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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Department of Agriculture Announces Grain License Suspension ***Facility in Archbold no longer permitted to handle grain***

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (April 20, 2011) – The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) has suspended the grain license of the Archbold Elevator Inc. located at 3265 County Road 24 in Archbold, Ohio. Operations at a branch in Wauseon, Ohio and at additional storage bin in Elmira, Ohio have also been halted.

Farmers who are owed money for grain deposits with Archbold Elevator should call ODA's Grain Warehouse Section at 800-282-1955 or at 614-728-6410.

Following an examination the week of April 5, ODA examiners determined that Archbold Elevator held liabilities significantly higher than their available assets and were short at least 50,000 bushels of corn. The grain handlers' license, #5272, was suspended on April 11.

Ohio's Grain Indemnity Fund was created to reimburse farmers when a licensed elevator becomes insolvent.

Ohio farmers lost approximately \$8 million due to grain elevator bankruptcies prior to the establishment of the fund in 1983. Since the fund was established it has reimbursed farmers more than \$8.5 million and is funded through a half-cent per bushel assessment on grain marketed at licensed elevators.

In 2004 the indemnity cap was increased from \$8 million to \$10 million, and the half-cent assessment was collected from July 2004 through June 2006. The grain indemnity fund currently holds \$11.5 million in assets.

Claims to the indemnity fund are handled through ODA's Grain Warehouse Section and must be approved by the Ohio Commodity Advisory Commission.

The fund provides 100 percent coverage for storage grain, grain payables less than 30 days, deferred payments up to 90 days with a signed agreement, and insufficient fund checks, provided the claim is approved.

The fund provides 100 percent coverage for the first \$10,000.00 and 80 percent of the balance for delayed price grain, basis grain, 31-365 day grain payables without deferred payment agreement, and 91-365 day deferred payments with agreement. It provides no coverage for grain payables over 365 days.

Once ODA completes their final audit of assets and liabilities, the formal indemnity claim process will begin.

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