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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rice County Steam and Gas Engine Show

Taking a Closer Look at the “Roots” of Farming

The 36th annual Rice County Steam and Gas Engine Show will be held September 3-5 from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. each day in Dundas, MN, located three miles south of Northfield on Hwy 3 at the showgrounds. Admission is \$7. Ages 12 and under are free.

The Steam and Gas Show is about “preserving a bit of yesterday for tomorrow,” recalling the livelihood of farming traditions over the past decades for nearly a century.

Northfield is known, in part, for its fruitful farming, boasting a slogan of “Cows, Colleges and Contentment.” The area was settled in the mid-1800s for its rich agricultural land and produced some of the finest flour in the nation from grain mills located along the Cannon River in Dundas and Northfield (home to world renowned Malt-O-Meal today). Later the area became a booming milk producer with a large population of Holstein dairy cattle.

Visitors to this fun-filled family event are invited to spend a day in the country to experience farm heritage and witness first hand the progression of advancements made in the industry through various equipment and techniques. Kids can enjoy hands-on demonstrations and a sanctioned tractor pull. Come see an old Rumely steam engine make its rounds as well as some classic John Deeres and other notable makes and models in a tractor parade at noon each day.

“Gone are the days that there was a threshing crew of 5-10 men who came together to put in a hard day’s work,” shared Roger Janak, Vice President for the club. The men were relatives, friends and neighbors that typically helped each other out. There was a sense of community and an appreciation for the roots in farming, and that is what is celebrated still today.

Visitors can take in a wide-array of activities and exhibits at the event including: steam and gas engines, classic cars and trucks, farm machinery, sawmill and plowing and grain threshing demonstrations, blacksmithing, potato digging, Sorghum Harvesting and Processing, flea market with antiques, farmhouse tours, kids tractor pull, horse drawn wagon rides, draft horses and horse machinery, hands-on demonstrations for kids, old-time music, bluegrass and gospel at an outdoor church service on Sunday with a pancake breakfast following. Participants can also register for a raffle — 1st prize is a 1949 restored Case VAC tractor.

While you’re in town, visit one of the many Farmers’ Markets going on during the weekend in Dundas and Northfield.

Staying over? Travel packages are at www.visitingnorthfield.com or call 1-800-658-2548 to plan your day-in-the-country getaway. The Northfield Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) is a division of the Northfield Area Chamber of Commerce. Find the Northfield CVB on Facebook at “Northfield, Minnesota” and follow us on Twitter at “NorthfieldCVB.”