

Ukrainian-Canadian, Sirski Family Named 2022 Manitoba Farm Family of the Year



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The Red River Exhibition Association (RREA) has officially named the Sirski family of Dauphin, Manitoba and the owners of the Sirski Farms as the 2022 Farm Family of the Year. Ernie, Janet, and their family have joined a distinguished list of 54 other families honoured with this award since its inception in 1966.

“The purpose of this annual award is to profile the diversity of agriculture in Manitoba, as well as the traditional values of farm families, like Ernie and Janet Sirski, who have contributed to the success and resilience of prairie agriculture and the rural way of life,” said Garth Rogerson, CEO of the RREA.

Ernie, Janet and their three adult daughters, Tanis, Rachel and Alyssia, are about as immersed in agriculture as a family can. While all three daughters hold full-time jobs off the farm, they collectively pull together to farm 5,500 in Manitoba’s Parkland region near Dauphin. For Ernie and Janet, it’s always been essential to keep the farm healthy and profitable so their children could be part of this legacy.

“Over the decades, the Sirski’s have continued to keep pace with modern agricultural practices, most recently implementing GPS systems, auto steer, yield maps and variable-rate fertilizer management. It’s all to continue on a sustainable path”, said Eleanor Cassels, chair of the Farm Family Committee.

The logo for Sirski Farms proudly displays a Canadian flag alongside one from Ukraine, pointing to great pride in the family’s heritage. For a Canadian of Ukrainian descent, home and family figure prominently in everyday life. Ernie’s parents came to Canada in 1928 and 1929, settling in Saskatchewan and moving to Manitoba in 1948.

The Sirski Family will be officially acknowledged at a Celebration of Ag Luncheon on Monday, June 20, as part of celebrations surrounding the 2022 Red River Ex. At this same event, two deserving nominees will be inducted into the Manitoba Agricultural Hall of Fame, and agriculture students will be awarded scholarships through the Red River Exhibition Foundation.

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