



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Ohio Poultry Association Announces 2008 Award Recipients
Individuals, businesses honored for dedication to Ohio's egg and poultry industries

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Poultry Association (OPA) has announced its 2008 poultry award recipients, named each year at the organization's annual banquet. These awards honor businesses and individuals who have made distinguishable contributions to Ohio's egg and poultry industries.

“There were many outstanding nominees this year, but unfortunately we cannot honor every person and business that makes a positive impact,” said Jim Chakeres, OPA executive vice president. “We are grateful for all of the hard work that everyone puts into the industry – from producers and retailers to elected officials and restaurateurs.”

Meritorious Service Award: John Anderson

The OPA award for Meritorious Service is given annually to an individual in the academic field who has contributed to the egg and poultry industries. This year's recipient is John Anderson, a professor of animal sciences at The Ohio State University. Anderson, who was nominated by Animal Sciences Department Chair Dr. James Kinder, has provided nearly 25 years of leadership and service to the poultry research programs in Wooster and more recently to poultry youth extension efforts throughout the State of Ohio.

The Golden Egg Award: Clell Agler

The Golden Egg Award recognizes individuals who are committed to advancing the mission and values of the state's poultry producers. This year's award goes to Clell Agler, of Grove City, Ohio, for his dedication to Ohio's poultry industry. For almost a half century, he has exhibited poultry at the Ohio State Fair and various poultry shows across the United States and Canada. The 2008 Ohio State Fair will mark Agler's 25th year serving as the poultry superintendent. Additionally, he has served as an officer of the Ohio Breeders Association for more than 38 years.

Environmental Stewardship Award: Boeckman Farms

The OPA's Environmental Stewardship Award is given each year in recognition of a producer's commitment to the farm's neighbors and to the environment as a whole. This year's recipient is

Boeckman Farms, a 2,000 head swine finishing facility and 5,500 turkey operation. The farm uses no-till practices to reduce erosion, has installed waterway and filter strips to keep fertilizers out of stream waters, and has adopted and implemented an environmentally sound approach to mortality management. Boeckman Farms also works closely with the Mercer County Soil and Water District and has developed a comprehensive nutrient management plan to cost effectively manage nutrients while preserving water resources.

Ohio Poultry Partner Award: Cochran Group Inc.

The Ohio Poultry Partner Award honors businesses that support the poultry industry. This year's recipient, Cochran Group Inc. (Cochran), was nominated by the OPA Executive Committee for the agency's longtime support of the state's egg, turkey and chicken industries. Cochran, founded in 1983, provides strategic communications counsel to OPA and a number of agriculture clients in Ohio and the Midwest.

The egg and poultry industries are big contributors to the success of Ohio's economy. Ohio ranks number two in the nation in egg production - second only to Iowa – and produces approximately eight billion eggs per year with a value of more than \$600 million. Ohio is also 11th in the nation for turkey production and produces almost 58 million pounds of Ohio chicken for sale annually. More than 5,000 people are employed in the poultry industry, with payrolls of more than \$50 million.

For more information, visit the OPA Web site at www.ohiopoultry.org.

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