



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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OHIO HOG FARMERS COME TO THE TABLE TO FIGHT HUNGER
Foodbanks Receive 30,000 Pounds of Pork from the Ohio Pork Producers Council

COLUMBUS – Ohio hog farmers are once again helping their hungry neighbors throughout Ohio. On November 1, 2011, a network of Ohio hog farmers, each part of the Ohio Pork Producers Council (OPPC), donated more than 30,000 pounds of ground pork to the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks (OASHF). As part of the Pork Power Program that was established in 2009, Ohio hog farmers have helped feed hungry Ohioans for more than two years, with this donation tipping the scale to more than 120,000 pounds of pork donated to OASHF and distributed through Ohio's 12 Feeding America foodbanks. Through this donation, Mid-Ohio Foodbank, Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio, Cleveland Foodbank, Second Harvest Foodbank of the Mahoning Valley, The Foodbank, Inc. (Dayton) and West Ohio Food Bank all received a portion of the 30,000 pounds of pork to help feed hungry Ohioans throughout 42 of Ohio's 88 counties.

Speaking to the monetary donation that OPPC received from Farm Credit Services of Mid-America, Jennifer Keller, OPPC director of marketing and education said, "We really appreciate Farm Credit and our other industry partners who have supported our efforts. With these funds, we have been able to buy hogs from Ohio farmers, doing business with Ohio processors and donate the pork to the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks and six of its member foodbanks; helping all levels of Ohio's economy."

To help engage individuals throughout Ohio in the fight against hunger, OPPC and Farm Credit Services of Mid-America hosted a virtual event on Facebook throughout the month of October, which is National Pork Month. For each person that said "yes" that they would attend the virtual event, Farm Credit Services of Mid-America would donate one meal of pork, up to 125,000 meals, to OASHF. Throughout the month, individuals throughout Ohio have committed to attending this virtual event and many have left behind messages of thanks and encouragement; letting Ohio's hog farmers know that they support their efforts of helping Ohio's hungry men, women and children. Recognizing the power of helping those in need, OPPC partners also came forward, providing an additional 5,000 pounds of pork for a total of 30,000 pounds being donated to help feed hungry Ohioans in celebration of National Pork Month.

"We are extremely grateful for the selflessness of this donation coming from Ohio's network of pork farmers and their willingness to help our hungry neighbors throughout Ohio. Their desire to be part of the solution to Ohio's growing hunger epidemic could not come at a better time, as our network of foodbanks and their agencies prepare for the upcoming holiday season" said Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, Executive Director of the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks. "The nutritional value of this donation is very high, which makes it very important, not only to our network, but to Ohioans who receive it, as many struggle to provide well-balanced, nutritional meals to their families, due to the increasing cost of meat and vegetables. We are very thankful to the farmers who are part of this donation, OPPC and Farm Credit Services of Mid-America, as it is through partnerships such as these that we are able to provide food to our hungry neighbors throughout Ohio."

To learn more about the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks visit www.oashf.org or call 614.221.4336.

To learn more about the Ohio Pork Producers Council visit www.ohiopork.org or call 800/320-7991.

About the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks

OASHF is Ohio's largest charitable response to hunger, representing Ohio's 12 Feeding America foodbanks and 3,300 member charities including food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters. In SFY 2011, OASHF and its member foodbanks were able to acquire and distribute more than 150 million pounds of food and grocery items. Follow @OASHF on Twitter and stay connected on Facebook at www.facebook.com/oashf.

About the Ohio Pork Producers Council

Established in 1968 when Ohio pork producers determined it was a necessity to promote their own product, the Ohio Pork Producers Council is made up of more than 2,500 members whose mission is to serve and benefit members regardless of size, in the areas of member service, legislative and environmental issues, consumer and producer education, and market development.

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