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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Dailey Supports Interstate Meat Shipment Bill**

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (June 22, 2006) – The following is a statement by Ohio Agriculture Director Fred L. Dailey regarding the June 15 introduction of S. 3519 to allow interstate shipment of state inspected meat and poultry products:

“This legislation is long-overdue and addresses an antiquated provision of the federal code that prohibits Ohio’s state inspected meat processors, and those in 27 other states with similar programs, from shipping their products across the state line.

“It is important to note this is not a food safety issue, rather, it is an issue of fairness. Foreign countries are allowed to ship their meat products to the U.S. if their inspection program is deemed ‘equal to’ our federal program. This is the same designation that Ohio’s program has met since it was first established. Just last year, Ohio’s state meat inspection program was reviewed and determined by the federal government to be equal to (or exceed) the federal meat inspection program.

“This legislation will remove the handcuffs that have restrained our state inspected meat processors and free them to compete in the national market.

“In Ohio alone, we would expect to see increased sales for state inspected plants of 27 to 40 percent in the first year, increased employment, and an additional increase in economic output of \$56.5 million.<sup>1</sup> In addition, this increased competition will provide more opportunities for price discovery at our local livestock markets. It will also allow consumers around the country to enjoy the high quality, award-winning meat products produced in Ohio.”

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<sup>1</sup> Tom Sporleder et al, “Economic Consequences in Ohio of Allowing State-Inspected Meat and Poultry Products in Interstate Commerce,” The Ohio State University, College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics, June 1997.

**Note to Editor:** Please see news release from the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, “Agriculture Coalition Urges Action on Interstate Meat Shipment Bill.”