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News Release

## **National Farm City Week: November 18<sup>th</sup> --24<sup>th</sup>**

As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving, we also gather to count our blessings and give thanks for the bounty available to us. I would like to thank all those involved in getting the food from the farm to the table so that we can enjoy this abundance. During Farm-City Week, November 18<sup>th</sup>—24<sup>th</sup>, please think about those farmers, ranchers, processors, truck drivers, retailers and others who work hard to supply your food, and say “thanks.”

In honor of Farm-City Week a banquet was held on November 14<sup>th</sup> at the Farmer’s Federation building in Ashville. Alabama Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries, John McMillan, was on hand to recognize several local St. Clair County Farms. The Perry Poe family, pictured below, was recognized as the 2011 St. Clair County Outstanding Farm. The family has been raising poultry on their farm since 1983. Perry has been active in his community. He has served as past president of the St. Clair County Poultry Growers Association, and has served on the St. Clair County Soil and Water Conservation District Board since 1989 as well as serving on the Coosa Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council since 1996.



Since the Century and Heritage Farm program began in 1976, the Alabama Department of Ag

and Industries has recognized over 500 farms in Alabama. In the past, 26 other farms in St. Clair County have been recognized as Century and/or Heritage Farms. Two farms with this distinction were also recognized at the Farm-City Banquet. Both farms have been owned and operated by the same family for over 100 years.

The property known as Hardwick Farm (family pictured below) was acquired by Robert and Elizabeth Hardwick some time prior to 1907. In the past, the family has grown cotton, peanuts and forage as well as raised beef and dairy cattle on the farm. Today, the farm, located 1 1/2 miles south of Pell City, is owned by Robert Hardwick and his sister, Francis King, the great-great grandchildren of Robert and Elizabeth Hardwick. The Hardwick family grows timber and raises beef cattle on the farm today. There are several structures on the farm with historical and agricultural significance including: a home built in 1937, an outhouse and smokehouse built in the 1940's and a dairy barn built in 1948.



The property known as Wadsworth Farms (family pictured below) was purchased on January 21, 1911 by William Lee and Ella Wadsworth. In the past, the family has grown corn, cotton, fruits and vegetables, hay, and pecans as well as raised chickens, mules and cattle. Today, the farm, located 5 miles south of Pell City, is operated by Edward Wadsworth, the grandson of William Lee and Ella Wadsworth. The Wadsworth family grows blueberries, pecans, timber and hay and raises beef cattle on the farm today. There are several structures on the farm with historical and agricultural significance including: a corn crib built in 1911, a dwelling built in 1946 and a barn built in 1965.

