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Hundertmark a familiar Humboldt County voice

By Randy Mudgett

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RUTLAND - Many people in Humboldt County recognize the booming command of his voice as it echoes over the loud speaker at public auctions. Many more people recognize his smile and his way with a crowd. David Hundertmark is a fixture in Humboldt County and it has been that way for the past 25 years. Hundertmark's Auction Service conducts close to 100 public auctions annually in and around Humboldt County and David is the main auctioneer. Hundertmark also farms 1,700 acres of cropland with his



brother, Tom, around the Rutland area. Tom is Hundertmark's copartner on the farm and in the auction business. "I began farming in 1972 and farming has changed a lot since I started," David Hundertmark said. "I cannot think of any way farming has stayed the same. The only thing they have not done is change the name of corn and beans." Besides operating his farm and auction service, Hundertmark remains on the go attending sporting events his three children participate in almost daily. He is also a member of the Wildcat Booster's board to help drive community support for athletic programs for the Humboldt School District. Hundertmark

also holds charity auctions at area churches including the annual quilt auction for north central Iowa each fall. "Those auctions are fun to do and they raise a lot of money for these country churches which are trying to maintain," he said. "I like those auctions a lot. You meet a lot of good people at all auction, but those are special." As for Hundertmark's farming operation, he said many issues concern him about the direction farming has taken in the past decade. Being a strong proponent of local control, he helped the county wage a battle which ended when the Supreme Court overthrew the Humboldt County ordinances in 1996. "I don't agree with corporate takeover of agriculture in America," Hundertmark said. "I live here and I think the people who live here have a lot better idea of what is around us. I agreed with what the supervisors did because sometimes somebody has got to stand up for what you believe in. It has opened a lot of eyes across the nation to what is going on out here." Hundertmark said he does not know if there will be a life for his son on the farm if he chooses to become a farmer several years from now. "There is not much chance for a young guy in farming anymore, I bought my first tractor for \$5,300. Today, that would not pay the repair bill on one of the newer ones."