



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**May 5, 2008**

**OHIO POULTRY AND DAIRY INDUSTRIES SPONSOR NEW COOKING CONTEST, POPULAR CHEESECAKE COMPETITION RETURNS**

COLUMBUS – It’s hard to believe that another Ohio State Fair is right around the corner. Many activities featuring cooking contests will be held through the duration of the fair, July 30 to Aug. 10, at the DiSalle Arts and Crafts Building.

“Each year, the Ohio State Fair features special days for cooking contests,” said Jim Chakeres, executive vice president of the Ohio Poultry Association. “This year, the Ohio Poultry Association and American Dairy Association Mideast will sponsor two culinary competitions featuring wholesome Ohio eggs and dairy products.”

“Breakfast for Two” is a new contest for fairgoers this year. The competition will kick-off with a celebrity chef cooking challenge featuring Ohio Department of Agriculture Director Bob Boggs and WCMH-TV personality Mindy Drayer.

After the celebrity chef competition, there will be a second class that is open to anyone from 10 to 101 years of age. Exhibitors will prepare a breakfast dish for two using only six ingredients. Each recipe must contain four eggs and at least one of the following, including three ounces shredded cheese, one cup milk or eight ounces yogurt. All cooking equipment will be provided to contestants during the competition. The judging will start at 11:45 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 2.

In addition to the “Breakfast for Two” competition, the “Smile and Say, Cheesecake!” Recipe Contest will make its fourth appearance at the fair. Three classes of cheesecakes will be judged including a savory appetizer, dessert cheesecake, and culinary professional class.

“The new culinary professional’s class will be a great opportunity for chefs, caterers and bakery professionals to showcase their talents and have the chance to win \$300 in first place prize money,” said Chakeres. The contest will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 1.

The entry deadline for both competitions is June 20. To enter or for more information, please visit <http://www.ohioexpoctr.com/osf/osf3.htm#FamilyArts> and click on “Special Days.”

Ohio is the second largest egg producing state in the nation, behind Iowa. The state produces more than eight billion eggs each year. According to the American Dairy

Association Mideast, Ohio's dairy industry has gross receipts of more than \$660 million, and the state is home to 274,000 dairy cows that produce 4.86 billion pounds of milk each year, ranking Ohio 11<sup>th</sup> nationally in the amount of milk produced and first in Swiss cheese production.

# # #

CONTACT: Jim Chakeres, OPA executive vice president, 614/882-6111  
Hinda Mitchell or Diane Beathard, 614/224-0600