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Slette Family Named 2018 Farm Family of the Year

The County of Grande Prairie is proud to announce that Eugene and Ruth Slette of the La Glace Hereford Farm are the Farm Family of 2018. The award honours the farm family for their significant contributions to the agricultural community within the County of Grande Prairie, the region and the province.

“It is a true honour to have a family with such deep roots, love for farming and dedication to improving quality of life for their community as the County’s 2018 Farm Family,” said Leanne Beaupre, County Reeve. “It’s a privilege to recognize and showcase the family farming tradition and the important role it plays in our area.”

The Slettes have been actively farming in the La Glace area since 1914 primarily raising Hereford cattle and grain. Eugene and Ruth, along with their son Clint and wife Jennifer are a family that has been actively farming and volunteering for several agricultural and youth programs in their community for many years.

“There are so many outstanding farmers in the County of Grande Prairie, so to have received the farm family award is such a great honour,” said Eugene Slette. “It gives my family the greatest pride and joy when our hard work is being recognized at this magnitude.”

It all started when Gus Slette, Eugene’s grandfather, left Norway when he was 18 and headed to Minnesota. Shortly after, he and his three friends trekked the Edson Trail on foot to their final destination – La Glace – where each of them set up homesteads. In 1927, George (Eugene’s father), the youngest of six children was born, and not too long after that carried on the family’s legacy of farming, later marrying Jenny and raising three children on the farm. The youngest of three, Eugene, also followed his father’s footsteps, playing a large role in the farming on several quarter sections in his adolescent years, eventually owning his first purebred heifer at the age of 12. In 1977, Eugene married Ruth and had two sons. Their eldest son, Clint, also inherited a passion for farming at a young age.

In 2004, George and Jenny handed the farm operations over to Eugene and Ruth; however, stayed on the farm until 2012 to help. Eugene and Clint continue to operate the farm on the homestead and farm a total of 18 quarter sections to this day.

When asked what the reasons are that keep the family farming for all these years, Eugene Slette responded, “Farming is rewarding in so many ways: the sheer joy of witnessing cattle being born, and raising and selling them, watching a crop grow, and knowing all your efforts are benefitting so many people inside and outside of the community. You also meet so many great people with shared values and work ethic to build the community with.”



The list of Slettes involvement around the Peace Region volunteering is long. Eugene served for many years as a member of the La Glace Fair Board and director for the Dawson Creek Cattle Association, Peace Country Classic, Dawson Creek Bull Sales and Peace River Hereford Association. Ruth previously served as a secretary for the La Glace Agricultural Society, president for the Sexsmith Band Parents Committee, and president and director for the La Glace School Council. They also helped build the La Glace curling rink and playground, and volunteered for 4-H in parent and leadership roles. Eugene and Ruth are also business-share owners. Clint is also an active member of the community, who served as an ambassador for 4-H at the Fairview College, and Peace River Hereford Association Youth Program, and remains a member of the Grande Prairie & District Agricultural Society. The Slettes are also known for lending a helping hand to their neighbours whenever needed and plowing the snow over the winter for neighbours that are widows and single parents. The family's quality time consists largely of working with the cattle and watching Nascar racing.

"These are only just a few of many ways the Slette family have demonstrated why they are the Farm Family this year," said Sonja Raven, County Agricultural Fieldman.

The Farm Family Award is a tradition in the County that dates back to 1969. To recognize the great accomplishments of this multi-generational farming family and previous farm family recipients, the County is hosting a banquet at the Peace Country Classic Agri-Show on March 9, 2018. Tickets to attend can be purchased by contacting the Agriculture department at 780-532-9727. More information about the Farm Family Awards Program is available at www.countygp.ab.ca/farmfamily.

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to schedule an interview with Sonja
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