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## WISCONSIN FARM TECHNOLOGY DAYS, INC. SELECTS WALWORTH COUNTY AS THE 2016 HOST COUNTY

Walworth County has been selected to host the 2016 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days by the Board of Directors. Presenting the Walworth application were Peg Reedy, extension agricultural agent, and Kathleen Papcke, a county leader. The final vote by the Walworth County Board endorsing the county's application took place on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

During their presentation to the state WFTD Board, Reedy and Papcke described the importance of agriculture in the Walworth County economy and the support they received for the application from county leaders. Walworth County representatives described their objectives for hosting the show were to encourage the adoption of new farm technologies that are environmentally and economically sound and sustainable, showcase their diverse agriculture, develop rural leaders and promote lifelong learning.

Walworth County is a significant and productive agriculture county. Agriculture is a very important element of the Walworth County economy. Ag-related sales are \$600 million and ag-related employment accounts for 3,780 jobs. Agriculture contributes \$208 million to county income.

Walworth county's top agricultural commodities are, grain, \$57.2 million; milk, \$52.3 million; and, cattle and calves, \$10.1 million. Walworth County has 1000 farms covering 217,593 acres.

Crop production in Walworth County includes 103,000 acres of corn for grain, 12,000 acres of corn for silage, 46,800 acres for soybeans, and 10,700 acres of alfalfa. Milk cows in Walworth County number 12,900. Leading agriculture employers in Walworth County are Kikkoman Foods, Inc., Birds Eye Food, Landmark Services Cooperative, and S & R Eggs Farms.

Sources of support for their application were County Extension staff, County Extension Committee, County Board, County Agribusinesses and Farm Bureau.

Walworth County has an excellent road system to manage the traffic coming from all directions during the 2016 show. Lodging capacity is very important to the show and Walworth County has more than 3000 hotel rooms and more than 1000 campsites and cabins.

