

## Local farms honored by University Extension

The Platte County University of Missouri Extension office held its annual dinner Feb. 4. Two families were recognized for their dedication to agriculture in Platte County.

Together with the University's College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, University of Missouri Extension recognized the 2007 Platte County Century Farm Family. Accepting this recognition was Virginia Golden, wife of the late Theodore Golden, owner of Golden Acres. Golden was accompanied by her two sons Owen and Theodore Jr., and her daughter and son-in-law Beth and Dale Claypole. Golden Acres, an 82.5-acre farm located near Dearborn has been handed down through the generations since it was originally acquired in 1856.

The Centennial Farm Program, as it was originally called, was initiated in 1976. In that year, 2,850 Missouri farms were recognized. Since then, an additional 4,162 farms have been recognized

as Century Farms. In 2007, 171 farms were granted the recognition. For more information on the Missouri Century Farm Program, visit [extension.missouri.edu/centuryfarm](http://extension.missouri.edu/centuryfarm). Applications for 2008 will be accepted from March 1 until May 15. Applications will



**Jowler Creek Vineyard and Winery near Camden Point was the recipient of the 2007 Platte County State Fair Farm Family award. Pictured are owner/operators Jason and Colleen Gerke.**

be available online or at the local extension office beginning March 1.

Also recognized was the Platte County State Fair Farm Family. This recognition is a joint effort between University of Missouri Extension, Missouri Farm Bureau, Missouri Department of Agriculture, Missouri State Fair and the University's College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources. The recipients of this recognition are sponsored guests of the Missouri State Fair where they represent their home county during Farm Family Day.

The 2007 recipients of this recognition were Jason and Colleen Gerke, owners of Jowler Creek Vineyard and Winery near Camden Point. The Gerkes were selected as the recipients because their four-year-old vineyard is managed with sustainability in mind and is exemplary of the future of alternative agriculture in Platte County.

Nominations for the 2008



*Contributed photos*

**Golden Acres located near Dearborn was recently inducted into the Platte County Century Farm Program. Pictured, from left, are Dale Claypole, Beth Claypole, Theodore Golden, Jr., Virginia Golden and Owen Golden.**

Platte County State Fair Farm Family are currently being accepted at the extension office located in the County Resource Center at 11724 NW Plaza Circle, Suite 300, Kansas City, MO 64153. For more information, call 270-2141.