



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Ohio Association of Foodbanks Statement on  
Action by Governor DeWine, Ohio Leaders to Put Protein on the Table for Ohio Families**  
*Media Statement from Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director of the Ohio Association of Foodbanks*

“Today, Governor Mike DeWine renewed his commitment to supporting Ohio agriculture and keeping Ohio families nourished by advancing \$15 million of Ohio’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars to support the Ohio Agricultural Clearance Program. These funds will be used by the Ohio Association of Foodbanks to purchase and distribute much needed and highly sought-after Ohio protein products to households struggling to meet their basic needs during these times of historic inflation and rising food prices.

“We thank Governor DeWine for being at the table with us to hear from Ohio foodbanks about the tremendous need and why we need bold action like today’s announcement to make sure hungry Ohioans have the healthy wholesome foods, like Ohio-produced beef, pork, cheese, milk, eggs, chicken, turkey, lamb and more, on their plates each day.

“Governor DeWine and First Lady Fran DeWine have firmly demonstrated today that they will not allow Ohio’s kids, older adults, parents and caregivers, and workers to go without the balanced food they need to thrive.

“In addition to our most sincere thanks to Governor DeWine for his leadership in making this funding possible, we would like to thank Senate President Matt Huffman, Senate Minority Leader Kenny Yuko, House Speaker Robert Cupp, and House Minority Leader Allison Russo for their support of this investment in nourishing food for families. We thank the members of the Ohio Controlling Board for joining him in this cause by supporting additional funding for this highly successful, decades-long public-private partnership and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services team for its continued collaboration with our statewide emergency food assistance network as we work together to provide the basic food needs for struggling Ohioans.

“The Association, our foodbanks and 3,600 member charities are grateful to Ohio Cattlemen’s Association, Ohio Dairy Producers Association, Ohio Pork Council, Ohio Poultry Association, Ohio Sheep Improvement Association and the Ohio farmers, growers and commodity producers for their long time partnership and support of foodbanks to help us put Ohio grown and raised foods on the tables for our hungry friends and neighbors.”

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