



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bountiful Harvest for the Grow to Give Program

HOWE, IN. OCTOBER 10, 2011 Lennard Ag Co. is preparing to harvest the first annual Grow to Give program's 40-acre potato field planted in partnership with twelve area ag companies. Their goal was to grow a potato crop with the expressed purpose of donating 100 percent of the crop to help feed the hungry in the region.

Lori and Kyle Lennard are the third generation of the Lennard family actively involved in the daily farming operation. Lori Lennard said, "It is truly alarming to realize that one in six Americans goes hungry. As a family and as farmers, we are focused on growing food. We felt strongly compelled to initiate an effort that would help people in this area who struggle to put food on the table."

The 40-acre Grow to Give field was provided by Oak Prairie Farms of Bronson, Michigan. The field was carefully prepared, planted and cared for by Lennard Ag. Kyle Lennard said, "Nurturing the field and the crop have paid off for the Grow to Give effort. We anticipated the 40 acres to yield roughly 1.6 million pounds of potatoes. Our yield estimates for this field have actually superseded that by more than 30 percent, and the field has produced nearly 2.2 million pounds of potatoes for donation." One hundred percent of the produce will be donated. Kyle Lennard estimates that yield equates roughly 5 million servings of nutritious potatoes.

"The response by area humanitarian organizations has been overwhelming. We have had calls from near and far for groups sourcing potatoes. They are literally flying out the door, by the pickup truck load, to entire semi-loads," said Lori Lennard.

Kyle Lennard noted, "Grow to Give would not be possible without this without the entire team of area ag partners who provided crop inputs, irrigation, fertilization and financial support. It is inspiring to see the enthusiasm Grow to Give has created."

Other Grow to Give partners include North Central Co-op of Coldwater, Michigan which supplied dry fertilizer; Lutes Flying Service of Shipshewana, Indiana which provided aerial crop protection application and Family Farms of Sturgis, Michigan who will applied fertilizer. The Michigan DuPont team provided crop protection products.

Lori Lennard concluded, "We are all blessed by this opportunity to contribute to our communities. Grow to Give has allowed that to unfold and we look forward to continuing this effort for many years to come."

Lennard Ag Company is a family owned and operated farm growing roughly 7,500 acres of potatoes, corn and specialty crops in southern Michigan and northern Indiana. Established in 1947 and now in its third generation of ownership/management, Lennard Ag continues its legacy – building a strong business and profitable production through innovation, growth and commitment.

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