



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 20, 2009

COOPER ELECTED TO U.S. POULTRY & EGG ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

COLUMBUS – Gary Cooper, of Oakwood, was recently elected to the national Board of Directors for the U.S. Poultry & Egg Association during the 2009 International Poultry Expo in Atlanta, Georgia. Cooper will serve a one-year term as treasurer.

Cooper has worked in the egg and poultry business for more than 30 years as part of his family's third-generation farm operation. Today, he serves as the vice president and chief operating officer of Cooper Farms. The farm produces turkeys and turkey products, eggs and pork.

In addition, Cooper is a past president of the Ohio Poultry Association. Also, he serves on the executive committee of the National Turkey Federation Board of Directors and is a member of the Midwest Poultry Consortium board. He also represents the poultry and swine industries as a member of the Environmental Protection Agency livestock and poultry workgroup.

“The egg and poultry industries are changing each day,” said Cooper. “Today’s family farms are involved in regulatory, policy and community programs that can positively or negatively affect our day to day operations. That’s why being engaged at the national level is so essential to my farm’s future.”

“The Ohio Poultry Association is proud to have one of our farmers representing Ohio on a national level,” said Jim Chakeres, executive vice president for the Ohio Poultry Association. “One of the best ways to support the egg and poultry industries is to get involved in some capacity, whether it is in local communities or serving on a national committee. Gary is an industry leader, and I know he will work diligently and tirelessly on behalf of all egg and poultry producers across the country.”

Cooper joins four other individuals on the 2009 U.S. Poultry & Egg Association Executive Committee, including: Monty Henderson, George’s, Inc., Springdale, AR, chairman; Steve Willardsen, Cargill Value Added Meats, Wichita, KS, vice chairman; Mark Waller, Ingram Farms, Cullman, AL, secretary; and Bill Bradley, CCF Branks, Rogers, AR, immediate past chairman.

For more information about Cooper Farms, please visit www.cooperfarms.com. For more information about Ohio’s egg and poultry industries, please visit www.ohiopoultry.com.

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