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June 22, 2009

MEDIA STATEMENT

COLUMBUS – Thomas J. Fleming, dairy farmer from Allen County and chair of the Ohio Dairy Producers Association, has issued the following statement regarding the introduction of a ballot measure to establish the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board:

“Ohio dairy farmers depend on their cows for their livelihoods, and responsible animal care is an essential part of our jobs.

“We applaud the introduction of the ballot measure to establish the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board because it echoes our commitment to the health and well-being of our animals, and ultimately the safety and quality of the foods we produce.

“Dairy cows must be healthy and well cared for in order to produce safe, high quality milk. That’s why it is in our best interest to provide the best care we can for our cows.

“Dairy farmers provide their cows with regular access to fresh feed and clean water, house them in barns that protect them from extreme weather and disease, and provide them with regular medical care. Animal care is our job and our responsibility, and we look forward to working with the Board to continue our work.

“Ohio ranks 11th in the nation in milk production and is home to more than 3,300 dairy farms. With 276,000 cows that produce more than 600 million gallons of milk annually, Ohio’s dairy industry creates an annual economic impact of nearly \$6 billion.”

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