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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Farm, Food & Fun Fair at the LeDuc Historic Estate

August 6, 2010, Hastings, MN - Explore the beautiful grounds of the LeDuc Historic Estate in Hastings on Saturday, August 21, 2010, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the Farm, Food & Fun Fair. This family- friendly FREE event honors the LeDuc family and their use of the land that was once a working farm for them.

William LeDuc came out of a farm background in Ohio and this he writes in his *This Business of War*, "A farmer's life was at that time, as it is now, a life of constant labor, and of stringent economy, if it was to be successful; and while it was more independent than any other, it was also more lonely. At the time of my youth the conveniences for doing farm work were of the scantiest. The grain was cut with a sickle, but the grain cradle was being introduced, and was a great improvement, and, in upstanding grain, was capable of cutting four acres a day in able and skillful hands. I was efficient with the cradle, the scythe and the pitchfork, and liked to pitch bundles up to the stackers, or into the barn." Botan Anderson of Mystic Prairie Farm will demonstrate the use of scythes and will make hay by hand in the community garden plot east of the house. His Austrian type scythes will be for sale.

Dick Darsow, local historian, will be on site explaining his newly restored sod busting plow and the Bateman Plow Manufacturing Company of Hastings which originally manufactured this plow.

Demonstrations will take place throughout the day – textiles and needleworking, botanical art, corn shelling/cracking walnuts, seasonal cooperative cooking and making the most of herbs, spinning, fruit preserving, buttermaking, pressing cider, sauerkraut making, and blacksmithing. Minnie LeDuc's cookbook and antique cooking terms will be shown and story time for children will take place near the chicken coop beginning at 11 a.m. and will continue throughout the day every hour on the hour up until 4 p.m. A scavenger hunt, using LeDuc artifacts as things to find,

will be available for children. Many food and textile items will be for sale through vendors who will be on site.

Animals, as in the days when the LeDucs lived here, will be present. There will be sheep, goats, pigeons, rabbits, and of course, the LeDuc chickens.

Friends of LeDuc of Historic Hastings/Dakota County Historical Society will hold a first-class flea market and plant sale in the Simmons Shed, just east of the house, and outdoors they will hold an exceptional bake sale. This group will also have a stand where they will sell grilled hot dogs and sweet corn.

Tours of the house are also available during the Farm, Food & Fun Fair at the regular rates - \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors and military veterans, \$3 for students ages 6-17, and free for children 5 and under and members of the Dakota County Historical Society.

Come learn more about how your food travels from the field to the market to you. Look for more information by visiting www.dakotahistory.org or call 651-437-7055. The LeDuc Historic Estate is owned by the City of Hastings and managed by Dakota County Historical Society.

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