DES MOINES, IA – December 20, 2010 — The Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers (CSIF) announced today the launch of its new website — www.supportfarmers.com . The colorful site is chocked full of new content featuring new agricultural information, program updates, farm families the Coalition has worked with and easy, user-friendly navigation.

"Our new website is specifically designed to help Iowa livestock farmers successfully and responsibly manage changes to their farms," said CSIF Executive Director, Brian Waddingham. "Being a livestock farmer is a difficult business, compounded by the growing mass of rules and regulations. The new web site is a resource tool for those farm families who need more information so they can stay rooted in rural Iowa."

In addition to information about the latest rules and regulations impacting livestock farmers, the new site also features information about siting considerations. "Many farmers we work with are multi-generational; it's important to them to care for the land and waterways so they can pass their farm down to the next generation, that's why careful selection of sites is so important," Waddingham said. The new web site offers considerations that may impact site selection from air modeling and typography to location of public use areas.

The new web site also highlights steps farmers may take with their neighbors when making changes to their farm. "Neighbor relations is an important part of a farmer's business plan and the site provides some initial guidance on how to do that," said Waddingham.

New to the website in the Programs/Activities section is detailed information regarding the Coalition's popular Green Farmstead Partner program and how livestock farmers can participate. The program, a partnership between CSIF, the Iowa Nursery and Landscape Association and Trees Forever, promotes the planning and installation of vegetative environmental buffers (VEBs) around new and existing cattle feedlots, hog barns and poultry buildings. VEBs help reduce objectionable odors and provide a windbreak for livestock and farm families.

"The Coalition was founded with the mission of working with Iowa farm families to advocate and help implement on-farm best-management practices for raising livestock responsibly and successfully," Waddingham said. "This new and improved website is our latest step in fulfilling

that mission."

The non-profit, non-partisan organization provides assistance to farmers at no cost. CSIF does not lobby or develop policy. Farm families wanting a helping hand can also contact the Coalition at 1-800-932-2436.

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