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NOTE: PHOTO ATTACHED TO THIS RELEASE

NEW JERSEY FARM BUREAU WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

CONTRIBUTES \$1,800 PLUS FOOD TO NEEDY ORGANIZATIONS

'National Food Check-Out Week' -- Opportunity to Focus on Importance of Good, Fresh Food

Trenton, NJ (February 19, 08)— The New Jersey Farm Bureau Women's Committee celebrated National Food Check-Out Week by distributing contributions totaling \$1,800.00 in cash and food to entities throughout the state. Contributions went to three Ronald McDonald houses (New Brunswick, Long Branch and Camden), Fisherman's Mark in Lambertville, St. Vincent DePaul Society in South Jersey and Harvest House in Sussex.

Food Check-Out Week was established by the American Farm Bureau Federation to mark that week in which the average American household has earned enough to pay for its annual food supply. This usually occurs in early February (about five weeks into the year). According to the most recent information from the Agriculture Department's (USDA's) Economic Research Service, American families and individuals spend, on average, less than 10 percent of their disposable personal income for food.

To call further public attention to Food Check-Out Week and emphasize the importance of good fresh food from New Jersey farms, the Women's Committee also distributed paper placemats to restaurants, 4-H and FFA groups, granges and others.

The New Jersey Farm Bureau Women's Committee works throughout the year to educate the public and promote farming in the Garden State, as well as fund-raising for donating food and money to needy entities. Its various activities include presentations on agriculture in school classrooms, especially in urban areas where students are unfamiliar with where their food comes from), safety programs for visiting farms (increasingly important with the rising popularity of agri-tourism), Farm-City tours, where Farm-City Tour, where members of the committee bring non-farm friends and neighbors on a day-long farm tour.

For further information, contact the New Jersey Farm Bureau, at The Farmhouse, 168 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608. Phone 609-393-7163; fax 609-393-7072; email mail@njfb.org; website www.njfb.org

The New Jersey Farm Bureau is a non-profit member organization of 15,000 farmers and farm-related individuals within the Garden State. It is the only organization solely dedicated to representing the grass- roots interests and directives of its members in educating all levels of government and the public on the farm community's policies and positions. The Farm Bureau also takes a lead in seeking out initiatives, activities and ventures to enhance the profitability of producer members and ensure the viability of agriculture in New Jersey -- *the Garden State for Good Reason -- our farms.*

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