

**For Immediate Release**

**Validus Expands Services**

**Urbandale, IA, September 21, 2011** – Validus, an auditing and verification firm focusing on “Helping the world feel good about farming” through on-farm work in the areas of environment, animal welfare, on-farm security and worker care, has expanded their services in two key areas. The first, animal welfare auditing and verification services, is reflected by the addition of Scott Core to the Validus staff. Core’s extensive experience in the dairy industry, most recently as a milk sanitation rating officer for the Iowa Department of Public Health, allows the company to increase their ability to conduct animal care audits and verifications throughout the US and internationally. “We’re very excited to have someone with Scott’s qualifications and experience join the company,” said Matt Jones, Director of Audits and Assessments. He continued, “Scott has an impressive background in auditing and working with producers. He is a great addition to our company and our clients.”

The second area of expansion for Validus is in land conservation. Wes Phillips, a recent graduate of Iowa State University in Forest Ecosystem Management, has joined the Validus staff as Forester/Technical Assistant. Phillips will focus on assisting small acre land owners with conservation plans. “We have seen a real need for assisting land owners with developing conservation plans for their property, “ said Earl Dotson, Validus CEO. “Many smaller acreage owners want to put in a pond, wildlife habitat or tree stand, but don’t know where to get assistance. Governmental agencies are overwhelmed working with larger farmers, so there is a niche for our services,” he stated.

“I’m excited about the interest we have seen in this area. It fits right in with Validus’ focus on environmental stewardship and preserving our natural resources,” said Phillips.

Both Core and Phillips will work out of the Validus Urbandale office.

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Validus Ventures, LLC is an ISO 9001: 2008 certified company with roots in on-farm auditing work. With concentration at the farm-level, their auditing services include animal welfare, environmental, on-farm security, and worker care for agriculture. Validus’ mission statement is to provide on-farm audits, planning, and consulting services, ensuring that production practices meet or exceed brand expectations in the marketplace. [www.validuservices.com](http://www.validuservices.com)

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