

News from University of Missouri Extension – Adair County



Steve Yates Named 2014 Agriculture Educator of the Year

Mr. Steve Yates, agricultural instructor at Monroe City R-1 Schools, recently received the Northeast Missouri Agriculture Educators Lifetime Achievement Award at the Missouri Livestock Symposium on Friday, December 5, 2014. The event was held at the William Matthew Middle School in Kirksville, MO.

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.

Steve believes that there is always something to learn and a day is not complete without learning one new piece of information or a new skill to make life or work better. He works tirelessly as a high school agricultural instructor at Monroe City R-1 School to connect with his students and build a desire for learning in them as well. Adult work is a natural fit for this philosophy because they come as willing learners. Steve often receives phone calls asking for information and he is always ready to find information to help solve another's problem or provide some resources for a project they would like to undertake.

Steve received his B.S. and Masters in Agriculture Education from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He taught agriculture education at Van Far R-1 and Monroe City R-1 schools before assuming his current position as adult agricultural education instructor in 1993 with Monroe City R-1.

Steve serves as Co-community Coordinator for the Agriculture Future of America (AFA) scholarship program, serves on the Monroe City Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Board where he is currently the President, has been a 4-H project leader with the Pleasant Day 4-H Club, is a founding member of the Monroe City Chamber of Commerce, President of the St. Stephens Church Board, and is a member and past president of the Monroe City Lions Club.

Steve was a regional winner in the National Teaching Ideas Contest, received the Distinguished Service Award from the Missouri Agriculture Teachers Association, Outstanding Agricultural Award and Outstanding Youth Services Award from the Monroe City Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Outstanding Agricultural Education Program Award.

Steve and his wife JoLynn live in Monroe City where they were both born and raised. They farm about 700 acres of crops, including the farm where Steve grew up. Their grown children were 4-H and FFA members raising sheep and cattle. The family has grown and sold hardy mums for nearly 25 years.

The Missouri Livestock Symposium would like to congratulate Steve on receiving the 2014 Agriculture Educators Lifetime Achievement Award. Thank you for your commitment to agriculture education and our community.