

RURAL ENTREPRENEUR NETWORK

Education, Training, and Resources for New Rural Businesses

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For Immediate Release

2008 Rural Entrepreneur Excellence Award

Recipient in Johnson County – Mallow Run Winery

The Rural Entrepreneur Network (REN) is pleased to announce Mallow Run Winery as the winner of the 2008 Rural Entrepreneur Excellence Award in Johnson County. This award recognizes those who have demonstrated an entrepreneurial spirit, intelligent risk-taking, and business success. The award was presented to John Richardson on May 4th at the Johnson County Museum of History (see picture below). John Richardson received this award and thanked the Rural Entrepreneur Network on behalf of himself, Bill, and Laura Richardson during the Voice Concert that was taking place at the museum.

In 2000, John Richardson, an English teacher from southern Indiana, and his son Bill, a Purdue graduate with a degree in Agriculture, began their dream of growing grapes in Indiana. The Richardsons started out growing grapes for others, but their focus changed when they decided to start their own winery, which is a rare and risky thing to do in Indiana. Once the Richardsons purchased the needed equipment, renovated their family barn (that dates back to the 1870s), and Bill married Laura (who is a full-time employee at the winery and is also a speech therapist), Mallow Run Winery opened in September of 2005. Starting this winery reflects the entrepreneurial spirit of the Richardson Family, who are now growing eight acres of grapes.

The Mallow Run Winery has been a very successful family-oriented business, with Laura's parents often volunteering as well. Mallow Run Winery was one of four featured farms in the Johnson County Cooperative Extension Service's "Farm Fest" this past September. At the winery, the Richardsons sell over 10 flavors of

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wines, including dry and sweet, grape, rhubarb, and blackberry.

REN is a not-for-profit organization supported by a grant from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs through Hoosier Heartland RC&D Council, Inc. For more information about REN, call 317-290-3250.

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