



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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**Ohio Poultry Association Features Healthier Food Options,
Sponsors Culinary Competitions at 2016 Ohio State Fair**

COLUMBUS, Ohio (July 19, 2016) – The 163rd Ohio State Fair kicks off next week on Wednesday, July 27, in Columbus. At this year's fair, the Ohio Poultry Association (OPA) will offer Ohio-produced eggs, chicken and turkey in the Taste of Ohio Café. In addition, fairgoers are encouraged to watch Ohio home cooks compete in multiple OPA-sponsored culinary competitions on Saturday, July 30.

"The Ohio State Fair is one of our favorite times of the year because it allows us to reconnect with our neighbors while offering a variety of Ohio-raised products," said Jim Chakeres, OPA executive vice president. "This year, fairgoers can enjoy healthy Ohio-produced eggs, chicken and turkey menu items and then attend popular culinary competitions to learn new tricks for preparing classic recipes."

OPA sponsors three culinary competitions

New at this year's fair, OPA will sponsor a **Turkey Grilling Cook-Off** competition from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 30. Contestants will be provided with a selection of turkey products for the main ingredient needed to be prepared, along with the competitor's choice of side or garnish and sauce. Participants will have 30 minutes to prepare and grill their recipe.

On Saturday, July 30, OPA also is sponsoring the return of the popular **Egg-citing and Devilishly Good** competition, which kicks off at 10 a.m. with a "heat" of local celebrities competing to create the best deviled eggs. It will be followed by a heat for amateur chefs. During the challenge, contestants will be provided with eight hard-boiled eggs and then have 30 minutes to develop their recipe, prepare on-site and serve 12 deviled egg halves for the judges. 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 starts at 12 p.m. on Saturday, July 30. This year, there is a new category in this competition called "Crock-pot Creations" with two classes: chicken or turkey and noodles as well as poultry Crock-Pot recipe. There are also five other classes in this competition, where Ohio cooks will compete to see who has made the best frittata or quiche, brownie, cupcake, cheesecake and Bundt cake. Along with OPA, the American Dairy Association Mideast and The Kroger Company are also sponsors of this event.

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 Egg, Turkey and Chicken booths in the Taste of Ohio Café each day of the fair for an affordable, healthy meal produced by Ohio farmers.

Popular menu items include a hot shredded chicken sandwich and chicken taco bowl. Menu items range from \$1 for a snack to \$10 for a complete meal and include:

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

Ohio is the second largest egg farming state in the nation, producing more than 9 billion eggs each year, with a value of more than \$1.2 billion. 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 450 million pounds produced annually, and 16th nationally in chicken production (in poundage) with more than 209 million pounds produced annually.

For more information about egg farming, recipes and the health benefits eggs offer, visit www.OhioEggs.com.
For more information about the culinary events, visit www.OhioStateFair.com.

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