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## **For Immediate Release**

### ***Finalists Announced for 2017 Top Producer of the Year Award***

*Lenexa, Kan.* (Jan. 19, 2017)—Three accomplished and diverse farming operations will compete for the prestigious Top Producer of the Year award at the 2017 Top Producer Seminar happening Jan. 24–27 in Chicago. The annual award given by Top Producer magazine recognizes producers whose excellence in business can teach industry peers about value-added ventures, succession plans, overcoming adversity and more.

Sponsored by Bayer and Case IH, the Top Producer of the Year contest is in its 18<sup>th</sup> year and represents the best in the business of farming. The winner will be announced Wednesday, Jan. 25 during the annual Top Producer of the Year banquet. The finalists are:

- Chalmers and Lori Anne Carr of Titan Farms, a grower, packer and processor of fruits and vegetables in Ridge Spring, S.C.
- John Pagel of Pagel's Ponderosa Dairy, a dairy and grain operation in Kewaunee, Wis.
- Richard and Roderick Gumz of Gumz Farms, a row crop and vegetable operation in Endeavor, Wis.

Judging criteria are entrepreneurial originality (50%); financial and business progress (30%); and industry or community leadership (20%).

Each of the finalists will receive a trip for two to attend the seminar and sessions with a CEO coach, and the winner will receive the opportunity to be enrolled for a year in the Top Producer Executive Network™ peer group program, courtesy of Bayer. Additionally, the winner will get to choose either a Steiger Rowtrac or a Magnum Rowtrac from Case IH for 150 hours of use, courtesy of Case IH.

Top Producer Seminar will take place Jan. 25–27 at the Hilton Chicago Hotel and will feature nearly 30 experts who will challenge farmer-attendees to arm their operation for future successes. This year's conference also includes an exclusive bonus offering for attendees, who can enroll in a special three-hour risk management workshop on Tuesday, Jan. 24.

Premier Sponsors of the 2017 Top Producer Seminar include: Advance Trading, BASF, Bayer, Beck's, Cargill, Case IH, Channel, CropZilla, Dow AgroSciences, DuPont Pioneer, ESN, FarmersEdge, Farmers Business Network, John Deere, K•Coe Isom, Soybean Premiums, Top Third Ag Marketing and Verdesian

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Learn more and register at [www.TopProducerSeminar.com](http://www.TopProducerSeminar.com).

### **About Farm Journal Media**

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