

## Watertown Charter Township

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### Felzke Farms Presented With 2012 Food Systems Award

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**May 10, 2012** – Felzke Farms of Watertown Township was presented with the 2012 Food Systems Award at a ceremony to honor local business leaders. The awards ceremony was presented by Firstbank of DeWitt.

The awards program was created to recognize local entrepreneurs and business leaders in Watertown Township, DeWitt Township, the City of DeWitt, and Bath Township. The four municipalities received a *Creating Entrepreneurial Communities* grant from Michigan State University in 2010 to expand and support entrepreneurial activities in southern Clinton County.



L to R - Township Manager Jennifer Tubbs, Supervisor Deborah Adams, Sandra Felzke of Felzke Farms, and Trustee George Weitzel.

The second annual awards ceremony honored the Felzke family for their contributions to the local food economy. Since 1978, Felzke Farms has been producing strawberries at their farm on Herbison Road. They have since grown to be the largest producer of strawberries in the mid-Michigan area. While they might be best known for their strawberries, the farm also produces maple syrup, blueberries, raspberries, peaches, asparagus, sweet corn, tomatoes and cucumbers. Their greenhouse is currently open and filled with beautiful annuals and hanging baskets. Felzke Farms recently expanded their farm market building to accommodate their increasing selection of locally grown fruits and vegetables. The Felzke family's lifelong commitment to agriculture in our community and to providing quality fresh food is evident.

The *Creating Entrepreneurial Communities* "Where Development Begins" or "WDB" team has also been seeking to help bolster local agricultural entrepreneurs by providing them with technical assistance, networking and business resources to assist them in creating a strong local food system. "WDB" also represents the communities of Watertown Township, DeWitt and Bath.

The awards ceremony also honored four additional local businesses with awards: the *Greater Lansing Potter's Guild* in Bath Township received the Entrepreneurial Spirit Award for their contributions to arts in the area; *Granger*, with locations in both DeWitt and Watertown Townships, received the Contributing to the Community Award for their many contributions to local community events; *Capital Wire and Steel* in the City of DeWitt received the Benefitting the Community Award for locating their national headquarters in their newly-renovated building on the Looking Glass River in the heart of downtown DeWitt; and *BS&A Software* in Bath Township was honored with the Community Excellence Award for being a leading example of successful entrepreneurialism.

