



# ADVANTAGES

A newsletter by The RAM Family of Companies

**SUMMER 2015**

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## RAM Buildings, Inc. Wins 2nd Place in 2014 NFBA Building of the Year Award for Suburban Garages

The **National Frame Builders Association Building of the Year Award** in the **Suburban Garages** category went to **Brad Akre, of RAM Buildings, Inc., Winsted, MN.**

**Blue Lagoon, LLC** is the proud owners of this 40' x 40' x 12' w/attic Suburban Storage Post Frame Building located in **Brainerd, MN.** Suburban Storage buildings fill a vast array of needs in the pole building industry. They are both structurally sound and a cost saving choice. This building worked out wonderfully for its owners. They were in need of two things and the idea of solving both needs with one solution was an added benefit. First, they needed a place to store their toys. The 40' x 40' area gives them the necessary space for storage. Secondly, they were in need of additional sleeping space. The attic worked out great for this. They added large windows in the attic area so they would have natural light. It brightens the attic to give it a more comfy feel. They had the doors on the building custom painted. This color combination blends beautifully with the cabin and its natural surroundings.



## Victoria City Hall & Library

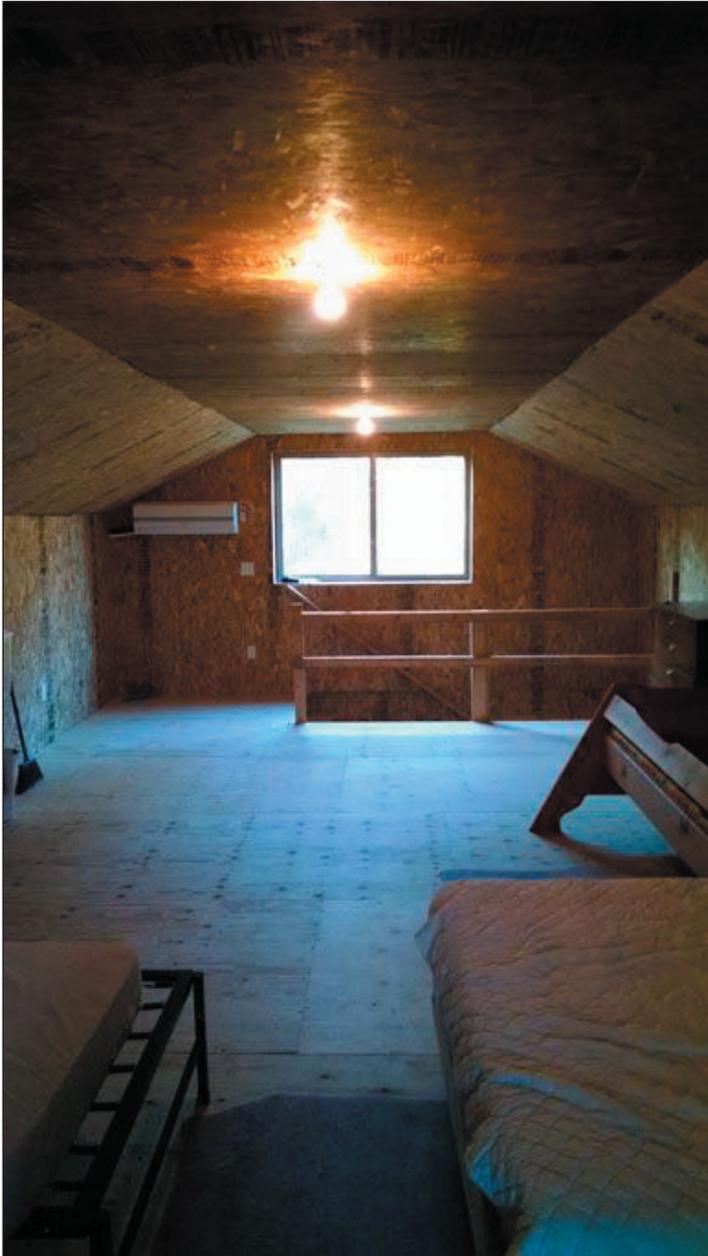
In the past few newsletters, we have updated you on the progress of the Victoria City Hall and Library. We are pleased to announce that the construction was completed earlier this spring. The city and library staff have moved in and are thrilled with their new homes.



