



Indiana State Department of Agriculture
Governor Michael R. Pence
Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann, Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
Ted A. McKinney, Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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June 30, 2014

Lt. Governor Ellspermann and ISDA recognize Jackson County livestock farmer for excellence in progressive farm practices

Lt. Governor Ellspermann and Ted McKinney, director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), today recognized Steve Ritter, a Jackson County livestock producer, who recently completed the voluntary ISDA Certified Livestock Producer Program.

“Our Indiana livestock and poultry producers are committed to excellence in the areas of animal care, environmental stewardship, emergency planning, bio-security and community relations, and this program opens many channels of communication with key stakeholders in their communities and helps producers fine tune their farm management plans,” said Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann. “I congratulate Steve for his hard work and dedication in completing his certification.”

To be recognized by ISDA as a Certified Livestock Producer, participants must complete the highest industry standards in environmental protection, animal health, bio-security, emergency planning and good neighbor relations. They also agree to sign the Producer Promise, committing to meet or exceed the high standards of the Certified Livestock Producer Program as a commitment to the citizens of the State of Indiana.

ISDA launched the Certified Livestock Producer Program in July 2008. Since that time, 96 Hoosier farmers have earned the certification. Indiana is one of only a handful of states to have a voluntary program that recognizes farmers for their commitment to innovative and top industry standards.

Steve and his family raise purebred Angus beef cattle in western Jackson County on Shady Springs Farm, which they established in 1978. They utilize artificial insemination to add replacement animals and top genetics to their herd of approximately 50 brood cows. They follow strict herd health guidelines and work closely with their veterinarian on their vaccination program. They also raise corn, soybeans and alfalfa hay.

“We thank Steve for his commitment to this program and look forward to working with him in the future to promote Indiana agriculture,” said Indiana Agriculture Director Ted McKinney. “We believe this program will continue to serve as an invaluable tool to increase awareness of Indiana livestock producers’ commitment to provide high-quality and wholesome food.”

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For more information about ISDA’s Certified Livestock Producer Program, please contact Kimmi Devaney at 317.450.3570 or KDevaney@isda.in.gov.