



News Release

For Immediate Release

Iowa Beef Expo
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Driscoll Family of Walridge Farms Named 2011 Iowa Seedstock Producer of the Year

The coveted award, sponsored annually by the Iowa Beef Breeds Council, is being awarded to the Driscoll Family on Monday, February 14, 2011 at the Expo Kick-Off Program; which is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. in the cattle barn foyer at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. All friends of the Driscoll Family and the Iowa Beef Expo are invited to attend.

The Seedstock Producer of the Year is a coveted award among Iowa's Purebred breeders. The purpose of the award is to honor outstanding cattle producers in the seedstock industry. Each Purebred Breed Association is given the opportunity to nominate one candidate for the award. Applications are reviewed by a Seedstock Committee, which gives careful consideration to producers programs in their entirety, including record keeping, industry participation and leadership, merchandising programs, selection criteria and herd improvement over time.

Walridge Farms has been in the Seedstock cattle business for 100 years raising Angus cattle currently running 378 cows. Performance records have also been kept for 100 years and Walridge Farms have been members of the Iowa Angus Association for 70 years as well as the American Angus Association for 80+ years. Walridge Farms sells 60-80 bulls private treaty annually from their herd providing their customers with all the performance data that they have available. Walridge Farms prides itself on the fact that they provide service to their customers, by helping them market their calves. In the 1970's, Walridge Farms was instrumental in starting one of the first black hided feeder calf sales and in 1990 it was expanded to a pen show and sale that consignors would enter pens of calves from the lots that they have brought to the sale. Walridge Farms genetics have been sold to 38 states and nine different countries.

Walridge Farms has had the great fortune to receive awards such as: Century Farm, Honorary 4-H Member, Iowa Angus Seedstock Producer, Honorary Chapter Farmer, Friend of 4-H, Friend of the Iowa County Fair and Knights of Columbus Family of the Year.

The foundation of this herd goes back to John T. Driscoll and his son John V. Driscoll, in the spring of 1910 when they purchased their first purebred Angus bull. It was only a few years later that they began buying registered Angus cows. By 1923 the herd had become all registered cattle along with the addition of the third generation of cattlemen, John V. (Jack) Driscoll Jr. The 4th and 5th generation of Driscoll's are actively engaged in the Angus Cattle business. C. Elliott Driscoll, 1946 and Erle G. Driscoll in 1954. They are both part of Walridge Farms. Elliott's first child was born in 1972 and his first son, John W., in 1975 this making the 5th generation. It should be mentioned that the mother of this latest generation is the daughter of the late W.J. Leahy another prominent Iowa County, Iowa Angus Breeder. Therefore, it could be said, that John W. is a "double bred" potential Angus breeder.