In 2014, RAM General Contracting, Inc. was glad to be awarded the building construction phase of this local project. We were in charge of construction of the interior and exterior finishes of the building. This has proven to be an interesting and complex project. RAM General

“The Blue Loon, LLC would like to thank RAM Buildings for the amazing pole barn you created for us. When we first started the project, we could not envision what it was going to look like. Through the entire process your team was second to none. We all remember when your expert came to help us determine final details – color, size, types of doors, etc. – we were all convinced that we should do some things we had seen on the internet with other buildings. When the Territory Manager got to our site he determined a whole other path. His innovative ideas made us feel so good, and now, when we look at it, we can’t imagine it any other way. Fast forward to the three days the team came to build our structure – AMAZING! They worked non-stop with such perfection that we were in awe to see the building form in front of our eyes. The term “whistle while you work” comes to mind because that’s what they did. A team of people working together and “poof”, three days later a perfect building.”

–Paula, Jody, Jennifer, & Michelle – Owners of Blue Lagoon, LLC



For more information go to [www.rambuildings.com](http://www.rambuildings.com), or call Tess (320)485-2844.

Contracting directed the full construction of not only the building itself, but oversaw many diverse elements for this large multi-purpose building, including custom cabinetry for the library fixtures, aluminum exterior sunshades, stone masonry, and even an elevator.

Since the completion of construction, the library has been grabbing headlines from the local news media. The Carver County Library’s space is designed to be beautiful, functional, and offer all the resources of a county library in a relatively small space. They have taken a futuristic approach to the library by accommodating readers of all ages with everything from the newest digital technology to good old fashioned hard covered novels.

RAM General Contracting is very proud to have been an integral part of the construction of this project. We think the building turned out beautiful and will be a great asset to the city of Victoria for many, many years to come! Check out these links to news stories from the Star Tribune and WCCO on the new Victoria library.

<http://www.startribune.com/victoria-s-new-library-grabs-ideas-from-farmhouses-and-the-apple-store/303805581/>

<http://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2015/05/12/carver-co-newest-library-brings-technology-to-the-forefront/>

**‘A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life.’**

–Henry Ward Beecher



## Living the Dream

In Detroit Lakes, MN there is a woman who has a passion for animals, people, and life. If you speak with her for even just a few minutes you will be affected by her enthusiasm. Johanne Pardiac grew up in Quebec, Canada. She was an elementary teacher in Quebec for 20 years.

In 2007 Johanne’s husband, Dr. Francis Cormier, had a job offer in the U.S. He made a deal with Johanne. If she moved with him to the United States, he would buy her a horse. Well, Johanne being the horse lover she is couldn’t pass up this deal. The two of them moved to a log home with 40 acres full of woods, rolling hills, and a small lake.



### About the National Frame Building Association

The National Frame Building Association (NFBA) represents post-frame construction, manufacturing, and marketing companies, as well as code and design professionals and is the only trade association representing the interests of the post-frame construction industry throughout the United States.



**Better Able to Serve You**

This year RAM Excavating Services purchased a Caterpillar D6 Dozer with a Dual GPS Grade Control System. This is up to date, top of the line machinery and equipment. The 3D control system puts the site plan, design surfaces, grades and alignments inside

Six months after they arrived in the United States Johanne decided to start taking riding lessons. Johanne Pardiac started riding horses at the age of forty. Now she competes in events (dressage, stadium jump, & cross country) just for the fun of it. She and Francis started out with no horses and no out buildings on their 40 acre property. They built a barn with 7 stalls for their own three horses. People started to approach them asking if they would board their horses. From there everything grew and spiraled. Today they own 4 horses, board 9, and have the facilities for 19 horses. They own an indoor heated riding arena which is great for riding, clinics, and she rents out the entire arena for events.



RAM Buildings, Inc. just recently completed JF Stables indoor riding arena and stall barn. The 80' x 210' x 16' indoor riding arena is a good size for an event arena. It is the recommended length for riding lessons, shows, and riding in larger groups. The greatest benefit of this arena is to the entire local equestrian community. There are no public arenas in the area but there are a lot of horses. So in the past everyone has had to drive about 45 minutes for an event. Johanne is so excited to share her buildings and her grounds with others. It makes her happy to see horse and rider enjoying the arena.

The building has also provided an additional 12 stalls for boarders at JF Stables. From what I hear this is the place to board. Some customers have joked, "When I die I would like to come back as a horse so Johanne will take care of me."



