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Salt Lake City Engineering Firm will execute Design and Construction for "Next Generation" Environmental Technology

Kansas City, Mo., - Kansas City based Premium Standard Farms, the nation's second largest hog producer, today announced it will begin implementing "Next Generation" environmental systems on selected farms. The commitment to install the technology is part of a new Consent Decree with the State of Missouri. Roberts & Schaefer Company of Salt Lake City, Utah will provide Engineering and Construction for implementing the next generation environmental technology at the Valley View farm, owned by Premium Standard Farms®, in Sullivan County Missouri.

The Crystal Peak fertilizer plant will convert hog manure into a high value commercial fertilizer using a process developed and patented by Premium Standard Farms and its technology partners and will eliminate the use of traditional anaerobic lagoons for manure treatment and storage. "This process is truly unique," said Dave Townsend, vice president of environmental affairs for Premium Standard Farms. "It captures the nutrients in swine waste in a process that is commercially viable. In addition the system generates the energy needed to dry the fertilizer and it captures dust and gas emissions and recycles them back into the fertilizer. The Crystal Peak plant truly is taking lemons and making lemonade." When fully operational, the plant will produce eight thousand tons of fertilizer per year and employ 11 people full time.

The process of developing the Crystal Peak plant began following a 1999 Consent Decree between the company and the State of Missouri. That agreement called for the company to develop "Next Generation" technology with the assistance of a State appointed panel of experts and to invest \$25 million in the process. To date, the company has invested more than \$12 million in research, development and implementation and the Crystal Peak plant will cost an additional \$9 million. In the Consent Decree signed today, both the State and the company recognized achieving the best environmental performance possible will require both more time and more money.

"We have made tremendous progress to date," Townsend said. "However, it takes substantial time and money to develop and implement systems that are "Next Generation" technology.

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