FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ODA to Hold Open House and Public Meeting on Draft Permits for Bowersock Pork

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (May 13, 2014) – The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) will hold an open house and public meeting on May 20, 2014, on the draft Permit to Operate (PTO) and draft Permit to Install (PTI) for Bowersock Pork. The open house will be held from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. followed by the public meeting at the Salem Township Building, 21219 State Route 197, Spencerville OH 45887.

The department will provide an opportunity for recording public comments concerning the draft permits. Oral comments can be made in person and on the record at the public meeting. Written comments must be received by ODA no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 28th, which is five business days after the date of the public meeting. Comments must be delivered or mailed to ODA Division of Livestock Environmental Permitting (DLEP), 8995 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068. Comments received after May 28th will not be considered by the Director before making a determination on the permit.

The draft permits can be reviewed and/or copies made at the Division of Livestock Environmental Permitting (DLEP) office at: A.B. Graham Building, 8995 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068.

Bowersock Pork is located in Auglaize County, Salem Township, at 03097 State Route 197, Spencerville Ohio. It is owned and operated by Daryl Bowersock at the same address, and it is situated in the St. Marys River Watershed.

The facility consists of an existing cattle barn with a design capacity of 20 feeder steers and an existing finisher barn with a design capacity of 2,400 head of swine weighing more than 55 pounds. Liquid manure is stored in a concrete pit located below the floor of the finisher barn, providing approximately 850,000 gallons of storage capacity, or about 9 months' worth of storage. Solid pen pack cattle manure is stored in the steer barn, providing more than a year's worth of storage.

The draft PTI proposes to construct one new finisher barn to house an additional 2,400 head of swine. The proposed construction would bring the facility's total design capacity up to 4,800 head of swine weighing more than 55 pounds. The draft PTI includes construction of a concrete pit located below the floor of the new finisher barn. The concrete pit would be capable of storing about 1 million gallons of liquid swine manure, which would be about 11 months' worth of storage. The facility proposes no changes to the existing cattle barn or the mortality composting structure, both of which can provide well over a year's worth of storage capacity.

The draft PTO includes plans to manage manure nutrients, prevent and control insect and rodent problems, handle emergency situations, and properly dispose of mortality losses. The PTO also includes an Operating Record that provides the forms and information that must be maintained by the facility to comply with ODA rules and the permit.

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