This woman is amazing. Before she started boarding horses, she was on the Humane Society board for six years. She and Frank have

the cab. With the Dual GPS Grade Control System we can grade to 3 hundredths of a foot. Thanks to the technology we are able to complete our jobs more efficiently.



RAM Excavating does Residential and Commercial site work. The Dual GPS Grade Control system is beneficial to complex site design preps, building pads, roads and highways. It is used in rough and fine grading.

We are certain this investment will benefit our clients as well as RAM. We can have projects finished in less time. This keeps our customers on or ahead of schedule in the construction process. More accurate and consistent finished product equals less chance of error on the job site. Here at RAM we are constantly looking for ways to better achieve the goals of our customers. Overall this is a win-win as we are able to provide you with better, faster, more accurate service.



## Foothold in Flying Cloud

Flying Cloud Airport (KFCM) in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, has recently completed a series of airport improvements that include lengthening of runways and site development for the construction of over 40 hangars.

brought home eight dogs over the years. They take the older dogs that haven't been adopted and give them a home on the farm. Since Johanne no longer has the time to be on the board at the Humane Society, JF Stables does an annual fundraiser. It is held the last Sunday before Christmas. Everyone is asked to bring something for the shelter or a donation of \$10. They decorate everything beautifully for the holiday. There are sleigh rides through the woods and around the lake. Pony rides and a great sliding hill for the children. They build a crackling bon fire to warm up or make a s'more. They also serve hot chocolate, apple cider, and cookies. What a wonderful place to enjoy the Christmas season with your family – a tranquil piece of paradise.



*"Building with RAM was the best decision we have ever made. Brad is a professional. He listened to all our ideas and we made many changes throughout the building process so that our building was exactly what we needed. At some time Brad became more than just a Territory Manager but a friend. The carpentry crew was neat, enjoyable, and worked very hard. We were impressed by how timely RAM was in constructing our arena/barn. Our building is precisely what we wanted and it is a beautiful, beautiful building. If we had it to do all over again, we would build with RAM Buildings."*

Dr. Francis Cormier & Johanne Pardiac ~ Detroit Lakes, MN

With the addition of the arena and stalls they are looking to take on more boarders. If you are interested in learning more about JF Stables and their services you can find JF Stables on facebook or call Johanne at (320)849-9545.

*"When I think of JF Stables, it makes me smile. Not only are the grounds and buildings beautifully cared for and everything is thing kept clean, but it is charming in appearance as well, with a storybook stable appeal. We have boarded our daughter's horse there for four years now and could not have enjoyed this experience more. She is so good to the horses and sets up all necessary appointments to make sure they are taken care. Their new indoor riding area is*



Construction on new hangars has already begun with the first wave including a structure supplied by RAM Buildings. It measures 80' x 80' x 23'. Notable attributes include numerous windows measuring 5' x 2' that are mounted high on the wall allowing natural light to permeate throughout the hangar. In addition, the hangar was designed to tackle the extreme colds that winters in Minnesota are known to offer. Walls feature R-25 batt insulation and the ceiling features R-40 blown insulation. The entire building is wrapped in Tyvek to reduce air infiltration. Finally, the hangar sports a single-panel hydraulic door measuring 70' x 22'. The door is also insulated.

Currently, 27 lots are available with the remaining sites being available for construction once the control tower is relocated as line of site with the runway would be obstructed.



### RAM offers SIPs Panels to customers!

RAM Buildings, Inc. has made the decision to become a dealer for EPS. The dealership enables us to offer our customers additional product lines.

The SIPs panels or structural insulated panels are built with high performance rigid foam insulation and are chemically bonded to OSB or plywood. The typical wall panels are 6" or 8" in width and has an insulating value of R-26 or R-33. The R-value can be adjusted based upon the needs of the customer. The panels can be made any size up to 8' wide by 24' tall, this allows for great flexibility in building design.

These SIPs panels limit air filtration up to 15 times better than your standard stick frame building. They are good to use in situations where you need a climate controlled environment such as a post frame residential home, commercial building, or farm shop.

They are very durable, energy efficient, and save money during

gorgeous and spacious with a viewing room up above. Our daughter has enjoyed this summer more than ever with the ability to ride indoors when it is hot out. She likes to ride English, so there is plenty of room to practice jumping and other things, even if there is more than one rider in there at a time.

