



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Tractor Supply Will Open First Northern Illinois Store in Harvard

HARVARD, IL — The nation's largest retail farm and ranch store, **Tractor Supply Co.**, has announced that it will open its first Northern Illinois store in Harvard in early 2009.

Tractor Supply has leased 21,000 square feet on Route 14, in the space formerly occupied by Walmart, Inc. Company representatives will be in Harvard to conduct staff interviews in mid-December. The store is expected to open in late March or early April, following renovations to the building's interior, according to **Harvard Mayor Jay Nolan**. The company obtained a building permit on Monday.

"We are very happy to see the space that Walmart vacated put back into productive use so quickly, and especially in this economy," Nolan said. "Tractor Supply is a good company with a loyal following across the country and they will be a good addition to Harvard's growing retail base."

Walmart, Inc. built a 150,000 square foot SuperCenter on McGuire Road in Harvard, which it opened in July of 2008. Tractor Supply will occupy approximately half of the space vacated by that expansion.

Tractor Supply Company (www.tractorsupply.com) is the largest retail farm and ranch store chain in the United States. The company operates more than 800 retail stores in 40 states, employs more than 10,000 team members and is headquartered in Brentwood, TN. Annual revenues exceed \$2 billion.

The chain has 13 retail stores in Illinois. **The Harvard location will be its first north of I-88.**

Tractor Supply stores carry products such as clothing, equine and pet supplies, tractor and trailer parts and accessories, lawn and garden supplies, power tools, fencing, welding and pump supplies, riding mowers and more. According to the company's website, each store team includes a welder, a farmer and a horse owner who are on hand to share their expertise with customers.

The Harvard retail sector continues to grow, despite the national economy. China Buffet will open at the corner of Routes 14 and 173 in early 2009, at a site formerly occupied by Arby's. Castle Bank is scheduled to move into its new Route 14 banking facility on December 27 and Walgreens is putting the finishing touches on its new retail pharmacy at the corner of Route 14 and Airport Road in Harvard.