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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**OHIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ACCEPTING PUBLIC COMMENT ON  
PROPOSED DARKE COUNTY CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING FACILITY**

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (June 9, 2011) – The Ohio Department of Agriculture is accepting comments on a draft permit to install and draft permit to operate for Denise Pullet Farm in Darke County (Mississinawa Township), 1046 Denise Road, Ft. Recovery. The farm will be owned and operated by James and Mary Wenning, with its proposed location in the Upper Wabash watershed.

Any person may submit written comments or request a public meeting on the draft permits for this proposed farm. A request for a public meeting must be in writing and state the nature of the issues that will be raised at the meeting. Comments or public meeting requests must be hand-delivered or mailed to the department's Livestock Environmental Permitting Program office at 8995 East Main St., Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068 no later than 5 p.m. on July 8, 2011. Comments received after this date will not be considered. If a public meeting is scheduled, anyone attending will have the right to provide a written or oral statement for the record.

The draft permits can be reviewed and copies made at the department's Livestock Environmental Permitting Program office in Reynoldsburg. The permits can also be viewed at the Darke County Soil and Water Conversation District Office, 1117 South Towne Court, Greenville. Those interested should call the district office at 937-548-2410, ext. 3, to make an appointment. Written comments cannot be submitted to the Darke County SWCD.

A permit to install is a license issued to farmers who are in the planning stages of developing or modifying a Concentrated Animal Feeding Facility. This is the first step in the permitting process and helps assure the proposed building, its facilities and location will adequately support such an operation.

The proposed draft permit to install for Denise Pullet Farm includes building one pullet house with the design capacity of 200,000 pullets. The barn will use a belt battery design that would convey the manure to a truck. All of the manure would be transported to a digester at the Wenning Poultry Farm where the processed gas will run electric generators. No manure storage is proposed for this facility since it would be transported every few days to the digester. The solids from the digester would be sold to crop farmers to apply to their fields as a nutrient.

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A permit to operate is a license issued to farmers who are in the planning stages of developing or modifying a Concentrated Animal Feeding Facility. It is the second step in Ohio's permitting process that regulates operations for the entire farm and helps assure the facility has developed appropriate best management plans in the areas of manure management, insect and rodent control, animal mortality and emergency response. Once granted, the permit to operate is valid for five years, at which time the owners are required to renew the permit. A farmer must submit the permit to install and the permit to operate to the department at the same time.

Denise Pullet Farm's draft permit to operate includes:

- A complete manure management plan for the facility's 200,000 pullet capacity, which would have an estimated manure production of 2,160 tons per year.
- An insect and rodent control plan, which details daily inspections of all layer barns for water leaks. Flies would be controlled by the regular transfer of manure to the digester, and bait stations in each barn would be monitored on a weekly basis.
- A mortality management plan, which identifies composting at the Wenning Poultry Farm site as the primary means of disposing of dead pullets.
- An emergency response plan to ensure accidents and emergencies are handled quickly and efficiently.
- An operating record of all information to be maintained by the facility to show compliance with Ohio Department of Agriculture rules. These records include inspection of the manure storage structures, manure characterization, insect and rodent control, manure use and distribution, and mortality management. These records would be inspected by the department a minimum of twice, annually.

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