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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ODA Announces Open House and Public Meeting **On Hi-Q Egg Products, LLC Draft Permits**

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (Nov. 14, 2008) – The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) will hold an open house and public meeting on the draft Permit to Install (PTI) and draft Permit to Operate (PTO) for Hi-Q Egg Products, LLC. The open house and public meeting will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Dec. 17 at the Marysville High School, 800 Amrine Mill Road, in Marysville.

In accordance with rule 901:10-6-01 of the Ohio Administrative Code, the department will provide an opportunity for public comment concerning these draft permits. Oral comments can be made on the record at the public meeting. Written comments must be received by ODA no later than 5:00 p.m. on Dec. 23, which is five business days after the date of the public meeting. Comments must be delivered or mailed to ODA Livestock Environmental Permitting Program, 8995 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068. Comments received after Dec. 23 will not be considered by the director before making a determination on the final Permit to Install and final Permit to Operate.

Copies of the Hi-Q Egg Products, LLC draft permits can be viewed at the ODA Livestock Environmental Permitting Program offices in Reynoldsburg. The permits can also be viewed at the Union Soil and Water Conservation District Office (SWCD), 18000 St. Rt. 4, Suite B, Marysville, Ohio. Those interested should call the SWCD office at 937-642-5871 and make an appointment. Written comments cannot be submitted to the Union SWCD office.

Hi-Q Egg Products, LLC is proposing the construction of a new egg laying facility at 22450 Davis Road, West Mansfield, Ohio. The Union County farm would be in York Township, which is in the Upper Scioto Watershed. Hi-Q Egg Products, LLC is owner of the facility, with Jeffry Henning and Steven George, both of Johnston, Iowa, listed as LLC members.

Overview of Permit to Install

The Ohio Department of Agriculture issued Hi-Q Egg Products, LLC a draft Permit to Install to construct 15 layer houses with 400,000 layers each, for a total design capacity of six million layers. These barns would be belt-battery systems with manure belts installed under each cage row that transfer the manure out of the housing barns and into separate manure storage barns. Three separate manure storage barns would be constructed to house the manure from the respective layer houses. Manure storage barn #1 (150 ft. wide by 795 ft. long) would store manure from 2.4 million layers and have a capacity of approximately 1,849,453 cubic feet of manure storage. Manure storage barn #2 (150 ft. wide by 525 ft. long) would store manure from approximately 1.6 million layers and have a capacity of approximately 1,215,874 cubic feet of manure storage. Manure storage barn #3 (150 ft. wide by 660 ft. long) would store manure from approximately two million layers and have a capacity of approximately 1,531,016 cubic feet of manure storage. Each of the proposed manure storage barns are considered to be



fabricated structures by ODA rules and are required to have 120 days of manure storage capacity. Each of these structures would have approximately 282 days of manure storage available.

In addition to the solid manure storage structures, this draft PTI also includes the proposed installation of a lagoon treatment system for the eggwash and process wastewater generated at the facility. This system would consist of two treatment cells, each with a capacity of approximately 3,834,387 gallons. These cells would be aerated extensively and would serve primarily as treatment cells, with no manure storage accounted for in either. The third cell would provide secondary aeration treatment, but would also serve at the storage cell for the lagoon system. This cell would have a storage capacity of approximately 15,563,940 gallons. The predicted annual liquid manure production (including rainfall) is 23,500,747 gallons; therefore, the facility will have approximately 242 days of liquid storage. Such a manure storage and treatment system is required by department rules to have a minimum of 180 days of manure storage.

Overview of Permit to Operate

ODA has issued Hi-Q Egg Products, LLC a draft Permit to Operate for the entire farm. The PTO is drafted to regulate operations with plans for manure management, insect and rodent control, mortality management, and emergency response. It would be valid for a five-year period, at which time the owner would be required to renew the operating permit.

The facility proposes to generate approximately 74,157 tons of solid manure annually. This solid manure would be sold or given to others, who would utilize the organic nutrients as a replacement for commercial fertilizer in crop production. The solid manure nutrient analysis, estimated from actual manure analysis from a similar type facility, is as follows: total nitrogen per ton of manure is 49.0 lbs.; phosphate per ton of manure is 54.4 lbs.; and potash per ton of manure is 33.2 lbs.

All of the approximately 23.5 million gallons of egg processing wastewater generated at the facility would be managed on approximately 268 acres of cropland adjacent to the facility and owned by Hi-Q Egg Products. The farm proposes to install center pivots on approximately 160 of the 268 acres available. Application of the entire annual wastewater production over the 160 acres would equate to approximately 5.5 inches of wastewater being applied annually over these growing crops. A corn/soybean/wheat rotation was used for a nutrient balance, with an expected yield for corn at 175 bushels per acre, an expected yield for wheat at 80 bushels per acre, and an expected yield for soybeans at 55 bushels per acre. The liquid manure nutrient analysis of this processed wastewater, estimated from an actual analysis from a similar facility, is as follows: total nitrogen per 1,000 gallons of manure is 1.25 lbs.; phosphate per 1,000 gallons of manure is 0.42 lbs.; and potash per 1,000 gallons of manure is 0.91 lbs.

An Insect and Rodent Control plan is required as part of the draft PTO to minimize the presence and negative effects of insects and rodents. Hi-Q Egg Products, LLC's Insect and Rodent Control Plan includes daily inspections of all layer barns for water leaks and spilled feed that could contribute to enhanced fly breeding activity. Visual inspections would be performed weekly throughout the manure storage barns and layer houses. Rodent traps are to be placed in and around the housing barns and in the manure storage building and these would be checked and replaced on a weekly basis. Other areas that would be inspected, cleaned and maintained on a continual basis include the feed system, storage areas,



drainage and vegetation around the facility, walkways and exhaust fans. More detail on the Insect and Rodent Control Plan can be found in the draft Permit to Operate.

A Mortality Management Plan is also required for the disposal of dead chickens. Approved methods for disposal are burying, burning, rendering or composting. Hi-Q Egg Products, LLC has selected rendering and landfilling as their methods of disposal. Buildings would be searched and recorded daily for mortality. Any dead birds would be immediately removed and placed in plastic bags that are sealed and removed from the facility.

An Emergency Response Plan is the last plan required by the draft PTO to ensure accidents or emergencies are handled quickly and efficiently to maintain the safety of the environment, wildlife and water supplies. In the case of a liquid spill, a contractor would be called to mobilize equipment, a dike would be built in the most logical place to contain the spill, corrections would be made to halt the cause, and the manure that is temporarily contained would be removed from the temporary structure and placed back in the manure storage structure or land applied. An emergency response map is contained in the draft permit, which shows areas for a temporary dike, drainage direction, and areas that temporary dike material would be located. In case of a catastrophic mortality event, either a rendering service or a sanitary landfill would be chosen for disposal of a high volume of birds.

Finally, an Operating Record is contained in the draft PTO that includes all forms and information that must be maintained by the facility to show compliance with ODA rules. These records include inspection of the manure storage or treatment structures, manure characterization, land applications, insect and rodent control, distribution and utilization of manure and mortality management. These records would be inspected by the department a minimum of twice annually.

The permit application was prepared by Menke Consulting of Greenville, Ohio; TriCar Ltd. of Columbus, Ohio; and Mote and Associates of Greenville, Ohio.

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