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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ohio Department of Agriculture Awards Money to Farmers Markets

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (June 30, 2010) – Ohio Department of Agriculture Director Robert Boggs today announces the department awarded \$25,346 in grant money to 22 Ohio farmers markets to assist with advertising costs using funds made available through the department’s Farmers Market Cost Share Advertising Program.

Farmers markets in the following counties received grants: Tuscarawas, Stark, Summit, Cuyahoga, Lake, Wood, Darke, Shelby, Miami, Montgomery, Hamilton, Clermont, Franklin and Perry.

“Farmers markets play an important role in bringing fresh, healthy local foods to Ohio communities, as well as creating strong relationships among farmers, local artisans and consumers,” said Ohio Department of Agriculture Director Robert Boggs. “These farmers markets will be able to use the marketing funds to strengthen their presence and to keep the agriculture industry thriving in Ohio.”

All Ohio non-profit farmers markets were eligible to participate in a competitive application and evaluation process to reimburse advertising expenses up to 50 percent, with a maximum of \$1,500 available for an individual farmers market. To support this program, the department will use funds through Ohio’s Rural Rehabilitation Program.

A farmers market is a location where several producers congregate to offer fruits, vegetables, flowers, plants and other agricultural products. These markets are often located in a public parking lot or at a local fairground. During the harvest season, most markets are open once or twice a week. A searchable list of Ohio’s farmers markets is available at www.ohioproud.org.

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Editor’s note: For a complete list of recipients, contact the Ohio Department of Agriculture’s Office of Communication at 614-752-9817.

