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DOWNLOAD PRESS PHOTOS : http://www.trythisfilms.com/field_work/press.html

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FIELD WORK: A FAMILY FARM **joins *Reel NW* season 4 lineup on KCTS 9**

Airs Friday April 18 at 9 pm

FIELD WORK: A FAMILY FARM, a new documentary by award-winning filmmaker John Helde (*MADE IN CHINA, HELLO*), makes its Northwest broadcast debut Friday April 18 at 9pm on **KCTS 9**, part of the Emmy Award-winning television series **Reel NW**.

A quietly powerful journey to the heartland of America, ***FIELD WORK: A FAMILY FARM*** tells the story of the Swansons, Iowa family farmers who struggle to stay small in an era of mega-farms. In the last 60 years, technology and economics have reshaped America's agricultural landscape; the quest for ever-higher yields and the flight of the younger generation has resulted in bigger and bigger farms. ***FIELD WORK: A FAMILY FARM*** follows Judy and Charlie Swanson and their three grown children through the economic meltdown as they pursue a dream of farming together as one extended family. The film weaves sweeping vistas and a haunting Americana Roots soundtrack by **Truckstop Souvenir** to reveal a part of this country's lifeblood that is often taken for granted. Through the lens of one family, this poignant and personal documentary examines where the beloved American family farm is headed in the twenty-first century. "Farming is central to the American experience, and these are challenging times for farmers who want to stay family-size," said director John Helde. "There's also great passion for this way

of life, and new opportunities popping up. I wanted to make a documentary that approached this subject from a personal perspective, one that takes the viewer into the lives of family farmers and explores their hopes, fears and dreams.”

John Helde is an award-winning director and writer of documentaries, narrative films and commercials, and the founder of Try This Films, a production company based in Seattle, Wa. His latest film is *MADE IN CHINA*, which played the festival circuit to critical acclaim, and is now on The Documentary Channel, SnagFilms.com and Hulu.com. John’s award-winning short films include *HELLO*, starring Eric Stoltz and Susanna Thompson, now on Hulu.com. John got his start with the New York documentary-makers Maysles Films (*Gimme Shelter*, *Grey Gardens*), and was an editor on numerous feature films.

Dennis James and **Lauryn Shapter**, the songwriting duo of **Truckstop Souvenir**, composed the soundtrack for *FIELD WORK: A FAMILY FARM*. The two have been performing their unique brand of original American music around the Midwest since making southeast Iowa their home in 2006. Drawing inspiration from the rural American landscape and the open road, as well as from the musicians who traveled the highways and back roads before them, they create a sound that is at once familiar to old time country and modern Americana.

Production of the film was made possible by funding from **Humanities Iowa and the National Endowment for the Humanities, Seattle Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs, 4 Culture and Artist Trust.**

Season four of **KCTS 9’s** popular indie film series **Reel NW** (kcts9.org/reel-nw) premieres Friday, April 11, 2014 at 9:00 pm with a new look and its first-ever series host—renowned film critic, interviewer and educator Warren Etheredge. **Reel NW** brings the work of talented independent filmmakers to public television audiences in the Northwest, and beyond. All **Reel NW** films are made by Northwest filmmakers, shot in the Northwest, or feature a Northwest subject. **Reel NW** has now earned seven Northwest Regional Emmy Award nominations and three wins. Beyond the television broadcasts, **Reel NW** features a content-rich website to connect with the widest possible audience for Northwest independent film.

Photos available for download at http://www.trythisfilms.com/field_work/press.html. John Helde is available for interviews. Contact John Helde at (206) 931-9888 helde@trythisfilms.com OR Jennifer Rice, Rice Public Relations to coordinate: (206) 285-5175, rice1234@yahoo.com

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