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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Attention News/Health Editors:

MEDIA STATEMENT

Statement from Florida Department of Citrus regarding report in *The Lancet*

TORONTO, ON – (Apr. 2, 2009) – The Florida Department of Citrus, along with other leading scientific experts, have reviewed *The Lancet* case study involving grapefruit consumption.

Based on information available to date, The Lancet report looks to be inconsistent with published scientific studies, which indicate grapefruit does not cause a clinically significant interaction with oral contraceptives. We are aware of no validated evidence that grapefruit affects oral contraceptives, and they are generally considered to be safe to consume with grapefruit.

Even the study's lead researcher is quoted as saying "this was a unique situation, and it should not discourage people from eating grapefruit."

The industry continues to work collaboratively with leading scientific experts on food-drug interactions to evaluate research on potential drug interactions with grapefruit.

Always consult with a health care provider to discuss issues relating to any prescribed medication.

About the Florida Department of Citrus (FDOC)

The Florida Department of Citrus (FDOC) is an executive agency of the Florida government charged with the marketing, research and regulation of the Florida citrus industry. Its activities are funded by a tax paid by growers on each box of citrus that moves through commercial channels. The industry employs approximately 76,000 people, provides a \$9.3 billion annual economic impact to the state, and contributes hundreds of millions of dollars in tax revenues that help support Florida's schools, roads and health care services.

For more information on Florida grapefruit, grapefruit juice and orange juice please visit www.floridacitrus.ca or www.floridajjuice.com.

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If you're interested in speaking with a food-drug interaction expert, please contact:

Ian Roberts - GolinHarris
416-642-7906
iroberts@golinharris.com