

Governor Ted Strickland
Lieutenant Governor Lee Fisher
Director Robert J. Boggs

Office of Communication
8995 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
Phone: 614-752-9817 • Fax: 614-466-7754
www.agri.ohio.gov • communications@agri.ohio.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ohio Department of Agriculture to Accept Aquaculture Grant Applications *Offers Training Seminar for Interested, Eligible Applicants*

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (Aug. 27, 2009) – Ohio’s fish farmers can now apply for their portion of \$63,202 in reimbursements through the Ohio Department of Agriculture’s Aquaculture Grant Program. The program will assist producers who suffered financial losses associated with high feed costs. A training seminar for interested, eligible applicants will be held Sept. 11 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Seminar Room A, 8995 E. Main St., Reynoldsburg.

This training session is open to the public and will assist anyone interested in putting together an application. Department staff will go through the application step-by-step and answer questions potential applicants may have.

Aquaculture producers eligible for reimbursement funds include those who experienced a 25 percent increase in feed costs for the 2008 calendar year. Eligible aquaculture species include: sunfish (bluegill, hybrids), yellow perch, largemouth bass, striped bass, trout, salmon, catfish, tilapia, carp, goldfish, koi, amur, baitfish (minnow, shiners), freshwater shrimp, and crayfish. Funding for this program is made available by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Applications must be received by the Ohio Department of Agriculture no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, September 18, 2009. They may be mailed or hand-delivered to the Ohio Department of Agriculture, 8995 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068, to the attention of Jeff Kalbus.

All funds will be distributed to eligible producers by early November.

For more information, contact the Ohio Department of Agriculture at 614-728-2620. For a copy of the guidelines and application, visit www.agri.ohio.gov.

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Media Contact: Kaleigh Frazier, Public Information Officer, 614-728-6211

