



## **Utah County Farming Couple Earns Top Ten Finish at 2007 American Farm Bureau Convention in Salt Lake City**

**January 16, 2007 – Provo, Utah** – Brett and Nicole Herbst of Lake Shore were honored with a top ten finish in the ‘Excellence in Agriculture’ competition at the American Farm Bureau Federation’s national convention, held in Salt Lake City last week.

Brett and Nicole, creators of the country’s finest corn mazes, were recognized for the achievements they have made in the agritourism industry in Utah and throughout the country. The national ‘Excellence in Agriculture’ award recognizes young farmers and ranchers who do not derive the majority of their income from an owned agriculture operation.

“We are happy to have been recognized in the top ten of young farmers and ranchers throughout the country,” Brett Herbst said. “There are some really great competitors out there, which just points to the strong future for agriculture in our country.”

Having won the Utah Farm Bureau’s ‘Excellence in Agriculture’ award in November, the Herbst’ qualified to compete with 26 other state winners from around the country.

‘Excellence in Agriculture’ winners from each state Farm Bureau competed at the national level in the American Farm Bureau Convention. The convention was hosted by Salt Lake City this year. The winners of the national award received a 2007 Dodge Truck.

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

The Herbst’ were recognized for their internationally-known design and consultation of corn mazes by their company, The MAiZE, which is based in Spanish Fork. The couple resides on a farm in Lake Shore, Utah, and have been designing corn mazes for 10 years. Their creative crop has appeared in farms from Washington State to Jacksonville, Florida, and from Canada to Venice, Italy.

“We’re really proud to have one of our young farming couples recognized in the top 10 nationally for their leadership and quality farming practices,” said Leland Hogan, president of the Utah Farm Bureau Federation. “Their corn mazes are recognized around the world, and it’s now fitting to have them recognized as well. This distinction points to the positive direction agriculture is heading in our state.”

Participants were judged on their involvement in agriculture, their leadership ability and their participation in Farm Bureau and other organizations.

Five mazes were created in Utah this year, in Bluebell (Duchesne County), Layton, Lehi (Thanksgiving Point), St. George and West Jordan.

### **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:**

**Kevin Anderson**, Utah County Farm Bureau Information Director.  
[kanderfarm@netzero.net](mailto:kanderfarm@netzero.net). 801-798-8469.

**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.