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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ohio Agriculture Director to Dedicate New State-of-the-Art Plant Laboratory
Special partnership with The Ohio State University to be announced

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (June 22, 2009) – Join Ohio Department of Agriculture Director Robert Boggs and local elected officials for a dedication ceremony of the Ohio Department of Agriculture’s Plant Laboratory, June 24 at 10 a.m. at 8995 E. Main St., Reynoldsburg.

During the ceremony, Boggs will announce a special partnership with The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. Attendees will also be invited to tour the labs.

“In this economic climate, it is especially important to be able to protect consumers, Ohio’s agricultural industry and the environment, while still allowing commerce to thrive,” said Boggs. “I invite all citizens to take part in the ceremony and to tour the lab that will help us carry out our mission more efficiently than ever.”

The lab, located on the Ohio Department of Agriculture’s Reynoldsburg Campus, will house plant pathology and entomology labs, which provide the resources to quickly identify and take action against dangerous plant pathogens, diseases, and invasive species. Quick reaction time will better protect Ohio’s agricultural resources and prevent plant diseases and pests from damaging the state’s crops, natural resources, and nursery stock.

The lab is a \$10.1 million investment in Ohio’s future, made possible by the state’s Capital Improvement funds. The Ohio Department of Agriculture’s Reynoldsburg Campus is also home to the state’s Consumer Analytical Laboratory and Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. These labs are considered to be among the finest in the country and were selected to be a part of the Federal Emergency Response Network.

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