Kremer Award Recognizes Groundwater Advocacy
Nebraska Ag Producer Roric Paulman is the Kremer 2019 Honoree
by Jennifer Wemhoff, Groundwater Foundation

Roric Paulman, a pioneering Nebraska ag producer whose conservation and stewardship practices have been recognized throughout the state, has been selected to receive the 2019 Maurice Kremer Groundwater Achievement Award from the Groundwater Foundation. Paulman will be presented with the award at the Maurice Kremer Memorial Lecture on March 4, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. in the Hardin Hall Auditorium on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln East Campus (33rd and Holdrege Streets, Lincoln). Light refreshments will be served at 3:00 p.m.

The Kremer Award is presented annually by the Groundwater Foundation to an outstanding Nebraskan who has made a substantive contribution to the conservation and protection of Nebraska's groundwater.

"Roric's dedication to protecting and conserving groundwater was made apparent to me within the first two minutes of hearing him speak," said the Groundwater Foundation's Jane Griffin. "More importantly, he doesn't just talk about water conservation, he does it and he motivates others to do better too. On behalf of all of us at the Groundwater Foundation, it's an honor to recognize Roric with the Kremer Award."

Roric Paulman is a native of Sutherland, Nebraska. He graduated from Hershey High School and went on to attend Kearney State College. In 1985, he became the owner and manager of Paulman Farms outside Sutherland, overseeing an 8,500 acre rainfed and irrigated agricultural operation growing a variety of field crops, including corn, soybeans, dry edible beans, hard red winter wheat, grain sorghum, confection/oil sunflowers, chia, sugar beets, and more.

"Roric has a rich family history of concern about groundwater," said Jim Goeke, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Professor Emeritus and 2001 Kremer honoree. Goeke explains that Paulman followed in the footsteps of his grandfather, serving on the Twin Platte Natural Resources District (NRD) Board from 1997-2000 and helping guide the district's groundwater policies. "Roric irrigates 8,000 acres across three NRDs using cutting-edge technology and equipment. Raising a number of crops, Roric strives to use groundwater as most efficiently as possible to guarantee profits and a sustainable supply of groundwater," Goeke said.

Paulman was one of the founders of Nebraska Water Balance Alliance, which works to promote the most efficient use of groundwater in Nebraska, and currently serves as its President. He also serves on the West Central Water Coalition, the University of Nebraska West Central Research and Extension Advisory Board, Ag Builders of Nebraska Board, UNL Presidents Advisory Council, Daugherty Water for Food International Advisory Board, is a member of numerous agriculture associations, and a past member on local, state, and national boards and councils.

He and his wife, Deb, have four children and six grandchildren.

The Kremer Award is chosen each year by a selection committee appointed by the Groundwater Foundation's Board of Directors. It is named for Senator Maurice Kremer, who spent 20 years in the Nebraska Legislature where he was best known for his contributions toward protecting the state's water resources, earning him the nickname "Mr. Water."

"Roric Paulman is a leader in use of the latest technology to optimize the crop yield/water use balance," selection committee member Don Kraus said.

Past Kremer Award Winners
2018: DUANE EVERSOLL
2017: JACK DANIEL
2016: SENATOR TOM CARLSON
2015: SUSAN SEACREST
2014: ROBERT KUZELKA
2013: RON BISHOP
2012: DAYLE WILLIAMSON
2011: LEE ORTON
2010: J. MICHAEL JESS
2009: VANCE ANDERSON
2008: ANN BLEED
2007: JIM COOK
2006: SENATOR ED SCHROCK
2005: ROGER PATTERSON
2004: DARRELL WATTS
2003: CHRIS BEUTLER
2002: EUGENE HAARBERG
2001: JIM GOEKE
2000: WAYNE MADSSEN
1999: RICHARD HARNISBERGER
1998: LES SHEFIELD
1997: ROBERT B. DAUGHERTY
1996: FRANK A. SMITH
1995: FRED SALMON AND FAMILY
1994: VIRGINIA SMITH
1993: ROBERT B. CROSBY
1992: TED FILUPI
1991: RALPH MARLETTE
1990: WARREN FAIRCHILD
1989: VAL KUSKA
1988: EUGENE REED
1987: MAURICE KREMER
1986: VINCENT DREESZEN