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For Immediate Release

Finalists and Winners Announced for 2019 Top Producer Awards

Lenexa, Kan., (Jan. 7, 2019) — Three leaders of accomplished and diverse farming operations are finalists for the prestigious Top Producer of the Year award presented at the 2019 Top Producer Seminar, Jan. 15-17 in Chicago. The annual award, first given by Top Producer magazine in 2000, recognizes producers whose business excellence can teach industry peers about value-added ventures, succession plans, overcoming adversity and more.

Sponsored by BASF, Rabo AgriFinance and Case IH, the Top Producer of the Year contest is in its 20th year and represents the best in the business of farming. The winner will be announced Wednesday, Jan. 16, during the annual Top Producer of the Year banquet. The finalists are:

- Chris Adams serves as a partner in Adams Family Farm, a wheat, hemp, soybean and edible bean operation in Grand Forks, N.D. The 9,000-acre operation also processes beans on-farm and sells direct to multiple countries. A partnership between Chris, his wife, Kelsey, and parents, Steve and Darla Adams, the fourth-generation operation employs seven full-time and 65 part-time team members.
- Ron Rabou is the president and manager of Rabou Farms in Albin, Wyo. The fifth-generation farm includes organic wheat, lentils, millet, chick peas and yellow peas across 8,000 acres. The operation includes 100 cow-calf pairs, as well as real estate and private big game hunts. Ron's wife, Julie, one full-time employee and three part-time employees round out the team.
- Jimmy Tosh is the owner and CEO of Tosh Farms, Tosh Pork and Bacon By Gosh in Henry, Tenn. The operation includes 37,000 sows that produce 850,000 market hogs annually and 17,000 acres of white and yellow corn, soybeans, canola, wheat and barley. Jimmy and his wife, Alonna, have two sons, Jamey and Jonathan who, are involved in the business. The team also includes nearly 400 full-time employees.

Judging is based on the following criteria: entrepreneurial originality (50%); financial and business progress (30%); and industry or community leadership (20%). The finalists and winners are given prizes from each of the sponsors.

The 2019 Top Producer Seminar is part of the Top Producer Summit, which spans Jan. 14-18. The Summit is a combination of Top Producer Seminar, Tomorrow's Top Producer, Executive Women in Agriculture (EWA) and the Legacy Project Conference.

Two other farmers will be recognized during the Summit. The 2019 Tomorrow's Top Producer Horizon award will be presented to Anthony Schwarck of Riceville, Iowa. This award is given to a producer under the age of 35 who demonstrates excellence in the business of farming. It is sponsored by Pioneer.

New in 2019, the Executive Women in Agriculture Trailblazer award honors a female producer who is an advocate for agriculture and represents an innovative farming or ranching operation. April Hemmes of Hampton, Iowa, is the winner of this award, which is sponsored by Corteva.

Learn more about Top Producer Summit and register at www.TPSummit.com. Sponsors include:

Platinum: Fendt/AGCO, BASF, Bayer, Case IH, Channel, Corteva, Pioneer

Gold: Beck's Hybrids, John Deere, Rabo AgriFinance

Silver: AgXplore, FMC, Growmark, Show-Me Shortline, Syngenta, Top Third Ag Marketing, United Soybean Board, Valent

Bronze: Claas, CliftonLarsonAllen, Conservis, Granular, Midwestern BioAg, K·Coe Isom

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