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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Department of Agriculture Reschedules Clean Ohio Information Session

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (Jan. 7, 2010) – Due to inclement weather, the Ohio Department of Agriculture rescheduled its Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (AEPP) informational meeting scheduled for tonight in Findlay, Ohio.

The rescheduled meeting will take place on Thursday, Feb. 4, at the Brugeman Lodge at Riverbend, 9250 Marion Twp. Rd. 208, Findlay, Ohio from 6 – 8 p.m.

The meeting will feature a presentation by the department's farmland preservation staff as well as testimony from a landowner who has participated in the program. Meeting attendees will also have the opportunity to discuss the program with Ohio Department of Agriculture staff.

Agricultural easements are voluntary legal agreements restricting non-agricultural development on farmland, with the land itself remaining on the tax rolls and under private ownership and management. Landowners may undertake any agricultural activity permitted under Ohio law, and they can sell their farm or pass it along as a gift to others. However, the easement remains with the land, prohibiting any future non-agricultural development to make certain that it remains used for agricultural purposes.

Local partners West Central Ohio Land Conservancy, Hancock County Farm Bureau, Hardin County Farm Bureau and Ag Credit will also be attending the meeting to provide information and direction to landowners. It is important for attendees to connect with these partners, who submit the AEPP applications to the department on behalf of farm owners.

Contact the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Office of Farmland Preservation with any questions about the meeting at 614-728-6210, or visit the Web site at www.agri.ohio.gov.

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