

## News from University of Missouri Extension – Adair County

### Missouri Livestock Symposium announces Al Kennett as 2015 Ag Educator Lifetime Achievement Award



The Missouri Livestock Symposium is proud to announce that Mr. Al Kennett will be awarded their 2015 Ag Educator Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual Missouri Livestock Symposium on Friday evening, December 4.

The award is presented yearly to an agriculture educator who has made a significant contribution to the agriculture industry in northeast Missouri through their educational efforts. Applications are due August 1 of every year and can be found on the Missouri Livestock Symposium website at [www.missourilivestock.com](http://www.missourilivestock.com).

After spending 43.5 years as an Extension Livestock Specialist with University of Missouri Extension, Al retired in 2012. He began his Extension Career as Assistant County Agent in Macon County in 1968. After 9 months he moved to Ralls County as Livestock Specialist and remained there until retirement. During that time he covered Ralls County as Livestock Specialist and remained there until retirement. He covered Ralls, Pike, Marion, Lewis, Monroe and Shelby Counties at various times.

Al was born and raised at Millersburg, Mo. and graduated from Fulton High School. He was active in both 4-H and FFA during his youth. Al graduated from University of Missouri with a BS and MS in Animal Science. While in school at MU he was on both the Meats and Livestock Judging Teams and served as president of the Block & Bridle Club.

In 1970 Al worked with area pork producers to organize the Northeast MO Swine Improvement Association and develop a Swine Testing Station in Canton, Mo. He served as secretary of that board for 22 years helping to conduct over 80 performance boar sales through the station. The NEMO Swine Station was one of only four stations in the state and became the longest operating station before it closed in 1994.

Al worked with area beef producers in 1972 to organize the Northeast Missouri Beef Cattle Improvement Association (NEMO BCIA). The Northeast group was one of only three BCIA's to be organized in the state of Missouri. The local BCIA held its first Performance Tested Bull Sale in 1973 and when Al retired in 2012 he helped conduct his 40<sup>th</sup> bull sale. He served as secretary of NEMO BCIA for 40 years and currently serves as treasurer.

In 1996, Al worked with state specialists and northeast Missouri beef producers to develop and implement the Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer program. He was one of only two specialists in the state to implement the initial pilot program, with the first sale held in 1997. In the years he worked with the program, 23,200 heifers were enrolled and developed in Northeast Missouri. Fifteen sales were held totaling 3,895 SMS heifers returning over 4.3 million dollars to beef producers in Northeast Missouri. Al served as regional coordinator of the SMS program in NE Missouri.

Al actively worked with the 4-H program in his northeast Missouri counties. In his 43 years, he coached 21 senior 4-H livestock judging teams that placed first or second at the state competition and went on to represent Missouri at a national judging competition. Twelve junior teams also won the state contest during that time.

Through his extension career, Al was called upon numerous times to serve on regional and statewide committees. He co-authored two Extension guide sheets and served as a peer reviewer for numerous other guide sheets and publications. Al was an active member of the University of Missouri Extension Association for 43 years, serving as secretary, vice-president, president-elect and president. He was also mentor to 22 new Extension Livestock Specialist over his years with the Extension service.

During his career Al received the Meritorious Service Award from National Association of County Agricultural Agents; was inducted into the Missouri 4-H Hall of Fame; was named Livestock Person of the Year by Mizzou Block and Bridle Club; was recognized for his service by both the MO Beef Improvement Association and the State Show-Me-Select Heifer Association; and honored by the state 4-H livestock judging contest, along with numerous other recognition.

Al served as secretary and board member of the Lewis and Ralls County Soil and Water Conservation Districts. He was a six year member of the Ralls County R-II School Board, serving as president for three years. Al is an active member of the First Christian Church of Hannibal, serving as Elder, past vice-president and president of board and congregation, chairman of the budget committee and currently serves as chairman of both the Sarah's Place Hospitality House and We Care Child boards at the church.

Following his retirement Al helped organize the local Hannibal/Quincy Chapter of the Mizzou Alumni Association and served as its president for 3 years. He was just recently elected to the State Mizzou Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Al has been married to his wife, Linda for 44 years and they have one son, Jon.

The Missouri Livestock Symposium would like to congratulate Al on receiving the 2015 Agriculture Educators Lifetime Achievement Award. Thank you for your commitment to agriculture education and our community.

The Missouri Livestock Symposium is December 4 & 5, 2015 at the William Matthew Middle School in Kirksville, MO. The program offers something for everybody and is known for its outstanding programs for horse, beef cattle, forage, sheep, meat goat and stock dog owners and producers. The Symposium brings in speakers from several states, coast-to-coast.

The Missouri Livestock Symposium also features an agriculturally related trade show, a free beef meal on Friday evening at 6 p.m., and a free lunch on Saturday at noon, coordinated by the Missouri Department of Agriculture and sponsored by many of Missouri's fine commodity groups and the Missouri Livestock Symposium planning committee.

Friday evening's program will feature a keynote address by Mike Adams, host of AgriTalk. Full program details can be found at [www.missourilivestock.com](http://www.missourilivestock.com) or by calling 660-665-9866.