



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Ohio Poultry Association Features New Food Options,
Sponsors New Culinary Competitions at 2015 Ohio State Fair**

COLUMBUS, Ohio (July 20, 2015) – The Ohio State Fair kicks off next week with gates opening on Wednesday, July 29. At this year's fair, the Ohio Poultry Association (OPA) will offer several new food options, featuring Ohio-produced eggs, chicken and turkey in the Ohio Poultry and Ohio Eggs, Chicken and Turkey (ETC) booths in the Taste of Ohio Café. Additionally, fairgoers will have the opportunity to watch Ohio chefs compete in tasty culinary competitions sponsored by OPA on Aug. 1.

“The Ohio State Fair is the perfect opportunity for Ohioans to learn about, taste and enjoy Ohio-produced food,” said Jim Chakeres, OPA executive vice president. “We’re excited to showcase the state’s outstanding egg, chicken and turkey products in our culinary competitions, our Taste of Ohio Café booths, and during our family fun activities.”

OPA sponsors new culinary competitions

OPA is sponsoring two new culinary competitions, Egg-citing and Devilishly Good and Egg-stra, Egg-stra! at the fair on Saturday, Aug. 1.

The Egg-citing and Devilishly Good competition will kick off with a “heat” for local celebrities competing to create the best deviled eggs at 10 a.m. in the Rhodes Center on Aug. 1. Participants will have 30 minutes to develop their recipe idea and then prepare and serve it to the judges. There are also separate classes for amateur chefs. The Kroger Company is also a sponsor of this competition.

Another culinary competition at this year's Ohio State Fair is the Egg-stra, Egg-stra! culinary competition, which takes place from 1 to 2 p.m. and a judging time beginning at 2 p.m. on Aug. 1 in the Rhodes Center. There are six different classes in this competition; cooks will compete to make the best egg casserole, frittata or quiche, brownie, cupcake and cheesecake. Competitors will also compete in a Buckeye Champions Challenge and bake a buckeye-themed good. Along with OPA, the American Dairy Association Mideast and The Kroger Company are also sponsors of this event.

Fairgoers will also compete in new family fun activities on Aug. 1, including an egg eating challenge and a decorated egg contest.

Try healthy food options in the Taste of Ohio Café

In addition to the culinary competitions, Ohio's egg, chicken and turkey farmers will offer fairgoers a healthy alternative to traditional fried fair food. Guests can visit the Ohio Poultry and Ohio ETC booths in the Taste of Ohio Café each day of the fair for an affordable, healthy meal produced by Ohio farmers. New menu items this year include the return of the Chickwich (a hot shredded chicken sandwich), chicken taco bowl and taco macaroni. Other popular menu items, ranging from \$1 for a snack to \$10 for a complete meal, include:

- Sandwiches, including grilled chicken and roasted turkey;
- Chicken and noodles served over Bob Evans® Original Mashed Potatoes;
- Thanksgiving-style turkey dinner with all the trimmings;
- Grilled chicken dinner;
- Salads, available with eggs, chicken or turkey;
- Egg on a stick; and
- Chicken nugget kids meals.

Ohio produces more than 8 billion eggs each year with a value of more than \$574 million. Ohio egg farmers make egg safety a top priority and are proud to provide Ohioans with high-quality, wholesome eggs. Additionally, Ohio is nationally ranked ninth in turkey production, with more than 219 million pounds produced annually, and 16th nationally in chicken production (in poundage) with more than 379 million pounds produced annually.

For more information about Ohio's egg, chicken and turkey farms, please visit www.OhioEggs.com. For more information about the culinary events, visit www.OhioStateFair.com.

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