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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Westchester Group CEO Chairs 2009 Annual World Ag Investment Conference

London, UK (June 30, 2009)—“As an investment, farmland stands the test of time,” says Murray Wise, Westchester Group, Inc. founder and CEO. Wise is optimistic and says that agriculture investors and farmers have a bright outlook despite recent volatility and uncertainty caused by the economic downturn.

“Agriculture is in a much stronger position than many other world industries,” states Wise. “After we get through the next two years, I see the agriculture industry prevailing through the following three to ten years.”

Wise is serving for the second time as chairman for the World AgriInvest Congress held in London, June 30 – July 2, 2009. The three-day conference brings together international operators, producers, buyers, government officials, agriculture funds and institutional investors to discuss world industry trends and investment opportunities in agricultural commodities.

As chair, Wise emphasizes several key points leading toward an optimistic outlook for agriculture:

- The amount of grain needed to provide for all industries continues to grow. The current driver for the grain markets is the demand for meat production in China.
- The United States monthly beef exports to Asia in the first quarter of 2009 have almost doubled 2008 levels for the same time period.
- Savings deposits in China are increasing as more of its citizens move to the middle class. The first thing families do with more disposable income is improve their diets, ultimately increasing worldwide demand for food, especially protein.
- Meat, poultry, eggs and edible oils—once luxuries in many countries—are now part of daily diets.
- Farmland investments often provide competitive returns for investors with less volatility than common stocks and corporate bonds.

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Creating demand

Wise notes that U.S. farmland values have softened in the past several months, however, prices for top-tier quality farmland remain high. “Arable land of high quality is a limited, finite resource and growing global demand makes this agricultural land a valuable investment,” says Wise. “I believe the current global economic situation will continue to be volatile in the short term, but I also believe that an investment in agriculture now will prove to be profitable over the long term.”

The World AgriInvest Congress is a major forum that brings agricultural producers and buyers together with the investment community. Attendees have the opportunity to discuss how current market trends and political influences are affecting the global agriculture industry. Key discussion topics during the 2009 Congress include a variety of fundamental messages. *Producers* hear case studies from the world’s biggest commercial operators; *buyers* learn how to manage procurement price and supply risk in the current market; and *investors* learn what links in the agriculture value chain will give them the biggest returns.

Westchester Group, Inc. was developed because Wise had an optimistic outlook on agriculture during the mid 1980s when farmland values were depressed. Now, just 20 years later, the company is a premier global provider of agriculture asset acquisition, management and marketing services. Wise’s knowledge of the industry and optimistic outlook have gained him the respect of many industry leaders and serve as a major resource for others. Wise concludes, “When it comes to investing, no one can predict the future. But looking at current worldwide trends, there’s no doubt that farmland and the crops produced on it will be more valuable than ever.”

About Westchester Group, Inc.

Westchester Group, Inc. is a leading agricultural asset management firm, providing a complete range of agricultural real estate and management services as well as auction services. The company specializes in portfolio management and acquisition of farmland for institutional and corporate clients, and individual farmers, as well as individual investors. Westchester manages a diverse range of crops for their clients, including corn, soybeans, almonds, wine grapes, apples and citrus. For more information on Westchester Group, Inc., visit www.westchester-group.com and www.westchester-auctions.com.

About World AgriInvest Congress

Terrapinn, a business media company, has run commodity events all over the world, including *Commodity Week* and the *World Junior Oil Congress*, and in 2008 extended its series of commodity events to the agriculture sector with the World AgriInvest Congress. Terrapinn has a wealth of experience in organizing and running world-class events for the commodity, energy and finance sectors. For more information on Terrapinn, visit <http://www.terrapinn.com>

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