



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –**

## **Piper Holdings, Inc. and The Farmers State Bank Announce the Signing of a Merger Agreement**

**April 4, 2017** – Piper Holdings, Inc. (“Piper”), holding company for The Fountain Trust Company (“Fountain Trust”), and Brookston, Indiana-based The Farmers State Bank (“Farmers”) are pleased to jointly announce today the signing of a definitive merger agreement under which Piper has agreed to acquire Farmers in an all-cash transaction. Under the terms of the agreement, Farmers is expected to merge with and into Fountain Trust.

The combined company will have approximately \$364 million in assets, \$228 in loans, and \$310 million in deposits upon completion of the transaction. The merger is expected to close in the third quarter of 2017, subject to approval by bank regulatory authorities and the shareholders of The Farmers State Bank, as well as the satisfaction of other customary closing conditions.

Farmers, established in 1905, is headquartered in Brookston, Indiana and serves White and Tippecanoe Counties with full service banking locations in Brookston, Battle Ground and Lafayette. As of December 31, 2016, Farmers had total assets of approximately \$72 million.

Fountain Trust is a community bank headquartered in Covington, Indiana with total assets of approximately \$295 million. Established in 1903, it serves Fountain, Montgomery, Parke and Tippecanoe counties with eleven offices in Covington, Attica, Crawfordsville, Darlington, Kingman, Lafayette, Mellott, Rockville, Veedersburg, and Waynetown.

“Like Farmers, we are a community bank, generally serving small towns. We are proud to be a fourth generation bank and are excited about serving White County and Farmers’ customers in and around Brookston and Battle Ground,” said Fountain Trust’s President, Lucas White. “We think the business and cultures of the two banks will meld together nicely, both of us being community oriented and multi-generation family operations.”

Floyd Garrott, Chairman, President and CEO of Farmers stated, “We are pleased to partner with the Fountain Trust family and to entrust our customers, employees and the communities we serve to their care. We share Fountain Trust’s long standing tradition and commitment to local decision-making, retention of local staff, commitment to community involvement, and personal one-on-one service. We are excited to be able to better serve our customers with increased products and services as well as higher lending limits for our commercial and agricultural clients.”

While Mr. Garrott will be retiring, Fountain Trust is pleased to retain Farmers’ executives M. Dani Thomas and Melissa Summers.

Renninger & Associates, LLC is serving as financial advisor to Farmers and SmithAmundsen, LLC is serving as its legal counsel. Performance Trust Capital Partners, LLC is serving as financial advisor to Fountain Trust and Barnes & Thornburg LLP is serving as its legal counsel.

**The Fountain Trust Company**

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**The Farmers State Bank**

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