson County
- District 9** – Wynn Wessell, Ashtabula County

Ohio’s 94 county and independent fairs and the Ohio State Fair support the local economy and help educate the public about the importance of agriculture and the many necessities it provides, including food, clothing, shelter, fuel, and energy. In addition to setting and approving the dates for the independent and county fairs, the department is also responsible for helping to assure the safety of fair amusement rides, for monitoring livestock shows to help assure honest competition, and for coordinating animal health efforts with designated local veterinarians.

For more information on Ohio’s fairs, including a listing of fair dates for the 2009 season, go to the department’s Web site at www.agri.ohio.gov and click on “Newsroom.”

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