



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 30, 2010

Agreement reached between Ohio agriculture and HSUS: No ballot initiative this fall

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Governor Ted Strickland announced Wednesday that an agreement has been reached between Ohio agriculture leaders and the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). As a result, HSUS agreed to drop their ballot initiative for 2010 and committed to no future initiatives for at least ten years.

“We have an agreement that I think without question will allow the pork industry to remain viable in the state of Ohio,” said Dick Isler, Ohio Pork Producers Council executive vice president. “Given that animal agriculture is constantly changing, we will always find new and better ways to do things and I think that’s also true with animal housing.”

The outlined agreement allows the continued use of individual sow housing, or gestation stalls, in the pork community for the next 15 years, through January 1, 2026. The agreement also places no restrictions on using individual sow housing until sows are confirmed pregnant. However, as of December 31, 2010, no new facilities that utilize gestation stalls will be allowed to be built.

“This agreement is the best compromise ever reached between agriculture and HSUS across the nation,” Isler said. “HSUS has agreed to support the mission and purpose of the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board, which they have previously opposed.”

One of the highlights for Ohio agriculture as a result of this agreement is avoiding another costly ballot initiative this fall. Additionally, HSUS will join Ohio agriculture groups in funding research on science-based animal care standards.

“This is something that our members can live with and can therefore go on with their normal business and continuing to support more than 10,000 Ohio jobs and the state’s economy.”

The unity by Ohio dairy, beef, poultry, pork, soybean and corn associations, along with the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, provided that this resolution was a combined effort on behalf of Ohio agriculture.

“As we move forward, consumers can continue to rest assured that no one has a higher level of standards and commitment toward providing a safe, affordable food supply, and maintaining the best animal care, than Ohio farmers,” Isler said.

###