

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY, November 11, 2011:

Gallrein Farms, which produces fresh vegetables and perennials for local retail and wholesale outlets and for sale through its on-farm retail market in Shelby County, has been named winner of the 2011 Agribusiness of the Year award.

The award, sponsored by the Agribusiness Industry Network, was presented today to Bill and Randie Gallrein during the annual Farm-City Luncheon at the Kentucky Exposition Center.

Now in its 19th year, the Agribusiness of the Year honors a Louisville-area agribusiness which excels in financial growth and stability, employee relations and contributions to the overall agricultural economy.

Gallrein Farms dates to 1972 when Bill and his father William Sr. began operating a dairy farm on a tract north of Shelbyville. Four years later they decided to add vegetables—primarily sweet corn—to their production schedule and began serving the regional wholesale market.

But as their neighbors and others in the community learned of Gallrein's quality produce, they regularly showed up at the farm's wholesale loading dock to buy the items directly. Thus was born what is today one of the leading vegetable farms in the Louisville area, producing 200 acres of sweet corn, plus strawberries, cucumbers, squash, tomatoes and green beans.

The Gallreins, including husband and wife Bill and Randie, also operate more than 45,000 square feet of greenhouse space, producing perennials, annuals, herbs and vegetable plants. Their retail market adds in a variety of products from other area farms, including honey, melons, blackberries and free-range eggs.

In the fall, the farm grows and sells pumpkins, many of which are donated to local schools and service agencies for use in Halloween programs. The farm is also a favorite agri-tourism destination, hosting dozens of student groups and private outings during the growing season.

Bill Gallrein says a growing customer base has allowed the farming operation to steadily expand over the years. The farm's produce shows up on shelves of such well-known retailers as Kroger's, Wal-Mart and Paul's Fruit Market, as well as quality wholesalers including Creation Gardens.

The Gallreins' own market has drawn increasing traffic, leading to plans to construct new floor space at their existing location in advance of the 2012 season. Gallrein is a charter member of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Certified Roadside Farm Market program.

The operation is managed by Bill Gallrein, who manages the vegetable farm and 800 additional acres of grain, and Randie, who gave up a career as a registered nurse to oversee retail sales, advertising and human resources.

Staff includes two full-time workers, a master mechanic to keep farm and vegetable processing machinery functional, and an office and market manager. Eight documented H2A workers help with field work, and students fill in during the summer season.

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