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The Riordan Family: First Recipient of Help Grow Your Soup Barn Preservation By Campbell Soup Company and National FFA Organization BACKGROUND

As part of the Help Grow Your Soup campaign, Campbell Soup Company and the National FFA Organization are teaming up to support future of American farming by preserving its iconic symbol – red barns. Across America, they are reviving several historic barns from Reddick, Ill. to Molalla, Ore. Campbell's has been supporting farmers for generations and wants to educate and engage America's youth to keep American agriculture vibrant. The preservation effort is one way it is bringing that commitment to life.

The first barn chosen for preservation is on a Centennial farm in Reddick, Ill., owned by the Riordan family. Working the land for generations and participating as members of FFA throughout the years, the Riordan family is a perfect fit for the Help Grow Your Soup campaign.

The Riordan family has been farming in Reddick, Ill. for more than 140 years. Purchased in 1865, seven generations of its family members have lived and worked on the farm, producing a variety of vegetables including corn, beans and alfalfa. The original owner, Michael Riordan, purchased 160 acres in the Essex Township and now his great, great, granddaughter, Diane Wadley, and her husband live on the farm and work with other family members to maintain the operation. While not a full time job, the family works together to grow crops and carry on the family farming tradition.

Actively helping out on the farm is Diane's niece and nephew, Chelsi and Sean Riordan. Learning skills from their relatives and serving as members of the local FFA chapter, they aspire to be part of the next generation of Riordan farmers. Since early childhood, they have driven tractors, entered cattle into state and national competitions and traveled across the country with the FFA. Chelsi hopes to pass their legacy onto future generations beyond their own family by pursuing an advanced degree in agricultural education.

During her family's barn preservation, 17-year-old Chelsi stated, "The farm plays a really important part in our family and we're just excited to have Campbell's out here to help us preserve something that means so much to our family."

The Riordan barn preservation was completed by Campbell's employees and more than 60 FFA alumni and members, who were primarily high school students from the region. Each of the barn preservations that Campbell and FFA completes in the coming months will enable farming families to update and revive their planting and harvesting processes, while also providing an educational opportunity for FFA members.