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**April 18, 2012**

**Ohio Poultry Association Announces 2012 Award Recipients**  
*Individuals, farms honored for dedication to Ohio's egg, chicken and turkey communities*

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Poultry Association (OPA) recently announced its 2012 award recipients, named at the organization's annual banquet in Columbus. These awards honor businesses, farms and individuals who have made significant contributions to Ohio's egg, chicken and turkey sectors.

"I am grateful for all of the hard work that everyone contributes to the egg, chicken and turkey communities – from farmers and retailers to elected officials and restaurateurs," said Jim Chakeres, OPA executive vice president. "While we cannot honor every person or business, I am proud to work side-by-side with these individuals, who every day provide consumers in Ohio and across the United States with safe, wholesome, nutritious eggs, chicken and turkey."

Awards and recipients at the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet included:

***Golden Egg Award: Director Jim Zehringer***

The Golden Egg Award is given to an individual who has provided extraordinary service to Ohio's egg, chicken and turkey farmers. Ohio Department of Natural Resources Director Jim Zehringer is the recipient of this year's prestigious award. Through his work as a farmer, as an elected official, and as a cabinet-level director for the state of Ohio, one thing has remained a constant – Jim's active support of farmers, and his unmatched role as a champion of agriculture.

***Golden Feather Award: Dr. Bobby Moser***

The Ohio Poultry Association's Golden Feather award is given annually to an individual who has distinguished himself or herself as a champion of livestock agriculture or poultry issues. This year's award was presented to Dr. Bobby Moser. Dr. Moser has served as the vice president for Agricultural Administration and dean of the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at The Ohio State University for 20 years. Under his leadership, he has achieved many things, including: a 204-percent increase in grant awards, the issuance of more than 86 patents, the establishment of the Food Innovation Center, and the building of the Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center. Additionally, as a charter member of the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board,

Dr. Moser played an integral role in establishing Ohio's landmark farm animal care standards, the first of their kind in the nation.

### ***Family Legacy Award: Hertzfeld Poultry Farms***

The Legacy Award recognizes individuals who are committed to advancing the mission and values of the state's egg, chicken and turkey farmers. This year's award was presented to Hertzfeld Poultry Farms of Grand Rapids, Ohio. Family has always been an important element of the farm's success. In 1958, five family members started the egg laying operation with 6,000 hens. Through the years, the farm continued to expand to a fully integrated company that controls all phases of the product cycle. Today, Hertzfeld Poultry Farms raises 1.3 million hens through the assistance of more than 70 full-time employees. Despite growing bigger, the third-generation farm has remained a family-owned and operated business. In fact, there are currently 15 family members who work on the farm.

### ***Ohio Poultry Partner Award: Ohio Department of Agriculture's Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory***

The Ohio Poultry Partner Award honors organizations that support the poultry community. This year's recipient, Ohio Department of Agriculture's Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (ADDL), was nominated for the laboratory's longtime support of the state's egg, turkey and chicken farmers. The lab is a full-service, all species animal disease diagnostic facility that provides diagnostic expertise to veterinarians for food animals, horses, small animals and exotic species. The diagnostic lab also provides support to Ohio's on-farm food safety programs, and is the only veterinary diagnostic lab in Ohio that is accredited by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians. Together, OPA and the laboratory have been able to reduce the incidence of Salmonella Enteritidis on Ohio egg and poultry farms through testing environmental samples and egg testing.

### ***Environmental Stewardship Award: Meiring Poultry Farm***

The OPA's Environmental Stewardship Award is given each year in recognition of a farmer's commitment to his or her neighbors and to the environment as a whole. This year's recipient is Meiring Poultry Farm of Fort Recovery, Ohio. The farm has taken a number of actions to make their operation more environmentally friendly. Some of these projects include the installation of field borders, filter strips, wetlands, windbreaks, and other general tree plantings. Additionally, Meiring Poultry Farm continues to go above and beyond to protect the water quality on and near their farm. The farm recently installed two monitoring stations where runoff is collected, both tile and surface runoff. This water is then analyzed to better understand the movement of phosphorous in the soil and the relationship to tillage and the cover crops.

Ohio's egg, chicken and turkey farms are significant contributors to the success of the state's economy. Ohio ranks number-two in the nation in egg production - second only to Iowa - and

produces more than 7.5 billion eggs per year with a retail value of more than \$425 million. Ohio is also 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation for turkey production and produces more than 376 million pounds of Ohio chicken annually. Ohio's egg, chicken and turkey farms create more than 16,850 jobs generating \$385 million in earnings to the state's economy.

For more information, visit the OPA website at [www.ohiopoultry.org](http://www.ohiopoultry.org).

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