

# Burrus Buzz

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## Farm Family

Burrus Hybrids partnered once again with Illinois AgriNews to sponsor the 2015 Illinois Farm Family of the year award. Lamoreux Farms from Carroll County was chosen the worthy recipient. The award was presented at the University of Illinois' Salute to Agriculture celebration recently.

Lou Lamoreux and his brother, John are the fourth generation on the family farm that still includes the 160 acres purchased in 1867 by their great, great grandfather, a Pennsylvania native. The Lamoreux family raises corn, soybeans, wheat, and alfalfa. They also have a 1400-head cattle feeding operation that includes the about-completed 58-foot-by-120-foot 500-head cattle finishing barn.

Their operation includes Lou and his wife, Sue, and their son, Nathan, and wife, Stephanie. Also involved are John, and his wife, Marilyn, and their sons Andrew and Daniel, along with their wives. Each member is happy to lend a hand to any part of the operation although they have developed specialized areas of responsibility.

John feeds the cattle in the feedlot and oversees the feed rations to balance nutritional needs while minimizing costs. Lou is responsible for machinery maintenance and enjoys running the combine and doing the spraying. Dan handles the planting and crop selection and Nathan oversees the beef cow herd. The key to their success is everyone's willingness to do whatever is needed. It's the very definition of a true family farm.

The family remains committed to being good stewards of the land and count it a blessing to care for part of God's creation. They have established waterways where needed to save topsoil, incorporated tillage operations to maximize residue cover and minimize run-off, applied manure to limit the need for commercial fertilizers, and have included oats and hay in crop rotations to limit the need for pesticides. The areas with steep slopes have remained in pasture and are utilized in the cow/calf enterprise.

The Lamoreux family believes in giving back to their community, which they've proven in their commitment to church, school and Carroll County Farm Bureau. Lou is a member and past chairman of the Illinois Corn Marketing Board and a former director of the Illinois Corn Growers Association.

Their commitment to agriculture and community has been and continues to be exemplary for five generations in Carroll County with the sixth generation being raised to love the farm.

Remarking about the day the Lamoreux family was awarded the honor John said, "We will always remember the day with the greatest joy."

