**Harland Schraufnagel, President**

**Abbyland Foods, Inc.**

**Abbotsford, WI**

Harland Schraufnagel is an outstanding Wisconsin meat industry entrepreneur. Since founding Abbyland Foods in 1977, he has personally led its development and growth into one of Wisconsin’s largest privately owned successful and respected meat processing companies in the state.

Harland Schraufnagel has dedicated his entire career to the meat industry and as he expanded his business, he was committed to the growth of Abbotsford and Curtiss in central Wisconsin. He was born in Ashland, WI and grew up in Abbotsford. He graduated from Abbotsford High School and advanced his education by receiving a degree in agribusiness from North Central College in Wausau. He then enlisted in the U.S. Army. There he attended veterinary school in Chicago and was a meat inspector for the U. S. Army during his tour of duty. Upon his discharge in 1966, he entered into the private companies’ meat industry by working in quality control with Wilson Company Cedar Rapids, IA, and as beef cutting supervisor with Swift & Co. Phoenix, AZ, After that he went back to quality control by working for T.A. Fields in Sydney, Australia to coordinate USDA regulations for them to export their production to the United States. He returned to Wisconsin in 1972 and continued his career in the beef industry by working as supervisor of operations and helped Packerland Packing Co. and Landy Packing Co., in Chippewa Falls, WI to improve their production teams’ efficiencies. He worked on designing and building the plant to start Abbyland Foods in October, 1977 in Abbotsford after work and weekends.

Abbyland Foods was started by design to be a beef slaughter plant to include custom meat processing for the local farmers to be able to have there animals slaughtered for the own use and a small retail outlet for the general public to buy fresh meat and sausage. Beef slaughter and sales along with sausage manufacturing and sales grew faster than the custom slaughter and retail. The sales program at Abbyland Foods shifted from a retail store to selling sausage to area stores and selling sausage materials to smaller sausage manufacturing companies. By the end of 1979, the company had 12 employees and started to expand delivery service of products across Wisconsin and into Minnesota. Abbyland Foods grew rapidly with major facility construction and expansions in 1981, 1984, 1988, and 1989. Currently, the company has more than 1000 employees.

In order to provide more raw materials for its own sausage manufacturing needs, which pork was becoming a major factor for making fresh sausage items, and expanding sales for the needs of the sausage manufacturing customers in the area, Abbyland Foods started a new company in 1988. Abbyland Pork Pack, Inc. was built in Curtiss, WI. In 1995 and 1999 the hot boning pork operation made expansions to include a production line to make sausage chubs right from the hot bone production line. A smoke house room was also constructed to cook ears for pet treats which started the “Dem Bones label of products. Selling the all natural pet treat for dogs was expanded in 1997 for Abbyland Foods and included the cooking beef bones to the line by building a plant to house the ovens for production.

In 1989 a plant was built to produce Hot Wraps. This line of sausage sandwiches is designed for food service and retail distribution and was to expand the frozen convenience foods’ side of the sausage manufacturing.

In 1990, Abbyland Trucking, Inc. was started to deliver products made from both plants throughout the tri-state area and to deliver to numerous customers on the east coast. A fleet of trucks was started with Abbyland Trucking, Inc. This company was expanded to include maintenance for the fleet plus to offer maintenance service to other transportation companies along with providing delivery service for other local businesses.

As Abbyland companies expanded, manufacture of fresh and precooked sausage products for other companies under their label has become a major part of business. Private label production has increased sausage production areas of fresh sausage, smoked sausage and cooking lines. Renovations on ovens and manufacturing lines have been continuously upgraded to the latest of technology to best serve customer needs. Today, Abbyland has capacity for up to 1.7 million pounds per week of cooked products through its continuous ovens, 2 million pounds per week in its fresh and smoked sausage kitchens and 1.5 million pounds per week of pork chubs and slicing logs for patties.

Curtiss Travel Center was under construction in 2002. Construction started with The El Norteno Restaurant. This restaurant and bar is a full banquet facility for weddings and parties plus it has a full court gymnasium for basketball, volleyball and soccer. The next construction was the Abbyland Truck Stop. This truck stop is a 24/7 store with a deli, family restaurant and complete facility for professional truck drivers. Abbyland Trucking has been relocated from Abbotsford to Curtiss and includes Abbyland Service Plaza. The facility has available a truck wash and a repair department for any trucking company’s needs for repairs. The latest expansion for Abbyland Foods has been the building of the Abbyland Distribution Center in the Curtiss Travel Center complex. This distribution center will be able to help Abbyland Trucking to accumulate customer’s products and haul more LTL orders for companies in the area. It will also serve as a major center to load production as made at Abbyland Foods and Abbyland Pork Pack facilities and combine all orders LTL orders from Abbyland Foods and Abbyand Pork Pack with the outside orders for fill loads.

Harland Schraufnagel’s many accomplishments in starting and nurturing of Abbyland Foods from as small meat packer serving the Abbotsford area into a highly successful integrated processing and packaged meat company is very commendable. Abbyland Foods markets products nationwide under its own label and co-manufactures a wide variety of sausages and cooked meat products for many major food companies in the United States. He has immersed himself totally into the growth and development of Abbyland since its founding. His meticulous attention to manufacturing high quality products and outstanding customer service has been the hallmark of his success. Abbyland Foods and Abbyland Pork Pack are major employers in the Abbotsford and Curtiss area and continue to be an important contributor to the communities’ wellbeing. The Wisconsin Meat Industry Hall of Fame is proud to induct Harland Schraufnagel into its membership.