

News from University of Missouri Extension – Adair County

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MLS Announces 2010 Ag Educators Lifetime Achievement Award Winners



Mr. Kenneth Suter

The Suter Farm was settled in 1840 and today Kenneth and wife Pat reside on the original homestead where they raised their three children: Greg, married to Maggie, resides in Baldwin, MO; Mike, married to Lori, of Strafford, MO; and daughter Mariam Johnson, married to Carl, from Callao, MO. They have two grandchildren, Aubrey and Ashley.

Kenneth graduated from the University of Missouri in 1968 with a degree in Agriculture Education. He taught school in southern Missouri for a year and a half before Uncle Sam came calling. In the military he was stationed at Pine Bluff Arsenal in Arkansas, eventually becoming a drill instructor following 9 weeks of drill instructor school.

After discharge from the Army, Kenneth returned to the home farm and also taught agriculture part-time in Wyaconda for 3½ years.

Kenneth is known statewide for being an innovator, early adapter, and advocate of management intensive grazing. He was recognized in 2002 by the Missouri Forages and Grassland Council and received the prestigious Missouri Grassland Farmer of the Year Award. He continues to host educational trainings and assist producers interested in becoming more proficient with their grazing strategies. He has also hosted numerous International visitors.

The Suter farm was a typical north Missouri diversified farm producing corn, soybeans, cattle and hogs. However, today the Suters produce grass fed beef using management intensive grazing and market their product throughout the U.S. and beyond under the label of U. S. Wellness Meats.

The Suter Farm was selected to be a host farm for a University of Missouri co-sponsored statewide beef cattle tour where Kenneth shared his experience with managed grazing.

Kenneth has always been inquisitive and this led him to sample forages on their farms for 3 years. This data was used to develop a computer program to formulate mineral mixes for cattle that is still in use by cattle producers today.

In addition to hosting pasture walks, instructing at grazing schools, conducting on farm research, and hosting beef cattle tours, Kenneth has further contributed by assisting University of Missouri Extension with beef cattle budgets available to north Missouri cattle producers over the Web or in print.

Kenneth has been a long time board member of the Mark Twain Rural Telephone Board, secretary of the Bear Creek Watershed Board, and secretary of the Indian Creek Muzzleloaders Club. He was a long time committee member of the Missouri Livestock Symposium and advisory board member of both the MU Greenley Research Center and the University of Missouri Forage Systems Research Center. He has served on the Clark County Extension Council and was awarded the FFA Honorary Chapter Farmer Degree.

The Missouri Livestock Symposium, recognizes Kenneth for his service and contributions to agriculture. We are proud to honor him with the Agriculture Educators Lifetime Achievement Award. Congratulations for a lifetime of achievements and for jobs well done!



Mr. Tom Deberry

Tom grew up in Camden County on a dairy farm and cow-calf operation. He and his brother still have the 600 acre farm near Richland, MO.

Tom attended Southwest Missouri State University and obtained a B.S. in Soils. After time in the Army, Tom joined the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in 1968 in Carthage, MO. In 1971 he became the District Conservationist (D.C.) in Montgomery City.

Tom was the government representative on levee recreation and river bottom restoration after the 1973 flood on the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. In 1978 he became D.C. for the Scotland County SCS where he worked with the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) on soil and water conservation practices to protect erodible cropland.

In the 1980's, state cost share funds became available for conversation practices and the 1985 farm bill went into effect. Soil and water conservation plans had to be written on highly erodible farms participating in government programs. Tom and his staff assisted landowners to implement their conservation plans enabling them to qualify for state cost share funds.

The 1985 Farm Bill also included the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Tom worked diligently to enroll landowners in the program. He also assisted the Fox River Ecodevelopment project secure funding for a project through the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and assisted the Scotland SWCD access funding for soil and water conservation practices in this watershed.

In 1997, Tom was named Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Coordinator for the NEMO RC&D Project Area. Numerous educational meetings were held to explain how RC&D could help with resource conservation and development. He worked closely with SWCD's, Regional Planning, Department of Conservation and others to secure funding for projects. The efforts resulted in the construction of numerous dams on county roads to replace small bridges.

Tom was also instrumental in securing Neighborhood Assistance Program Tax Credit projects to buy and remodel the Scotland County Community Fitness Center gymnasium. Additionally, a water quality grant was approved for the Fox River Watershed Project to fund a coordinator for conservation practices.

Tom retired from USDA/NRCS after 39 years of service. He is a life member of the NRA and his passion for hunting has taken him to numerous states, Alberta, Saskatchewan and South Africa.

He is a past member of Quail Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited, Lions Club and the Soil and Water Conservation Society. He is a member of the Scotland County Rotary Club, Board Chair of the Scotland County Care Center and Residential Care Facility, Board Vice Chair of the Scotland County Community Fitness Center, Bank of Memphis board member, Tiger Trail Team chair and has volunteered many hours to the Scotland County Antique Fair.

Tom and his wife Sherry continue to live in Memphis where he continues his interest in soil and water conservation.

The Missouri Livestock Symposium salutes Tom Deberry on an outstanding professional career and for his continued service to our communities. We are pleased to bestow Tom Deberry with the Agriculture Educators Lifetime Achievement Award!

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