Johanne, herself adds so much to the experience. We love her cheery disposition. She has a great sense of humor and is a joy to know. She is professional, friendly, and wonderful to have in our family's life. When looking for a boarder, it was important for us to trust them. We have complete confidence in boarding with Johanne at JF Stables."

Kathy Nelson boards Ty at JF Stables



### RAM is Hiring! Join our Team!

If you know of anyone who may be looking for employment please send them our way.

#### Here are the positions currently open:



[Experienced Carpenter](#)

[Diesel Mechanic/Shop Manager](#)

[Excavation Truck Driver](#)

#### We are currently taking applications:



Entry Level Carpenter

Draftsperson

Territory Manager



Project Manager/Site Superintendent – Commercial Construction

construction. The **Solid Core Panels** are available in a variety of internal finishes from aluminum, glass board, sheetrock, or steel. Like everything else RAM offers, personalization of your building is a must!

Email us at <http://rambuildings.com/contact-us> or pick up the phone and call RAM today to find out if a SIPs panel building is for you! We would happy to assist you. 800-710-4726



### Eagle Scout Award



Boy Scouts of America is one of the nation's largest youth based organizations. The program provides a platform to build character, develop personal fitness, and teaches the responsibilities of citizenship. BSA believes, and with over a century of experience knows that working with youth is the key to our future. They are then building a more productive, conscientious, and responsible society. Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouting program.

Liam Fury is a member of Boy Scout Troop 399 in Winsted, MN. On March 6, 2015 his Eagle Scout Charge was delivered by RAM's very own, Craig Jackson.



Liam first began his journey in the Boy Scouts with his parents'



Heavy Equipment Operator

For full details on all jobs please visit:  
<http://rambuildings.com/employment-wram>



### Customer Referral Program



Triple Your RAM Referral Dollars \$  
Triple Your RAM Referral Dollars \$

We want to give back to you. Let **RAM Buildings, Inc** give you **\$100 - NO! - \$300** per referral for a **limited time!** Tell your family! Tell your friends!



You love money! We love referrals!  
From July 15th, 2015 - August 15th, 2015 receive  
**TRIPLE** your money for referrals (\$300 instead of \$100)  
from RAM Buildings, Inc.  
**HURRY!** Refer us today!

encouragement. When he was about 13 years old he realized the importance and impact of Scouting. He concluded that being part of the Scouts turns boys into men.

Liam's service project he completed to attain the rank of Eagle Scout involved building 4 benches for the Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted High School and Middle School. RAM was happy to donate materials and help a fine young man like him.

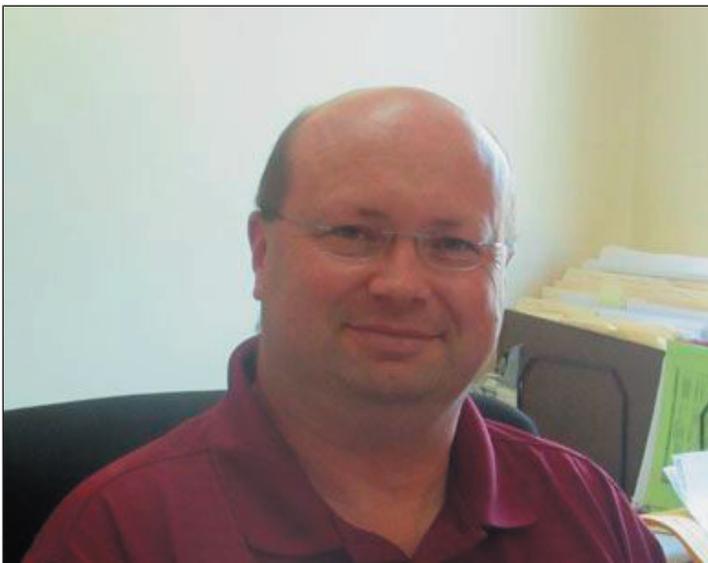


Liam plays an active role in his church, school, and community. He is 2015 graduate of HLWW High School and involved in many extracurricular activities; football, track, FFA, and the trap shooting team. He feels that his opportunities in leadership roles have been the most beneficial experiences in his decade within the Boy Scouts. He also concludes he would not be where he is today without the "Scouts".

Congratulations Liam!



**Meet Craig Jackson**



\*\*Each RAM corporation has an individual referral program.  
Call 800-710-4726 for more details.



