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\*High resolution photo available upon request.

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## **Tom Fleming receives OSU Dairy Hall of Service Recognition**

**Columbus, Ohio, May 12, 2010** — One of the highest honors in Ohio's dairy industry was awarded to Tom Fleming on Saturday, May 8, 2010. Fleming was recognized for his steady, diligent, and unwavering leadership in the dairy industry as he received the 2010 Dairy Hall of Service Award. This prestigious award honors those individuals who have made a significant difference in the dairy industry. The presentation was made at The Ohio State University's dairy science department annual recognition banquet. Fleming's portrait will be hung in the historic Plumb Hall on The Ohio State University campus. Fleming and his wife, Sharon, reside in Harrod, Ohio and farm there together with their son, Tom Fleming Jr.

Tom has been described as unselfish, fair, thoughtful, wise, calm, considerate and humble, qualities that have earned him a tremendous amount of respect and to be sought after for his leadership in the dairy industry. He has represented the dairy industry well over many years, upholding the industry and its standards and seeking peaceful solutions to advance its future. Bernie Heisner, general manager of COBA/Select Sires indicates that Tom is the preeminent dairy leader. If something important is happening in the dairy industry, Tom's counsel or credible testimony will be sought on how best to proceed.

Fleming has provided leadership to several the most active and influential organizations in the dairy industry. Since 1987, he has served on the board for the Ohio Dairy Farmers Federation (ODFF) either as a director or officer, serving as president from 1994 to 2002, until its merger in 2002 with Professional Dairy Producers of Ohio (PDPO) to become the Ohio Dairy Producers Association (ODPA). Scott Higgins, Corporate Executive Officer, of ODPA and American Dairy Association Mideast said, "I have had the privilege to know and work with Tom over the past two decades, and I truly admire him. I have witnessed firsthand the fair, thoughtful, and considerate way Tom guided the ODFF and PDPO through consolidation and transition of staff leadership during the formation of ODPA"

He has served as a director on the board to COBA/Select Sires, Inc. since 1985 as well as president of the board since 2004. Fleming also has served either as alternate or director to the Select Sires, Inc. board since 1987. Other organizations he has or is currently serving are Ohio Farm Animal Care Coalition/Ohio Livestock Coalition; Ohio Beef Council Operating Committee; and Ohio Milk Sanitation Board for the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

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Caption: Tom Fleming (left) being presented with portrait to hang at The Ohio State University by Dr. Bobby Moser, Dean of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences at the Ohio State University.