**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Steve Breher receives Wisconsin Custom Operators’ Employee of the Year Award**

DEFOREST, Wis. (March 12, 2018) – The Wisconsin Custom Operators (WCO) recently honored an Elkhart Lake man for his hard work and dedication to a custom farming business.

WCO’s 2018 Employee of the Year award was given to Steve Breher, an employee of Kraus Custom Forage Harvesting, on Feb. 21 during the organization’s annual meeting at the Forage Symposium at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells, Wis.

Breher has worked for Kraus Custom Forage Harvesting for 15 years, engaged in all aspects of harvesting, packing bunkers, merging hay, hauling silage and manure, maintaining and repairing equipment, and washing equipment during the winter.

“Steve has always been a very devoted employee, never asking for a day off during the busy harvest season,” said Julie Kraus, who nominated Breher. “He is always willing to put in the extra hours needed to finish the customers harvesting needs no matter what day of the week it is.”

WCO created the Employee of the Year award to honor an exemplary employee who demonstrates excellence in the areas of safety, efficiency, customer service, environmental stewardship and profitability of a custom farming or custom harvest operation.

“Many of our members have had the same crew for several years. These employees are highly skilled and keep our businesses going during the height of the season,” said Bryce O’Leary, WCO president, who presented the award. “Their commitment to safety, the environment and our clients is outstanding – and this award is our opportunity to honor them.”

In addition to being a dependable and knowledgeable team member, Bill and Julie Kraus credit Breher’s mellow demeanor and positive attitude as contributing factors to his outstanding safety record, always maintaining a level-head and awareness of his surroundings.

“He has great customer relationships, working hand in hand with them to get the job done efficiently and on time,” said Bill Kraus during the award presentation.

Applications are collected for WCO’s employee of the year in the fall and the winner is announced at the group’s annual meeting in February. Members are encouraged to nominate those employees who set a positive example for their entire crew.

**About the Wisconsin Custom Operators, Inc.:** WCO is an organization comprised of individuals throughout the state who derive their income in whole or part from providing custom farming services. To learn more about the Wisconsin Custom Operators, Inc. including membership and event registration, go to [wiscustomoperators.org](http://www.wiscustomoperators.org) or email [info@wiscustomoperators.org](mailto:info@wiscustomoperators.org)

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**Editor’s Note: [Photo]** Click on the links for full resolutions images. .eps logos and alternative photo delivery available by request

[WCO’s 2018 Employee of the Year award](http://wiscustomoperators.org/library/news_and_events/documents/2018-02-2109.30.18.jpg) was given to Steve Breher, an employee of Kraus Custom Forage Harvesting, on Feb. 21 during the organization’s annual meeting at the Forage Symposium at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells, Wis.

[Jpeg WCO logo](http://wiscustomoperators.org/library/news_and_events/documents/WCOinc_cmyk1.jpg)