



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 1, 2012

MAY IS NATIONAL EGG MONTH

Ohio egg farmers educate consumers about food safety measures

COLUMBUS – As Ohio’s egg farmers celebrate National Egg Month in May, there is no better time to than the present to remind consumers about the protocols farmers have in place to provide a safe, quality product that consumers can trust.

The experts at the Ohio Poultry Association (OPA) are celebrating National Egg Month by educating consumers about the safety measures Ohio’s egg farmers have in place to protect their nutritional products.

“Food safety always is at the forefront of consumers’ minds, especially when an incident occurs close to home or across the nation,” said Jim Chakeres, OPA executive vice president. “And, that is why it is extremely important to remind consumers how Ohio’s egg farmers work hard every day to ensure their eggs are safe to eat.”

Ohio’s egg producers take the commitment to safety seriously and have put in place strict standards and programs to ensure the eggs consumers eat are safe, nutritious and of the highest quality. Joining forces in 1996 with the Ohio Department of Agriculture, the Ohio Department of Health and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the state’s egg farmers helped to establish the Ohio Egg Quality Assurance Program. The program was created to minimize the risk of *Salmonella* enteritidis (*Salmonella*) in eggs. It enhanced the safety of Ohio-produced eggs, while at the same time maintained consumer confidence in egg quality.

Adhering to the Ohio Egg Quality Assurance Program put the state’s egg farmers ahead of the curve, allowing them to make a seamless transition when implementing the 2010 U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s Egg Rule. “Ohio’s egg farmers always have been proactive leaders in food safety,” said Chakeres. “Consumers can be rest assured that every time they buy an Ohio-produced egg, they have received a safe, quality product.”

Ohio is the second-largest egg producing state in the nation, producing more than seven billion eggs each year at an estimated retail value of more than \$607 million. Ohio egg farmers are committed to providing safe, affordable food for consumers and caring for their flocks and the environment.

During May – and every month – Ohio consumers have every reason to take advantage of the high protein value and broad nutritional benefits eggs offer. For more information, or for delicious egg recipes, visit www.ohioeggs.com.

###

CONTACT: Jim Chakeres, OPA executive vice president, (614) 882-6111
Hinda Mitchell or Diane Hurd, (816) 556-3144