



## NEWS RELEASE – SIKESTON TOURISM & HOSPITALITY LUNCHEON

Sikeston, MO

February 27, 2023

What began as a watermelon farm in 1895 by William Arthur Beggs has grown into a “must visit” fall destination in Scott County with visitors coming from Missouri and all surrounding states. Watermelons are still harvested, but other crops, and attractions have been added over the years.

In 2000, Donnie and Sheila Beggs opened Beggs Family Farm to the public and started with small school groups. They had a little red barn, a few animals, a small pumpkin patch, and high hopes. In the first year 3,500 school children visited the farm. The operation has grown to over 50 attractions, and from 4,350 people the first year to approximately 30,000 visitors per year.

New attractions have been added each year including a corn maze, hayrides, a haunted barn, camel rides, tractor slides and much more. It takes a full day visit to take in all the attractions and activities.

Donnie and Sheila’s three children, Taylor, Shelby, and Bryce are all active in the family business, making them the 5<sup>th</sup> generation of the Beggs family to work on the same farm.

The Beggs family is active in the community and lend their support to local charities; they host Kenny Rogers Children’s Center Day at the farm, among other causes.

Beggs Family Farm is a true agri-tourism asset for Sikeston and Scott County. On Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Sikeston Convention & Visitors Bureau will recognize Beggs Family Farm for their outstanding contribution to tourism at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Tourism & Hospitality Luncheon at Lambert's Café. The guest speaker is Steven Foutes, director of the Missouri Division of Tourism.

The Sikeston Tourism & Hospitality Award of Excellence is presented annually by the Sikeston Convention & Visitors Bureau to a business, organization or individual who has made a significant contribution to the tourism and hospitality industry in the Sikeston area. The Lamberts Family Hospitality Traveling Trophy is also presented at the luncheon to the new award winner from the previous year’s winner, the Sikeston Jaycees.

The Sikeston Tourism & Hospitality Luncheon will be held at 12pm at Lambert’s Café and is open to anyone who would like to attend and help recognize Beggs Family Farm.

For more information contact:

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