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St. Pierres of Goosefoot Farm Named 2019 Farm Family of Year

(Palmer, AK) – The St. Pierre family of Goosefoot Farm in Fairbanks was selected by the Alaska agriculture community as the 2019 Alaska State Fair Farm Family of the Year.

Brad and Christine St. Pierre, along with their children Aviva, 8, and Silas, 3, grow vegetables, fruits, berries, honey and hay on their 25-acre farm in Fairbanks. Christine was born and raised in Ester, while Brad is originally from the Lower 48, but now calls Alaska home.

“We are surrounded by an amazingly supportive community that values what our farm does,” Brad St. Pierre said. “We love working hard together to help bring real food security and healthy fresh food to the people of Fairbanks.”

A first-generation farming family, the St. Pierres sell to a diverse array of individuals, schools and businesses, as well as through their CSA (community-supported agriculture) and at the Tanana Valley Farmers Market. They are developing a new seven-acre field this year, with plans to cultivate it next year.

“We love to see our kids growing up on a farm,” Christine said. “We love to see the smiles on people’s faces when they see and taste our produce, we love to watch the change of the seasons, and we love to eat delicious food.”

In addition to working the farm, Brad volunteered as the vice president of the Ester Community Association for the last five years. He is currently serving as the vice president of the Alaska Farmers Market Association, and is the general manager of the Tanana Valley Farmers Market.

The Farm Family of the Year award, sponsored by the Matanuska Valley Federal Credit Union, was established by the Alaska State Fair in 2000 to honor an Alaska farming family and show appreciation for all the hardworking Alaskans committed to agriculture.

An awards committee chaired by the Alaska Division of Agriculture reviews nominees and selects the winning family based on its production of quality Alaska Grown products, community and agricultural organization involvement, and overall image.

“It was especially gratifying to help the Alaska State Fair board give this year’s award to a young farm family,” said Division of Agriculture Director David W. Schade. “Our state has a proportionately large number of beginning farmers, and when I look at the St Pierre family and the new generation of farming families they represent, I feel confident about the future of agriculture in Alaska.”

Recent farm families of the year include the Olson family of Alaska Berries (2018), the McCollum and Pinkleman families of Northwest Land & Livestock and Delta Meat & Sausage, Inc. (2017), and the Plagerman Family of Scott Plagerman Farms (2016).

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