

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Saemrows recognized as 2022 Rice County Farm Family of the Year**

By Claire LaCanne, Agricultural Extension Educator for Rice and Steele counties



The Saemrow family has been named Rice County's 2022 Farm Family of the Year by the University of Minnesota.

The Saemrow farm was first settled by Charles Saemrow in the early 1890s. Charles' son, Herman took over the operation in the 1930s. He was followed by his son Herb in the 1950s. Then, in the 1980's, Herb's sons Ron, Gordon, Keith, and Wayne assumed ownership. The four brothers and their families own and run the operation.

The farm currently consists of 800 milking cows. All heifer calves are raised as replacements and steers are raised and sold as feeders. The cropping operation consists of approximately 2,200 acres of corn, soybeans, wheat, oats, alfalfa, and grass hay. The Saemrows are also contract growers for Jennie-O turkeys.

The Saemrow family members stay busy on and off the farm. The brothers' mother, Marian, just turned 95 and she works out in the calf barn every day. The rest of the family includes Ron, his wife Brenda, their sons Matt and Tyler; Gordon and his wife Hindy, their children Judd, Jack, Jacy, and Jobb; Keith and his wife Jackie, their children Lisa and Wyatt; and Wayne and his wife Abby. The four brothers (Ron, Gordon, Keith, and Wayne) manage the farm and labor is supplied by about 25 people. This includes the seven members of the fifth generation and employees.

The members of the Saemrow family have long been involved in their community. They value giving back, as evidenced by the breadth of their involvement. The brothers and their wives are involved in a number of organizations: Rice County American Dairy Association (ADA), Land O'Lakes board, school boards, church boards, 40 Square board, Highway Ag board, North Morristown Community Club, Ag Partners Board, and Genesis board. Additionally, they serve as FFA leaders, 4-H advisors, youth sports coaches, volunteer firefighters and Sunday school teachers.

Families are selected as Farm Family of the Year by their local county Extension committees for demonstrating commitment to enhancing and supporting agriculture and agricultural production.

“These farm families are a major driver of Minnesota's economy and the vitality of Minnesota's rural communities,” said Bev Durgan, dean of University of Minnesota Extension. “The University of Minnesota is proud to recognize these farm families for their contributions to agriculture and their communities.”

Locally, the Saemrow family will be honored during the Best of the Best Breakfast ceremony on Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at the Rice County Fair. The Saemrows will also be recognized during the statewide Farm Family of the Year recognition ceremony on Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup> at Minnesota Farmfest near Redwood Falls. Profiles of the 2022 honorees and information on the recognition event are posted on the University's farm family website, <http://mnfarmfamilies.cfans.umn.edu/>.

Along with Farmfest, University units sponsoring the recognition event include University of Minnesota Extension, Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, the University of Minnesota College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, and the College of Veterinary Medicine.

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