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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ohio Department of Agriculture Offers Export Seminar

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (March 8, 2010) – Ohio companies can mark their calendars to attend a seminar, offered by the Ohio Department of Agriculture and the Food Export Association of the Midwest USA, that will educate those interested in pursuing or expanding their export sales.

The seminar will take place on March 25 at the department's Bromfield Building, Auditorium A, 8995 E. Main St., Reynoldsburg, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There is no cost to attend. Those who are interested must RSVP to the Office of International Markets at 614-752-9816 by March 15.

Participating companies will receive an introduction to food exporting and learn about available assistance in the exporting process. The Branded Program, offered through the Food Export Association of the Midwest USA, will be the focus of the seminar. In 2009, more than \$300,000 was allocated to Ohio Food manufacturers from this program.

The Branded Program is a cost-share program that offers 50 percent reimbursement on pre-approved activities for qualified companies. The Branded Program runs from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 and is made possible through funds from the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service. Additional information and pre-qualification are available at www.brandedprogram.org.

Food Export Association of the Midwest USA is a private, non-profit association of the 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 on the Food export Association and their services visit www.foodexport.org.

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