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For Immediate Release

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Rich Schell, of Wagner & Schell and Adjunct Instructor in Food Law, will moderate a panel on investing in organic farmland at the 2011 Chicago Farmers Farmland Investment Fair on February 5, 2011.

The panelists, Gary McDonald, David Miller and Jim Slama, “represent a wide range of knowledge on organic farmland and local food production as an investment category,” said Schell, noting that people who want to invest in organic farming don’t know where to start. McDonald explained that, “the limiting factor in organic production is the scarcity of knowledgeable and experienced practitioners.”

Gary McDonald, an organic farmer, helps farmers and landowners transition farmland into organic production. David Miller is President of Midwest Organic Farm Management and Jim Slama is President of Familyfarmed.org. FamilyFarmed.org is a non-profit organization that has worked for the past decade to build local food systems and create markets for family farmers. FamilyFarmed.org also produces Financing Farm to Fork, a conference on funding local food that will be held on March 17, 2011.

The Chicago Farmers will hold its annual Farmland Investment Fair on February 5, 2010 in the Weitendorf Agriculture Education Center at 17840 Laraway Road in Joliet, Illinois. The Fair features a diverse blend of exhibitors including agriculture producers, farm real estate brokers, marketing specialists, recreational land brokers, and many other categories related to farmland investment.

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of Greater Chicago*

The Fair will be held from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. The \$50.00 registration fee includes access to the hall, all breakout sessions, and lunch. To register for the Farmland Investment Fair call 312-388-FARM (3276) or register online with a credit card at www.chicagofarmers.org Registrations received after January 31st will be \$75.00 per person. The Chicago Farmers has members representing all aspects of production agriculture that own, lease, and farm or manage over three million acres in the United States and Latin America. In addition to the Farmland Fair, the organization hosts monthly meetings at the University of Illinois Illini Center, 200 S. Wacker, across from The Willis Tower.

Wagner & Schell, LLP is an international law firm with a focus on intellectual property, immigration and international business. Schell grew up in a farm family in Illinois and focuses his practice on “all things food and farm.” He has taught Law for Illinois Agricultural Entrepreneurs, Green Law and Policy, and Food Law.

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