



Ohio Poultry Association Announces 2007 Award Recipients

Individuals, businesses honored for dedication to Ohio's egg and poultry industries

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 2, 2007

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Poultry Association (OPA) has announced its 2007 poultry award recipients, named each year at the organization's annual banquet, which was held this year on March 29 in Columbus. These awards honor businesses and individuals who have made distinguishable contributions to Ohio's egg and poultry industries.

“The Ohio Poultry Association puts great value in recognizing both companies and individuals who make a difference in the poultry industry,” said OPA Executive Vice President Jim Chakeres. “Unfortunately, we cannot honor every person and business that makes a positive impact, but we are grateful for all of the hard work that everyone puts into the industry – from producers and retailers to elected officials and restaurateurs.”

Ohio Poultry Partner Award: Bob Evans Farms

This year, the OPA established a new award – the Ohio Poultry Partner Award – to honor businesses that support the poultry industry. The inaugural recipient is Bob Evans Farms, who was nominated by Cooper Farms for the company's longtime support of the state's egg, turkey and chicken industries. Bob Evans buys more than four million dozen Ohio eggs each year, and the company has been buying Ohio eggs for more than two decades.

Meritorious Service Award: Dr. David Latshaw

The OPA award for Meritorious Service is given annually to an individual in the academic field who has contributed to the egg and poultry industries. This year's recipient is Dr. David Latshaw, a professor of animal sciences at The Ohio State University and the advisor of OSU's Poultry Science Club. Latshaw was nominated by Animal Sciences Department Chair Dr. James Kinder for having shared his significant expertise in poultry science and nutrition with his students for more than three decades.

The Golden Egg Award: Leonard Kropp and Fred Schmitz

The Golden Egg Award recognizes individuals who are committed to advancing the

mission and values of the state's poultry producers. This year's award goes to both Leonard Kropp and Fred Schmitz – who collectively have almost a century of experience as poultry producers and managers. Kropp has been a staunch advocate for the poultry industry and has served on the boards of the Arkansas Poultry Association, the Arkansas Egg Counsel, the Ohio Poultry Association, the Ohio Egg Marketing Association and the Ohio Egg Processors Board. Like Kropp, Schmitz has had an extraordinary career in the poultry industry. A former OPA board president, he served the OPA for decades, served on the Ohio Turkey Marketing Board, and was active in the Tri-State Poultry Association.

Environmental Stewardship Award: Bowman and Landes Turkey Farm

The OPA's Environmental Stewardship Award is given each year in recognition of a producer's commitment to the farm's neighbors and to the environment as a whole. This year's recipient is Bowman and Landes Turkey Farm – a fourth-generation family farm operation that produces high-quality gourmet turkey at its headquarters in New Carlisle. The farm uses bio-diesel fuels whenever possible, they position buffer strips to prevent fertilizers from contaminating stream waters and they utilize no-till practices to reduce soil erosion.

Feathered Friend Award: United States House Minority Leader, Congressman John Boehner

The OPA's Feathered Friend award is given annually to a public office holder who has distinguished himself or herself as a champion of livestock agriculture or poultry issues. This 2007 recipient is U.S. House Minority Leader and United States Congressman John Boehner, who, for many years, was the sole Ohio representative on the U.S. House Agriculture Committee, and was also a driving force behind the 1996 Freedom to Farm Act. Each year, Boehner hosts the Ohio Farm Forum, an event featuring distinguished panelists and keynote speakers from farming and agri-business.

The egg and poultry industries are big contributors to the success of Ohio's economy. Agriculture is the number one industry in the state, with poultry being the fastest-growing sector of animal agriculture. Ohio ranks number two in the nation in egg production - second only to Iowa – and produces approximately eight billion eggs per year. Ohio is also 11th in the nation for turkey production and produces almost 58 million pounds of Ohio chicken for sale annually. More than 5,000 people are employed in the poultry industry, with payrolls of more than \$50 million.

For more information, contact Hinda Mitchell or Angela Davis at 614-224-0600 or visit the OPA Web site at www.ohiopoultry.org.

###