



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

2320 South DuPont Highway, Dover, DE 19901

To: Newsroom Directors and Assignment Editors

For Immediate Release:
October 4, 2005

Number of Pages: 1

Contact: Sean Clougherty
(302) 398-3406
Amanda Brown
(800) 282-8685 (DE only)
(302) 698-4523
(302) 531-5152

It's almost time for the Giant Pumpkin Contest **Bring your biggest pumpkin to the Giant Pumpkin Festival on October 22.**

Try to imagine fall without pumpkins. A scary thought, isn't it? Scariest than two goblins, a werewolf and a princess standing on your front steps hollering "Trick or Treat!" To celebrate the importance of pumpkins to the fall season, the Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA) and Winkler Farms are hosting Delaware's first Giant Pumpkin Festival on October 22, 2005. The Giant Pumpkin Festival will take place at the Corn Maze at Winkler Farms, behind the Winkler Farms market on Rt. 13 Northbound, 3 miles north of Harrington.

There will be fun for the whole family; it all happens at the Giant Pumpkin Festival!

- See the **Giant Pumpkin Contest** and watch the crowning of Delaware's Heaviest Pumpkin! The Giant Pumpkin contest begins at 10 am with all entries arriving at Winkler Farms. Pumpkin weighing will begin at 12 pm with awards to follow. **Top prize is \$400** for the heaviest pumpkin.
- Compete for bragging rights over whose pumpkin pie is tastiest. For the **Pumpkin Pie Contest**, entries must be in a non-aluminum pan 9 inches or larger in diameter. Top prize for the most delicious pie is valued at \$50. The contest will begin at 1pm with judging and samples. Awards will be given at 2pm.
- Paint a spooky face on a hand picked pumpkin. **Pumpkin painting** will be available from 12pm to 4pm. Pumpkins of all sizes will be available for purchase. Painting supplies will be furnished by the DDA.
- Try your hand at our unique twist on bowling; pumpkin bowling! **Pumpkin bowling** will be available from 10 am to 7 pm.
- Try the **Coloring Contest**. Coloring sheets are available for children 13 and under at Winkler Farms every day during October or at any event in Delaware where DDA is represented. Participant should bring their colored sheets to the Giant Pumpkin Festival for judging. For a listing of state events or to get a printable version of the coloring page online, visit www.state.de.us/deptagri/default.shtml .

Pre-K to 6 teachers are invited to stop by the Ag-On-Wheels Trailer at the Festival for a packet that features a copy the *Food Land and People* activity, "We're into Pumpkins." The material is correlated to state education standards.

The Festival will coincide with the Fall Fun activities at Winkler Farms, including two corn mazes, the Veggie Slingshot, and the new Corn Crate Creation Station. Hours for the mazes are 10am to 7pm.

For details on the Giant Pumpkin Festival and the Corn Maze at Winkler Farms call Sean Clougherty at (302) 398-3406 or Amanda Brown at (302) 698-4500.

###