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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ohio Department of Agriculture to Accept Aquaculture Grant Applications

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (Dec. 30, 2010) – Ohio’s fish farmers can now apply for their portion of \$34,859 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 in 2009.

Aquaculture producers eligible for reimbursement funds include those who experienced a 25 percent increase in feed costs for the 2009 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 U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Applicants must work with their local Farm Service Agency office to begin the application process. Department staff will work closely with Farm Service Agency offices to ensure aquaculture producers have complete support during the process. Applicants are encouraged to begin the application process promptly. A limited supply of hard copies will be available to producers without internet access.

A complete application packet must be received by the Ohio Department of Agriculture no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 4, 2011. It may be mailed or hand-delivered to the Ohio Department of Agriculture, 8995 E. Main St., Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068, to the attention of Lindsey Mandau. Producers can call 614-387-0474 with questions about the program or process.

For more information, and a copy of the guidelines and application, visit www.agri.ohio.gov.

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