

Mr. Jim Kennel

A native of Minnesota, Jim served 4 years in the Navy; 39 months of that was in the Pacific and included 3 tours to the Far East. After military service Jim graduated from the University of Missouri with a B.S. in Agriculture and later completed his M.S. degree. After graduation, he managed a farm coop service, then began his career with University of Missouri Extension as a Balanced Farming Agent in Adair County. In 1967 he moved to Clark County as County Director and in 1970 was appointed Area Farm Management Specialist, working with educational programs in estate planning and tax accounting. He assisted numerous agriculture producers with the mail-in record program and helped develop and implement the FINPACK financial planning program. He assisted producers and communities affected by the 1973 flood. Jim excelled in working with individuals and families to solve problems and to assist in making their operations sustainable. An excellent teacher, Jim worked with 4-H youth and leaders at youth events, including the Clark Co. Fair. Valued as a team player he worked with co-workers to provide countless educational events.

Jim was equally active in the community. He served in various capacities with the Kahoka American Legion, Clark County Chamber of Commerce, Kahoka Lions Club, Clark County and Kahoka Volunteer Fire Department, Clark County Home Health Agency Advisory Board, City of Kahoka Alderman, Masonic Lodge, OES & Kahoka Christian Church. He managed the City of Kahoka farm where he worked with the waste treatment facility to upgrade it to a “no discharge” system and assisted with irrigation of the aerobic lagoon effluent on the city and adjoining farms.

Jim received numerous awards over the years including the National Association of County Agricultural Agents Distinguished Service Award, County Agriculturist Award, and University of Missouri Meritorious Service Award.

“Retired” in 1992, Jim remains busy. He continues to help others by lending his expertise to the University of Missouri Extension Career Options Project.

In 1993 the Kennels moved to Nixa, MO. Jim and wife Karen have been married 50 years. Their daughters are Cindy and Brad Ayers, Macon, MO; Connie and Jeff Dochterman, Canton, MO; and Colleen and Mike Pierson, Fredericktown, MO. Their five grandchildren are Nickolas, Matthew, and Emily Dochterman and Andrew and Alyssa Pierson.

The Missouri Livestock Symposium is proud to honor Jim and his family by recognizing his contributions to agriculture and community and by bestowing him with the 2009 Agriculture Educators Lifetime Achievement Award. Congratulations Jim, Karen, and the entire Kennel family!