

**PRESS RELEASE
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Wampler's Farm Sausage Company receives Green Leader Award from East Tennessee Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council

Knoxville, TN – Ted Wampler, Jr., President and COO of Wampler's Farm Sausage Company, received the Green Leader Award at the East Tennessee Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council's Green Light Awards Ceremony on January 30, 2014. The Green Leader Award honors an individual who has made significant contributions toward extending the benefits of green building to a diverse community.

At the Green Light Awards the East Tennessee Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC-ET) brought together building professionals and community members to celebrate outstanding achievements, leaders and volunteers who have advanced sustainability in the East Tennessee region.

"I could not think of someone more deserving of this award than Ted Wampler, Jr.," said Harvey Abouelata, President of ARiES Energy, a renewable energy contracting company in Lenoir City that has been involved in many of Wampler's Farm Sausage's projects. "Ted's innovation and vision has served as a leading driver behind green building support throughout east Tennessee. Ted has been an early adopter in renewable energy technologies including solar and biomass systems, energy efficiency and waste management best practices. He believes strongly in supporting the local community and the local community has supported him by sharing his story and replicating his success."

With Ted Wampler, Jr.'s leadership, Wampler's Farm Sausage installed their first 30-kilowatt (kW) solar photovoltaic (PV) system in 2009. Wampler believes the success of the first system inspired a culture change which led to the adoption of several new corporate social responsibility best practices. The company installed a 500-kW solar farm at the sausage manufacturing facility in 2011.

Wampler's Farm Sausage is the first company in the world to install Proton Power, Inc.'s cellulose to hydrogen power (CHyP) system. The system, which is currently in installation phase, was designed and manufactured in Lenoir City, Tennessee, a short distance from the Wampler's Farm Sausage facility. The installation of the CHyP technology will have a number of positive impacts in our region, including job creation and a cleaner environment in Tennessee.

"Great things are happening on the Wampler Farm" said Wampler. "We started small, with solar power, but today, thanks to Dr. Sam Weaver, Dan Hensley, and the team at Proton Power, we are having visitors from all over the world. It is amazing to see a single system that can make hydrogen gas, electricity, liquid fuels, biochar, and pure H2O all from biomass. I believe that Proton Power is going to change the planet for all of our children and beyond."

Wampler's Farm Sausage has been recognized for their environmental stewardship efforts in the past, winning the Knoxville Chamber's Pinnacle Award for Innovation and an award from the Loudon County Economic Development Association.

About Wampler's Farm Sausage:

Wampler's Farm Sausage was founded in 1937, is located in Lenoir City, and produces the world's most excellent Sausages. The company still makes sausage with the same methods developed by the family when it first began on the Wampler Farm. Today those methods are used in one of the most modern and sanitary food plants in the industry and the sausages are enjoyed and served proudly in homes throughout the Southeast. The restaurant sausage distribution has grown to include most of the United States, and several export locations.

Website: <http://www.wamplersfarm.com/>

Facebook: Wampler's Farm Sausage

About USGBC-ET:

The East Tennessee Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC-ET) (est. 2007) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization made up of building professionals and community members committed to a prosperous and sustainable future for our region and communities through cost-efficient, energy-saving green buildings and intelligently planned communities.

Website: <http://etnusbcb.org/>

About ARiES Energy:

ARiES Energy is an energy contractor focused on clean and renewable energy products and related services. As a leading energy contractor, ARiES Energy (Alternative Renewable Innovative Economic Solutions for Energy) delivers turnkey, clean, and renewable energy solutions. We develop strategies to avoid rising energy costs and provide the quickest ROI for our clients by utilizing available incentives, grants and appropriate technologies. ARiES Energy offers solar photovoltaic (commercial and residential), solar thermal, lighting, energy efficiency products/services and a biomass/waste-to-energy technology capable of using almost any cellulosic material to generate power.

Website: <http://www.ariesenergy.com>

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