

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date

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8th Generation Family Farm Permanently Protected Through Conservation Easement With Tall Pines Conservancy

Nashotah, WI — Tall Pines Conservancy is pleased to announce that a farmland conservation easement has been placed on 150 acres of the Mayer Family Farm located in the town of Polk, Wisconsin. Tall Pines Conservancy purchased the development rights on the land with the assistance and support of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Agricultural Conservation Easement Program and a donation by the property owners, Ike and Shelly Mayer.

The property, which is located at the northern most tip of the Oconomowoc River Watershed south of Slinger, features rolling hills and pasture and is nested in the hills of the Kettle Moraine within view of the historic Holy Hill church. Working under the auspices of the NRCS Regional Conservation Protection Program and in conjunction with the Oconomowoc Watershed Protection Program, Tall Pines became interested in protecting the property, in part, to protect the water quality of the Coney River, which runs through the property. A second, and equally compelling, reason for completing the easement is to preserve a productive multi-generational working farm in an area of high development pressure. Farm viability is the biggest threat to farmland right now this will allow for generational transfer to the Mayer's three children who will continue farm. Dairy farming is the Mayer's life's work. Their passion is their cows and they take pride in raising quality cattle and growing them naturally for dairy and beef.

According to Shelly Mayer, "Our grandchildren mark the 8th generation at the Mayer Farm. It was the love of working with fine dairy cattle and farming that brought us together. While high development pressure has surrounded our community, it's reassuring to know that due to the work of Tall Pines, the Oconomowoc Watershed Protection Program and NRCS, we will be able to transition our land, passion and way of life to our children. Farming is more than a career it's our love," she concluded.

Founded in 1999, Tall Pines Conservancy is a 501c3 Land Trust working to preserve our rural heritage by protecting remaining farmland, water resources, natural areas and open spaces adjacent to and impacting Northwestern Waukesha County. Tall Pines has preserved approximately 1500 acres of land by conservation easements and fee acquisition.

Visit www.tallpinesconservancy.org for more information or contact Susan Buchanan at 262-369-0500.

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