

## **Sevier County Ranching Couple Earns ‘Runner-up’ Recognition at 2007 American Farm Bureau Convention in Salt Lake City**

**January 16, 2007 – Richfield, Utah** – Jared and Ginger Johnson of Aurora were recognized as runners-up in the Young Farmer & Rancher ‘Achievement Award’ at the American Farm Bureau Federation’s national convention held in Salt Lake City last week.

“We’re really happy to have made it as far as we did in the competition,” Jared Johnson said. “There were some really great competitors from throughout the country. Making it in the top five is really an honor.”

Having won the Utah Farm Bureau’s ‘Achievement Award’ in November, the Johnson’s qualified to compete with 35 other state winners from around the country.

‘Achievement Award’ winners from 35 state Farm Bureau competed at the national level in the American Farm Bureau Convention. The convention was hosted by Salt Lake City this year. Winners of the national award received a 2007 Dodge Truck, while runners-up each received a Case IH DX compact tractor and a \$250 parts-and-service gift certificate, courtesy of Case IH tractors.

For their Utah Farm Bureau award, Jared and Ginger received a 2007 Polaris Ranger ATV, a \$500 check from Dodge and a year’s insurance policy from Farm Bureau Financial Services for the ATV.

Jared and Ginger were recognized for the achievements they have made in the agriculture industry in Utah. The ‘Achievement Award’ recognizes young farmers and ranchers who have excelled in their farming or ranching operations and exhibited superior leadership abilities.

The award is considered Farm Bureau’s top honor given to young farmers and ranchers. Participants are evaluated on a combination of their agricultural operation’s growth and financial progress, and demonstrated leadership both in- and outside the Farm Bureau.

“It’s fantastic to have a young ranching couple from Utah recognized among our country’s finest,” said Leland Hogan, president of the Utah Farm Bureau Federation. “We don’t have the same numbers involved in agriculture as they traditionally do in states like California, Iowa and Tennessee, so it’s great to see Utah’s young people recognized.”

The Johnson’s are known in the region as quality cattle ranchers and also provide first-class big game hunting and recreational opportunities for ranch guests which include trail rides, family reunions and camping opportunities.

The Johnson’s also participate with the State of Utah’s Wildlife Department to provide and manage habitat for local wildlife.

### **About the Utah Farm Bureau**

The Utah Farm Bureau is the largest general farm and ranch organization in the state with more than 21,000 member families. Its mission is to improve the net income of the state's farmers and ranchers and the overall quality of life in the state and nation through political action, educational and informational means. The Farm Bureau is a non-partisan, voluntary organization, and its efforts are based on grassroots policies developed by members at the local, county, state and national levels. It is affiliated with the American Farm Bureau Federation, the world's largest general farm organization, with more than 6 million family members in 50 states and Puerto Rico. For more information, go to the Utah Farm Bureau Web site at <http://utfb.fb.org>.

### **Contacts:**

-**Nancy Harris**, Sevier County Farm Bureau Secretary, [turf8r2@hotmail.com](mailto:turf8r2@hotmail.com). 435-896-9587.

-**Nolan Bastian**, Sevier County Farm Bureau President, [nvbast@xmission.com](mailto:nvbast@xmission.com). 435-896-8831.

-**Matt Hargreaves**, Director of Communications, Utah Farm Bureau, [matt.hargreaves@fbfs.com](mailto:matt.hargreaves@fbfs.com). 801-233-3003.

-**Randy Parker**, Chief Executive Officer, Utah Farm Bureau. [rparker@fbfs.com](mailto:rparker@fbfs.com). 801-233-3001.