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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bob Evans Farms Joins Coalition for Sustainable Egg Supply

COLUMBUS, Ohio – January 13, 2010 – Bob Evans Farms (BOBE) today announced its participation with leading animal welfare scientists, academics, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and egg suppliers in a commercial-scale study of housing alternatives for egg-laying hens in the U.S., including cage-free housing. The study, which expects to involve tens of thousands of hens, will look at the sustainability impacts of different laying hen housing environments on animal health and well-being, safe and affordable food, the environment and worker welfare.

The goal of the study is to understand the viability of alternative housing systems in the U.S., including cage-free and "enriched housing," which includes nests and perches. Another goal is to provide scientific-based research that will assist Bob Evans Farms and other companies in making more informed decisions on sustainable egg purchases, taking into account their independent company values and business needs.

The Coalition for Sustainable Egg Supply is a group of leading animal welfare scientists, research institutions, non-governmental organizations, egg suppliers, food manufacturers, restaurant/foodservice and food retail companies. The Leadership Committee of the multi-stakeholder Coalition includes McDonald's, Cargill Kitchen Solutions, Michigan State University, the University of California-Davis, the Center for Food Integrity, and the American Humane Association. Additional coalition member advisors include the American Veterinary Medical Association and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service. The Environmental Defense Fund is a nonmember advisor to the coalition. Bob Evans Farms is the first restaurant chain to join the Coalition outside the leadership group.

"At Bob Evans, we believe in a holistic approach to animal well-being," says Sommer Mueller, DVM, director of food safety and regulatory compliance. "We try to balance the needs of customers, employees, shareholders and suppliers. We are proud to be part of this study, which takes a similar approach to a sustainable egg supply, looking at the balance of food safety, food affordability, animal health and well-being, the environment and worker safety."

"There are many compelling reasons for a study of this kind," says Mueller. "Current research offers conflicting evidence regarding the well-being of animals in a cage-free environment. We recognize the gap in commercial-scale research on sustainable egg production and are very interested in further data to guide our decisions at Bob Evans Farms."



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Currently, experts at MSU and UC Davis are determining the design, timeline and costs of the study, as well as standards for each housing type.

"A thorough understanding of the full range of sustainability factors regarding hen housing is an important goal of this project," said Dr. Janice Swanson, MSU. "The Coalition anticipates a multi-year study to factor in seasonal shifts, bird lifecycles and other factors." Dr. Swanson also advises Bob Evans Farms' Animal Well-Being Committee.

Dr. Joy Mench, UC Davis, added, "This study will provide critical information that will allow us to better understand how laying hen behavior is accommodated in different housing systems, as well as how these environments affect other aspects of hen welfare."

Definitions:

Cage-free aviary: Hens live inside but can move around.

Free-range: Hens can move in and out of a house freely.

Enriched housing: Includes nests and perches.

Bob Evans Farms, Inc. Animal Well-Being Statement:

We recognize our responsibility to ensure the well being, proper handling and humane harvest of all the animals that provide products for our company. We expect all of our suppliers and employees to treat the animals they work with in a proper manner at all times. To guide us in this effort, our animal well-being advisory committee helps us establish policy and programs that are ethically grounded, scientifically verified and economically viable.

Bob Evans Farms' animal well-being advisors include the following experts:

Anna Butters-Johnson, Ph.D.

Dr. Butters-Johnson is assistant professor in animal behavior and well-being at Iowa State University. She completed her Ph.D. in Animal Science at Texas Tech University. Prior to joining ISU, she was Director of Animal Welfare for the National Pork Board and is a member of the Professional Animal Auditors Certification Organization.

Candace Croney, Ph.D.

Dr. Croney is associate professor of animal behavior and bioethics in the department of Veterinary Preventive Medicine at the Ohio State University. She has served as an animal welfare advisor to the National Pork Board, the Animal Agriculture Alliance, the Northwest Sustainable Dairy Program and the American Zoo and Aquarium Association.



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Janice Swanson, Ph.D.

Dr. Swanson is professor and the director of animal welfare at Michigan State University. She assumed the position in July 2007 after 15 years on the faculty at Kansas State University Department of Animal Sciences and Industry. Dr. Swanson serves on the animal welfare advisory committees of other food companies and is an internationally recognized expert in animal welfare and social responsibility in the food system.

About Bob Evans Farms, Inc.

Bob Evans Farms, Inc. owns and operates full-service Restaurants under the Bob Evans and Mimi's Café brand names. At the end of the second fiscal quarter (Oct. 23, 2009), Bob Evans owned and operated 569 family restaurants in 18 states, primarily in the Midwest, mid-Atlantic and Southeast regions of the United States, while Mimi's Café owned and operated 145 casual restaurants located in 24 states, primarily in California and other western states. Bob Evans Farms, Inc. is also a leading producer and distributor of pork sausage and a variety of complementary homestyle convenience food items under the Bob Evans and Owens brand names. For more information about Bob Evans Farms, Inc., visit the company's Web site at www.bobevans.com.

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