



Kenneth Suter, Wyaconda, MO  
2010 Agriculture Educators Lifetime Achievement Award

The Suter Farm was settled by Kenneth's great, great Grandfather who found his way to Clark County, MO from Kentucky. Today it is recognized as a Century Farm although it has been in the family much longer—since 1840. Kenneth and his wife Pat reside on the original homestead where they raised their three children: Greg, married to Maggie, reside 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. After graduating, he accepted a teaching position in the Couch School District in Oregon County, MO. He taught school for a year and a half when Uncle Sam came calling. Following Army basic training, he was stationed at Pine Bluff Arsenal in Arkansas where he managed the 2-lane bowling alley and then had a short stint as theatre manager! Later he worked in the mail room before becoming a drill instructor following 9 weeks of drill instructor school.

After his discharge from the Army, Kenneth returned to the home farm. However, it wasn't long before the Wyaconda School District came calling and convinced him to teach agriculture part-time, which he did for 3½ years. This made things almost full circle since Kenneth had gone to school and graduated from the same Wyaconda School District.

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 with the prestigious Missouri Grassland Farmer of the Year Award. He continues to host educational trainings at the Suter Farm and to assist producers and others in becoming more proficient with their grazing strategies. In fact, Kenneth has hosted numerous International visitors from various countries.

The Suter Farm is a founding member of U.S. Wellness Beef, which now markets grass fed meat products throughout the United States and beyond. Prior to this, the farm was a fairly typical north Missouri diversified farm that produced corn, soybeans, cattle and hogs. Now the Suters produce grass fed beef using management intensive grazing. The operation includes both cow-calf and stocker enterprises and occasionally Kenneth will custom graze cattle for others.

In addition to being honored as Missouri's Grassland Farmer of the Year, the Suter Farm was selected to be one of the host farms for a University of Missouri co-sponsored statewide beef cattle tour. A respected teacher, Kenneth was asked to share his experience with managed grazing and to answer questions and provide useful lessons related to electric fencing.

Kenneth has always had an inquisitive nature. This led Kenneth, along with the late Mark Trump, to sample forages on their farms for 3 years. University of Missouri Extension utilized this data to develop a computer program to formulate mineral mixes for cattle. This computer program 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, was secretary of the Bear Creek Watershed Board, and secretary of the Indian Creek Muzzleloaders Club. He was also a long time committee member of the Missouri Livestock Symposium and advisory board member of both the University of Missouri 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 for his assistance and support of FFA.

The Missouri Livestock Symposium, wishes to recognize 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!