



**United States Ag Finance Update:  
Farmers National Company Named Company Of The Year By The Iowa-Nebraska Chapter  
Of the ESOP Association**

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Source: Business Wire

Farmers National Company, headquartered in Omaha, NE, has been named the 2009 Company of the Year by The Iowa-Nebraska Chapter of The ESOP Association. The award was presented at the Chapter's Annual Winter Conference in February at the Marriott Hotel in Coralville, IA. The ESOP Association is the national trade association for companies with employee stock ownership plans (ESOP) and the leading voice in America for employee ownership. The Iowa-Nebraska Chapter represents 42 ESOP Association company members across Iowa and Nebraska, including firms of all sizes and from many different industries.

In 1929, the founders of Farmers National Company (FNC) had a vision to start a business to help absentee landowners manage their agricultural properties. That vision and the commitment of subsequent generations has evolved into a successful organization that exemplifies the true meaning and power of employee ownership.

In 2000, the employees were given the opportunity to purchase the company through the formation of an ESOP. The pride of employee ownership has been demonstrated and measured by growth in the number of customers and the financial strength of Farmers National. In today's economic environment, the company feels very fortunate. Farmers National has grown to a company with over 200 dedicated employee owners with offices in 20 states.

Farmers National will compete against a competitive field of Company Award Winners from The ESOP Association's 18 other state and regional Chapters for the title "National Company of the Year." The winner of this prestigious award will be announced at The ESOP Association's 31st Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., in May 2009.

The core cause of The ESOP Association is the belief that employee ownership will improve American competitiveness, increase productivity through greater employee participation, and strengthen our free enterprise economy.

Farmers National Company is the nation's largest farm and ranch management company offering agricultural land owners and investors a full line of management services, real estate sales, commodity marketing, insurance, appraisals, conservation and recreation, and oil and gas management. An employee-owned company, Farmers National Company's home office has been in Omaha, NE, since its founding in 1929.