



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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OHIO FARMERS JOIN IN FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER AT THE OHIO STATE FAIR

Ohio's egg farmers will donate one dozen eggs to the local foodbank for every purchased kid's meal at the fair

COLUMBUS – Ohio's egg farmers are using the Ohio State Fair, which runs July 28-August 8, as an opportunity to help combat hunger in the Buckeye state.

During each day of the fair, the Ohio Poultry Association (OPA) will donate one dozen eggs to the local foodbank for each kid's meal that is purchased at the poultry booth in the Taste of Ohio Café. In addition, OPA will offer breakfast one day only from 5:30-9:30 a.m. on August 2. For each breakfast purchased on this day, Ohio's egg farmers will contribute a dozen eggs to hungry Ohioans.

"Ohio's egg, chicken and turkey farmers are humbled and honored to give back to our local communities," said Jim Chakeres, OPA executive vice president. "The fair usually attracts hundreds of thousands of people. We encourage fairgoers to stop by the Taste of Ohio Café and enjoy a wholesome, affordable meal while helping Ohioans in need."

"We are so grateful and thankful for our long-term partnership with Ohio's egg and poultry farmers in our collective efforts to fight hunger in Ohio," said Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director of the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks. "Eggs are an important source of protein, especially for hungry children who are suffering this summer without access to their school lunch and breakfast program." Hamler-Fugitt said that demand for emergency assistance has significantly increased since last year, which is evident in Ann Curry's recent *Dateline* report, "America Now: Friends & Neighbors" from southeastern Ohio highlighting the recession's impact on America's poorest.

In 2008, 38.8 million Americans and 8.1 million families lived in poverty. In Ohio, there are more than 1.5 million people who live in poverty, 21 percent who are children.

Ohioans can give back to their local community by purchasing a kid's meal at the poultry booth at the Ohio Taste of Ohio Café, which is open from 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. each day of the fair's operation.

A variety of foods from Ohio's egg, chicken and turkey farmers will offer fairgoers a healthy alternative to traditional fair food. Prices range from \$1 for a snack to \$7 for a complete meal. The menu includes:

- Sandwiches, including chicken salad, egg salad, shredded chicken, turkey and chicken breast;
- Chicken and noodles;
- Chicken nuggets;
- Thanksgiving-style turkey dinner with all the trimmings;
- Chicken dinner;
- Salads, available with chicken, chicken salad or turkey;
- "Hot Shot" open-faced turkey sandwich with mashed potatoes and gravy;
- The fair-favorite egg on a stick; and
- Chicken nugget kids' meals.

Ohio is the number-two egg-producing state in the nation, behind Iowa. Ohio egg farmers produce more than seven billion eggs each year. Ohio is 10th in the nation for turkey production and produces almost 200 million pounds of chicken for sale each year.

For more information about Ohio's egg, chicken and turkey sectors, please visit www.ohiopoultry.org.

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