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Ron's Refrigeration Wins Focus on Energy Award for Excellence in Energy Efficiency

- Focus on Energy recognizes Ron's Refrigeration for energy efficiency installations and improvements -

Wisconsin Rapids, Wis. (March 21, 2008) – Ron's Refrigeration & Air Conditioning, Inc., a Wisconsin Rapids-based mechanical contractor, has received the Award for Excellence in Energy Efficiency given by Focus on Energy for contributing to the overall energy efficiency of the agriculture industry.

Ron's Refrigeration works with growers and processors to design and install temperature and humidity control systems for vegetable storage. To increase the level of energy efficiency of the storage process, Ron's Refrigeration has been collaborating with Focus on Energy, Wisconsin's energy efficiency and renewable energy initiative, to install variable frequency drives (VFD) on storage facility fans as a way to modulate air flow, resulting in a better crop and energy savings for farmers.

"The obvious benefit of using VFDs to control fan speed is electrical savings, but another huge impact is on reduced product shrinkage. Potatoes are nearly 80 percent water, and if the airflow is too high, they will lose mass, which equates to lost sales since they are sold by weight," explained Eugene Mancl, control systems manager of Ron's Refrigeration. "Another benefit of installing VFDs is that they are easy on the equipment and on the electrical system. Softer starts and stops can lead to longer equipment life."

In addition to increasing the energy efficiency of storage operations for farmers, Ron's Refrigeration worked with Focus on Energy and Scott Sanford of UW Extension to develop a case study documenting the success of using VFDs. According to Mancl, the results of the Paragon Farms Case Study, using actual 60,000cwt storage buildings, provided valuable, real world data that changed the way the industry viewed VFDs and their additional benefits to the vegetable storage industry.

RON'S REFRIGERATION WINS FOCUS ON ENERGY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY

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“We received calls from all over Wisconsin and the United States asking about variable frequency drives and the benefits of installation for potato storage facilities,” said Fred Daniels, energy advisor for the Focus on Energy Program. “I believe we influenced up to 75 percent of the potato industry with this one case study. That is a significant impact for business.”

Vegetable storage operations have numerous opportunities to save money through energy efficiency. Focus on Energy initiatives help agricultural customers identify and evaluate energy saving opportunities, provide a report of findings with specific recommendations, integrate elements from state programs to meet specific needs and find vendors and evaluate their proposals for efficiency improvements. In addition, Focus works with numerous trade allies within the industry to help them expand their business. Ron's Refrigeration is a good example of a business helping to promote energy efficiency while having an effect on its own bottom-line profits, as well. Focus on Energy also provides support for the dairy, greenhouse industry, irrigation, grain drying and other bio-industries.

Since 2001, Focus on Energy has delivered cost effective energy solutions to Wisconsin consumers, farms and businesses. The results for businesses have meant lower operating costs through decreased energy use and an improved bottom line. In total, businesses in Wisconsin have saved about \$100 million in energy costs annually.

For more information about saving opportunities at other potato storage operations or Focus on Energy's Business Programs, call Focus on Energy at (800) 762-7077, or visit focusonenergy.com. To see the case study *Paragon Farms – Potato Storage Facility Eyes VFDs*, type the following address into your web browser: focusonenergy.com/agcasestudies.

About Focus on Energy

Focus on Energy works with eligible Wisconsin residents and businesses to install cost effective energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Focus information, resources and financial incentives help to implement projects that otherwise would not get completed, or to complete projects sooner than scheduled. Its efforts help Wisconsin residents and businesses manage rising energy costs, promote in-state economic development, protect our environment and control the state's growing demand for electricity and natural gas. For more information call (800) 762-7077 or visit focusonenergy.com.

About Ron's Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Inc.

In addition to its work with the vegetable storages, Ron's Refrigeration provides engineering, installation and 24-hour service in the HVAC, refrigeration and temperature control industries. Founded in 1973 by the company's president Ron Mancl, the company is a second generation family owned business and today employs over 30 employees and works throughout the State of Wisconsin, Northern Illinois and the Upper Peninsula.

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