

Meet your host families

THE Farm Progress Show's new, permanent biennial site near Boone, Iowa, wouldn't be possible without the cooperation of local landowners. Host families include Eric and Carol Ziel, along with Eric's parents, Bob and Mary; Dick and Judy Isaacson and his mother, June; and Alan and Jennifer Schoff. "We are really lucky to be working with these fine farm families," notes Matt Jungmann, national shows manager.

Ziel family

Eric Ziel and his neighbor Don Uthe farm about 2,100 acres. It's mostly corn and some soybeans, but he also grows a cash hay crop on about 200 acres. The Ziels had a cow herd at one

time but do not raise livestock anymore. Eric's wife, Carol, has worked in research microbiology for 30 years, most recently at Iowa State University, and has now changed her focus to holistic studies.

The Ziels have committed about 340 acres to the show site. Of this, they sold 100 acres to Central Iowa Expo for the permanent exhibit field. "This is the farm I grew up on," notes Eric. "Before Carol and I farmed this land, Dad lived and farmed here for 42 years, and my grandfather farmed here before that." The Ziels also donated 10 acres to Boone County for a road on the south side of the site.

One of Eric's passions is collecting and restoring antique tractors. He has been seriously

collecting for about 10 years but says he honestly doesn't know how many he has. "I quit counting at 80." His favorites are Oliver and Minneapolis Moline, but he also has a Porsche High Crop, as well as IH and Case high-crop models.

Daughter Jennifer is his right-hand helper when it comes to restoring tractors. She studied auto collision repair at Des Moines Area Community College and has won the Iowa State Fair championship in the FFA restored tractor competition. She plans to attend Drake University in Des Moines, where she will study math and actuary science.

The Ziels' other daughter, Erica, lives in Newport Beach, Calif., with husband Brent and 18-month-old daughter Morgan. Erica is a personal trainer specializing in Pilates and nutrition. Brent is a firefighter for Newport Beach where he has been a paramedic and is currently an engineer.

Besides committing land to the Farm Progress Show, Eric is an ex-officio board member of the Central Iowa Expo. "It's a massive project, but we've received tremendous statewide support," he says.

Isaacson family

The Isaacson farm just east of the show site has been in the family since the late 1930s when Dick Isaacson's great-grandfather, Gustav Anderson, purchased it. Dick's father,

Warren, and mother, June, moved to the farm in 1970 when Warren's mother relocated to the city of Boone. Warren, a retired dairy farmer, passed away in 1992.

June still lives on the farm and makes most of the major decisions with son Dick's help. Dick, who grew up in Boone County, runs Agri Management Services in Marion, Iowa. He's an accredited farm manager, real estate agent, crop insurance agent and accredited rural appraiser.

His wife, Judy, is an Iowa State University Extension external relations specialist for northeast Iowa.

The Isaacsons have a strong connection to ISU. Both Warren and June worked for ISU as does Judy today. Dick and Judy are graduates, and their two sons are students there.

Ben is a graduate student at ISU majoring in animal science. He plans a career in swine production. Ben is also an ex-officio member of the board of Central Iowa Expo.

Andy is a senior at ISU majoring in sociology. He also plans to attend graduate school and recently returned from Sweden where he was an exchange student for six months.

Schoff family

Alan Schoff and his wife, Jennifer, also have 80 acres committed to the Farm Progress Show, which will be used for harvesting demonstrations. Some of his sisters' land will also be used for pre-show tune-up of har-

ANTIQUE ENTHUSIASTS: Eric Ziel and his family have restored many antique tractors. They are shown here on a 1954 Oliver Super 99 with a 3-71 GM three-cylinder, two-cycle diesel engine. From left are Eric, Carol, Bob, Mary and Jennifer. Another daughter, Erica, her husband, Brent, and daughter Morgan, live in Newport Beach, Calif.

vesting machines. Alan and Eric Ziel are first cousins. "The field that is now the exhibit area belonged to their grandfather at one time.

Alan, who is a professional finish carpenter, farms about 400 acres, 160 owned by him and the rest owned by family members. He also runs a small cow herd. "I'm the fourth generation on this farm, and we hope we are raising the fifth generation," he quips. His great grandparents Oscar and Alma Samuelson homesteaded the farm.

Jennifer works at home in quality assurance for a medical transcription company. Alan and Jennifer have three sons, Jacob, 13, Jentry, 5, and Jaxon, 4.

"We think having the show in this community is a pretty cool deal," notes Alan.

