**PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION**

**Yale Law School Presents: Fighting Factory Farms: The Story of How Two Midwestern Family Farmers Stood Up to the Agricultural-Political-Industrial Complex**

October 20, 2018

Socially Responsible Agriculture Project (SRAP) and Dodge County Concerned Citizens are pleased to announce that Chris Petersen and Sonja Trom Eayrs have been invited to speak at Yale Law School on Monday, October 29, 2018. The event, *Fighting Factory Farms: The Story of How Two Midwestern Family Farmers Stood Up to the Agricultural-Political-Industrial Complex*, is sponsored by the Yale Animal Law Society, Yale Animal Law Speaker Series, Yale Food Law Society and Yale Environmental Law Association.

“No one knows the heartache that is occurring in America’s heartland,” according to Sonja Trom Eayrs, a Minnesota attorney and farmer’s daughter. Sonja states that “America’s rural areas are under assault by large corporate interests, forcing independent farmers off the land and leaving a trail of environmental and community destruction in its wake.” Follow the efforts of Sonja’s family to speak out against this injustice and the attendant harassment and intimidation they faced in their effort to fight installation of the 11th, and soon a 12th, swine factory farm within a 3-mile radius of their family farm. Who will hear their cries for justice?

Sonja is a founding member of Dodge County Concerned Citizens, a grassroots organization fighting factory farms in rural Minnesota and the upper Midwest. Dodge County Concerned Citizens is on the front lines fighting corporate factory farms – they understand how the system works.

The event will also feature Chris Petersen, an independent hog farmer from northern Iowa. “Rural America and the independent sustainable traditional family farming system are being forgotten and replaced by a big business corporate model,” according to Chris. A long-time advocate for America’s independent farmers, Chris will continue to fight for a rural America full of family farms. Chris loves farming and the rural way of life. Chris encourages others to join him and “investigate, have courage, stand up and speak out about what is best for consumers, farmers and rural communities, Mother Nature, farm animals and America.”

In addition to farming, Chris also serves as an SRAP Associate. Socially Responsible Agricultural Project (SRAP) informs and educates the general public about the negative effects of concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs)—also known as factory farms—while working directly with U.S. communities impacted by this destructive form of industrial animal agriculture. Through public education, issue advocacy, and local community organizing, SRAP empowers rural residents to protect their public health, environmental quality, natural resources, and local economies from the damaging impacts of factory farms.

The event will take place in the Sterling Law Building, Room 120, Yale Law School, 127 Wall Street, New Haven, CT at 12 noon. The event is open to the public.

For further information, contact Chris Petersen of SRAP at 641-425-8760 or via email at ChrisP@SRAProject.org.

Media planning to attend the event should RSVP with Debra Kroszner, Yale Law School, Deputy Director of Communications and Director of Media Relations at debra.kroszner@yale.edu.