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County Honours Local Pioneer Farm Family

A Crystal Creek-area family is the recipient of the County's Pioneer Family Farming Award.

Ray and Laurie Marcy, along with sons Travis (Amanda), Spencer and Ryan, were recognized during today's Agricultural Service Board meeting for the family's contributions to agriculture and the County's heritage.

Council, serving as Agricultural Service Board members, presented the Marcys with the Pioneer Farming Family Award, which pays tribute to families that have farmed or ranched in the County of Grande Prairie for 100 years continuously on land they own or have rented.

The family lives on the original homestead, in Division 1 near Crystal Creek, originally purchased by Ray's great grandparents, Osro and Lena, in July 1919.

"Agriculture and family farms are a vital part of the fabric of the County of Grande Prairie," said Sonja Raven, Agricultural Fieldman. "The County makes it a priority to recognize the commitment and investment these community builders make in this key sector and to life in the area. We congratulate the Marcys for their contributions over the last 100 years and wish them continued success."

The Marcys have moved away from grain farming and now mainly focus on running a beef cattle operation.

"We're proud to live in the County and to call the Peace Region home," Ray Marcy said. "There's something special about being able to raise your own meat and grow your own vegetables. We take pride in what we do and what we've created."

Osro and Lena Marcy moved to Grande Prairie with sons Don (Ray's grandfather) and Ted after retiring from farming in Wendom, Minnesota to try their hand at ranching.

They bought the Crowe homestead, located at SW of 28-71-4-W6, near Crystal Creek and lived in a small granary type house. The family would later buy the Nicholas Andress homestead (NW of 28-71-4-W6) and farm it along with the original homestead.

Marcy is thrilled his sons continue to help operate the farm. "I'm really proud that they still help out on the farm and that they're committed to this way of life."

Applications for the 100 Years of Farming Awards are accepted throughout the year.



For more information about the 100 Years of Farming Awards, and to apply or nominate a family for an award, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/100years.

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For media inquiries:

Contact communications@countygp.ab.ca to schedule an interview with Sonja Raven, Agricultural Fieldman.