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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ohio Department of Agriculture Offers European Union Export Workshop

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (January 20, 2009) – Ohio companies interested in pursuing or expanding their export sales to the Western European countries, commonly referred to as the European Union (EU), can attend a one-day seminar on Wednesday, Feb. 11, offered by the Ohio Department of Agriculture and the Food Export Association of the Midwest.

The in-market Germany representative from the Food Export Association of the Midwest U.S.A. will educate Ohio food companies about the EU, specifically Germany, by providing an overview of the economies, entry strategies, product prospects, and beneficial information for food exporters and companies interested in exporting. In addition, information will be presented on exporter education events, assistance available at food tradeshow, and a cost-share program to support suppliers' international marketing activities. All speakers will be available to meet one-on-one immediately following the seminar.

The EU imported \$8.2 billion of food and agriculture goods from the U.S. in 2007, which is a 17 percent increase from 2006. Ohio, alone, exported \$44 million of food and agricultural goods to the EU in 2007. The EU is the fourth largest food and agricultural trading partner of the U.S.

Those interested must register online at www.foodexportalliance.org no later than Feb. 2. The seminar will be held at the Ohio Department of Agriculture, 8995 E. Main St., Reynoldsburg, Ohio, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The cost is \$30 to attend the seminar, and lunch will be offered at an additional optional cost.

In conjunction with the department, the seminar is sponsored by the Food Export Association of the Midwest U.S.A., a private, non-profit association of Midwestern state agricultural promotion agencies that use federal, state, and industry resources to promote the export of Midwestern food and agricultural products.

For more information or questions regarding the seminar, contact Tim Sword of the Ohio Department of Agriculture, at sword@agri.ohio.gov or 614-752-9816; or you may contact the Food Export Association of the Midwest U.S.A. online at www.foodexport.org or by phone at 312-334-9200.

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