## Storm Weather Approaching

If you live in the Midwest you have come accustomed to the array of weather we encounter. Our warm weather is much anticipated and warmly welcomed by most of us after our cold winters. The downfall of summer is that we do have to deal with inclement weather. It can come in the form of severe thunderstorms with hail, high winds and/or flooding.



BEFORE



AFTER

Craig has been a member of the RAM team for 12 years. He is the General Manager of RAM Buildings & RAM Excavating. He is an all around team player and is willing to help anyone in need. He is a manager that leads by example. He has an upbeat, we can do it attitude. He is always working hard to complete the current task at hand. He is extraordinarily smart! RAM, as a whole, is lucky to have him.

This guy has had a lot of preparation for his position here at RAM. He has a Bachelor of Science in Ag Engineering from Virginia Tech. He is proud of his alma mater. You will see his banner displayed on his office wall. He also attended Indiana Wesleyan University. There he earned his MBA in Business Administration. Following his schooling, he has worked in the post frame industry since 1988.

CJ has a lovely wife, Tracy. They have two sons, Drew (15) and Zach (12). The entire family is actively involved in the community. Craig coaches baseball and basketball. He is a leader at church, in Boy Scouts, and the Lester Prairie Booster Club. He loves golf and spending his down time with his family.

*“The thing that sets us apart from other construction companies is the desire to do things the right way. It shows in the quality of projects we produce & the people who work here. “*

## Meet Adam Koch



For 12 years Adam has been a carpenter with RAM. He started working in construction with his dad. He was only nine or ten years old at the time. Adam's dad taught him the trade. Nowadays it is becoming almost unheard of for a carpenter to pass his trade on to the next generation. He should be respected for his skill and hard work. With the amount of experience Adam has, he can perform every task necessary with ease when putting up a building. On top of that he has the frame of mind that everyone should work together to get the job done. We need more guys like him!

Adam has been married to his wife, Beth, for 6 years. Together the two of them have a couple of youngsters! Lily is 4 years old and Tanner is a year old. I imagine they keep both mom & dad busy.

If you fall victim to the inclement weather and have a building in need, we will be there to help. RAM has 24/7 Emergency Response Services with a fast reaction time. We realize the importance of preventing further loss. We will tarp roofs and board-up your building where necessary to maintain the integrity of your existing building. We have RAM Excavating for demolition, debris removal, and site preparation. RAM can work with your insurance company to ease the rebuild process for you. A Territory Manager will be happy to sit down and listen to your needs as we work through this process together. We understand what a stressful time this is for you. We want to do what we can to help you through this unfortunate event. You can count on us.

**RAM's Emergency Phone #'s:** (800)710-4726

After Hours: (320)894-8166

Services Offered:

- Repair/Rebuild Wood or Steel Frame Building
- Repair/Replace Structural or Non-Structural Framing
- New Construction
- Remodel Interior/Exterior
- Fence Repair/Replacement
- Repair/Replace Doors, Windows, Siding, & Roofing

Be the next to *Experience* the **RAM** Advantage!



## Lester Prairie Kindergartners visit RAM

Every year since 2007 RAM has been visited by the Kindergarten class of Lester Prairie Elementary. It seems that every year is extra special as some of the students know and/or are related to some of the employees.



On top of spending time with his family, he has fun pitching for the Howard Lake Orphans. He also plays in the men's basketball league. And like many of our employees, Adam enjoys hunting and fishing in his spare time.

*"I like that RAM is a smaller company and you get to know just about everyone who works here."*

## Meet Troy Poirier



Troy has been a Territory Manager for RAM just about a year now. As a Territory Manager he not only sells the buildings but has to manage and coordinate his projects. He has a positive attitude that is contagious. Every time you pass by his office he is diligently at work. He is a great addition to our team!

Troy has a long work history in the building industry. He worked for more than 20 years as an adjuster for a property insurance company. He was a General Contractor for several years specializing in large loss restoration, such as fire and water damage. He also built post frame buildings prior to coming to RAM. His work history covers industrial, commercial, and residential buildings. He has worked locally, as well as in ND & SD. He brought with him a lot of on the job knowledge you won't attain anywhere else.

