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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ohio Agriculture Day Highlights the Global Reach of Ohio Agriculture

Fayette County Agribusiness Awarded Largest Contract in the U.S. for Food-Grade Soybeans

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (March 15, 2012) – Ohio Department of Agriculture Director David T. Daniels, agricultural officials and local leaders today celebrated Ohio Agriculture Day with three local agribusinesses: Bluegrass Farms, Central Ohio Logistics Center, and Feed the World, LLC. The celebration ended with an announcement of Bluegrass Farms receiving the largest contract for food-grade soybeans that South Korea has ever awarded to a U.S. company.

Bluegrass Farms will provide 20,000 metric tons (approximately 735,000 bushels) of identity-preserved, non-genetically modified, food-grade soybeans grown this production year and delivered fall 2012 through spring 2013. The soybeans will be shipped out on rail cars at the Central Ohio Logistics Center, a state-of-the-art agricultural commodity trans-loading facility.

“Handling this type of volume will result in additional jobs being added at both of these agribusinesses, and the Ohio farmers growing these soybeans will be paid a premium above the standard price of the commodity, which are all great positive impacts on the community,” said Director Daniels.

“When Ohio farmers and agribusinesses are successful, we all benefit. This is exactly the kind of activity Governor Kasich was talking about when he said he wanted agriculture to help strengthen our economy,” he added.

This year’s Ohio Agriculture Day celebration focused on the importance of the agriculture industry and how exporting keeps jobs and the local economy strong. As part of Ohio Agriculture Day, Bluegrass Farms provided a tour of their state-of-the-art production facility which provides identity-preserved, food-grade soybeans through the Central Ohio Logistics Center, which are then shipped out to Japan and Korea.

The day also highlighted Feed the World LLC’s livestock inspection facility, which provides international livestock shipments to Turkey and other regions. Overall, Ohio exported 7,034 livestock animals in 2010 compared to the 25,836 livestock animals Ohio exported in 2011. This volume of livestock going through the state brings in an estimated \$3.1 million in economic activity, just in feed costs.

Ohio Agriculture Day is celebrated the second week in March to educate about the importance of the \$107 billion food and agriculture industry. Ohio’s farmers work hard every day to provide not only food, but also fiber, lumber, and even fuel.

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