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Today's trivia (August 15)

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The Wichita Eagle

Stafford County Flour Mills Co., which for nearly a century has churned out Hudson Cream Flour, may be the smallest mill in Kansas, but it has developed a mighty reputation.

The gourmet magazine *Saveur* told readers in 1998 that "Hudson Cream is not a blend of hard and soft wheat flours, as all-purpose flours are, but is made entirely from hard red winter wheat. The result: higher, lighter breads with a rich flavor."

But through the years, Stafford County has also developed another type of reputation for "good produce."

During the late 1960s and early 1970s, it was not uncommon for area high school and college age students to earn their summer wages by sorting and bagging potatoes and sweet potatoes that were then sold throughout the nation.

Spare Produce, just south of St. John, grows seasonal fruits and vegetables. Delp Christmas Tree Farm, just off U.S. 281, is a place where people have come for more than half a century to pick out their own Christmas trees.

In recent years, the mayor of St. John, Jill Stimatze, has grown pumpkins in such quantity they are sold in area Walmarts.

4 Star Hydroponics in St. John grows tomatoes from more than 3,000 plants in their greenhouses, which are sold in Kansas City-area stores.

Go into almost any area Dillons and Walmart and the watermelons you pick up were most likely grown in those sandy soils of Stafford County.

Driving down a street in St. John it is not unusual to find an unmanned stand under the shade of old trees filled with huge watermelons — some as big as 51 pounds — and 10-pound-or more cantaloupes. An old coffee can with a slot on top stands ready for visitors to use the honor system. Pick out a melon. Plunk in the change.

Question: What are the two longtime family names who produce these watermelons?

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Answer to Sunday's question: The Fruhauf Uniform Co. of Wichita, was founded in 1910 and has evolved one of the few band uniform company in the United States. It is still family owned.

Check back at Kansas.com on Tuesday for the answer to today's question.

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