He has been happily married to his wife, Carrie, for 10 years. He has two daughters, Lauren (17) and Alexa (6). The family has a dog named Jessie. Jessie is not only a great companion but also is a bird dog. One of Troy's favorite pastimes is spending time with all his girls. His face lights up when he talks about them. He loves the outdoors. He participates in fishing, hunting, sports, and activities in which he can spend his time outside.

*"I am very happy with the relationships that I have developed in a relatively short period of time. The level of teamwork here is second to none! Quality & coordination at RAM is very impressive!"*

They start off their tour of the shop with a presentation that helps them decipher what items are made of wood. Craig Jackson does this activity with them. He makes it fun and interesting, at the same time helping them to learn. To top it off, and make them feel like one of the crew, they receive a RAM toy hard hat and a mini flash light.



Then come many of the kids favorite part of the tour; they get to take turns sitting in a dozer, a forklift, and a semi. While in the semi, they get to blow the horn. And believe me; some of them really enjoy blowing the horn. This year I think it was the coldest it's been for their visit. We didn't let the weather hinder our fun! Even though it was cold outside, the kindergartners always warm our hearts.



It is a short tour but this is a good thing as kindergartners learn best on the move. We look forward to their visits to come.

Here are just a few of our thank you's!



## Safety First

During June, the entire RAM General Contracting staff spent a full day training to be certified in CPR, First Aid and AED use.



Our day was spent in an informative, hands-on seminar taught by a registered nurse. During the first part of the course, we learned how to perform CPR, the proper use an AED, and how to help choking victims for both adults and children. The second half of the day, we were taught many different first aid basics for a variety of conditions we could potentially face, not only in the office, but on



jobsites. Our GC team learned techniques and procedures for medical injury and environmental emergencies.

We used workbooks and watched videos along with hands-on practice to hone our CPR/AED and first aid skills throughout the entire day. In the photo, you can see Michelle practicing the proper technique for splinting and making a sling for John's "injured arm". Who doesn't remember Resusci Annie from their high school days? She was also at RAM helping our staff learn how to properly perform CPR!

In order to receive our certification cards, we had to correctly demonstrate, in front of our instructor and fellow GC staff, all the skills we had learned during the different sessions. I am proud to say we all passed with flying colors!

The RAM Family of Companies takes safety and safety training very seriously. Our staff and crew members spend many hours a year learning how to be safe on the job. But unfortunately, accidents do happen. So if an emergency does occur, our GC staff is certified and ready to step in and help!

#### Fun Fact:

What does the disco band, the Bee Gees, have to do with CPR?

The beat of the Bee Gee's disco hit "Staying Alive" is the optimum rhythm for CPR's recommended 100 chest compressions per minute.



### Community Participation

Here at RAM we feel it is important to give back to the community. We are genuine in our support for these events.



### 2015 MN Horse Expo

We are happy to say the MN Horse Expo was a huge success! We saw many old friends and made many new! We did something new this year to make our booth more fun! Quite a few of you were intrigued by our nail puzzle. As always, we had our fun loving RAM staff to entertain and impress you.



To all of you who stopped in to say "hi", it was great to see you! Thanks from all of us here at RAM! We look forward to seeing you again, at next year's show or hopefully sooner.



Thank you readers!  
We are grateful to all of you for taking time from your busy day to read our newsletter.  
From all of us here at RAM, thank you!

## **Sponsorships since January 2015**

Allina Health Hospice – Blizzard Blast

Cowgirl Tuff Arena Events

Carver County Dairy Day Dinner

Dairy Princess Sponsor

Herald Journal Sports Booster

Holy Trinity Parish & School -Winstock

Holy Trinity Parish & School - Spring Fling Dinner Auction

Howard Lake/Waverly/Winsted FFA

Howard Lake Memorial Park – Orphans Baseball

Lester Prairie Education Foundation (Bulldog Bash)

Lester Prairie/Holy Trinity Boys and Girls Sports

Mapleton Town & Country Days – Tractor Pull

McLeod County Corn & Soybean Growers Association

MN Jr. High & High School Rodeo

National Child Safety Council

Pheasants Forever – Youth Drawing Sponsor

Spring Banquet & Dairy Princess Coronation

Starkey Hearing Foundation – So the World May Hear

Valley Evangelical Free Church – Memorial Motorcycle Ride Jon Just

Winsted Lake Watershed

Winsted Youth Baseball/Softball

Wright County Agricultural Society

Wright County Fair – Bull Riding Competition