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Retired fruit grower Kenneth E. Bull makes lead gift to Horticultural Research Foundation's "Keep Our Farmers Farming Campaign"

A newly established Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Foundation endowment fund got a jump-start today with the announcement of a \$26,000 gift. Kenneth E. Bull, of Bailey Michigan, established two funds to help support programs at the Horticultural Research Station and to provide annual scholarship money for area students that wish to attend Michigan State University to study horticulture. The foundation board announced the gift will be used as a challenge grant to raise \$200,000 in gifts by the end of 2008.

Rick Sayler, president of the board for the foundation, felt that Kenneth Bull's leadership gift would help shift the campaign into full gear. "Mr. Bull continues his lifetime commitment to the fruit industry. Through his pioneering gift, he will be providing an endowment for a brighter future for area growers. The establishment of permanent funds that benefit the research station and area students is a wonderful way to insure that his generosity and leadership will leave an everlasting legacy."

Kenneth Bull has been active in Michigan's fruit industry for over eight decades. He is now retired, but in the past raised apples, cherries, peaches, plums and pears on 500 acres in Casnovia Township. He has served as a Director of Michigan Farm Bureau, was a member of the Michigan Cherry Committee, MACMA Director and more recently was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the Michigan Horticultural Society. He has also been recognized by Michigan State University with the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award for his life long dedication to the horticulture industry.

Mr. Bull believes that state and federal agencies will continue to experience budgetary constraints, and challenges commodity groups and area farmers to show leadership in developing the necessary funding to continue regional horticultural research. Research is instrumental in keeping local growers competitive in a global marketplace. Mr. Bull also acknowledges the role of his MSU education in his success and wants to provide assistance to deserving northwest Michigan students for them to fulfill their educational goals.

The Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization whose purpose is to support cutting-edge research on cherries and other fruits and to disseminate state of the art information to the Michigan fruit industry and the public.

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