

PRESS RELEASE

HOST FARMS ANNOUNCED FOR 2014 WISCONSIN FARM TECHNOLOGY DAYS

Event to be held in Portage County, August 5-7, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STEVENS POINT, Wis. (January 9, 2012) -- The host farms for the 2014 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, being held in Portage County, were announced today. Ken Schroeder, Farm Technology Days Executive Committee Secretary introduced Blue Top Farms and Feltz Family Farms as the joint host farms for the statewide event in 2014. Blue Top Farms and Feltz Family Farms are located east of Plover, south of Highway HH. Additional land, being used for field demonstrations, is being made possible through neighboring growers; Myron Soik and Sons, Inc. and Greg Kizewski and Sons, Inc. (See map attached)

Blue Top Farms started in 1958 as a partnership between Jim & Delores Zakrzewski and Emeryck & Irene Zakrzewski. Initially 160 acres of land was purchased for the production of hogs, but by the mid 1970's production was switched from hogs to beef. The beef operation continued to expand through the years, with beef numbers reaching as high as 2000 head. In 1997 beef production land was sold, and is now part of the Portage County Business Park. With cattle gone, production became focused on producing grains & vegetables. Today, Blue Top Farms is comprised of 1200 acres, located throughout Portage County, of which 1000 acres are irrigated. Crops include field corn, soybeans, green beans and sweet corn. Farm operations are carried out by Jim and Delores' son, Peter Zakrzewski, and son-in-law, Michael Hintz, with continued input from Jim & Delores Zakrzewski.

Feltz Family Farms is owned and operated by Ken and Jackie Feltz since 1995. The 4th generation farm was established by Ken's great grandfather, Peter Feltz after his family immigrated from Poland. The farm continued operation under the direction of Ken's grandfather, Joe Feltz and later his father, George Feltz. Their son Jared, who is a junior at River Falls will carry the farm into the fifth generation. Through the years green beans, sweet corn, and peas have been grown on the farm. Since 1995 the focus has been on dairy cattle. High priority is placed on cow comfort to ensure quality milk and top production. Through different phases of improvements and expansion the farm has grown to its current form. The 500 cow dairy employs 11 full time employees. The 500 owned and rented acres of land grow alfalfa and corn silage for the cattle.

The 2014 hosts are excited to showcase their facilities and are honored to represent Portage County at the August 5-7, 2014 event.

About Wisconsin Farm Technology Days

Wisconsin Farm Technology Days is a three-day outdoor event showcasing the latest developments in production agriculture, including practical applications and recent research and technological developments. As the largest agricultural show in the state, it welcomes more than 60,000 attendees, with more than 600 commercial and educational vendors.

About Agriculture in Portage County, Wisconsin

Portage County has diverse agriculture which provides 5,600 jobs, about thirteen percent of the county's workforce and contributes \$1.11 billion in economic activity, more than eighteen percent of the county's economic activity. The county has more than 1000 farms and 280,000 acres in agricultural production. It is the leading Wisconsin county in production of potatoes, processed snap beans and sweet corn. It is second in green pea production. Portage County has 12,900 cows which produce 27 million gallons of milk annually, 3,700 head of beef cattle and 5,000 hogs. The value of its grain production is \$16.3 million and cranberry production of \$8.8 million.