

1960's Distinguished Service Awardees

Lee D. Ferden, Chesaning

Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award - Farmers' Week, 1960

For his vigorous support of agricultural research and long-time cooperation with Michigan State University in the promotion of crops and soils research, for his farming ability as shown by consistent production of high quality grain crops, and for his interest in youth development as a 4-H Club leader, and as an inspirational speaker to youth groups on modern agriculture.

Merritt D. Hill, Birmingham

Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award - Farmers' Week, 1960

For his leadership in the agricultural equipment manufacturing field as a vice-president of Ford Motor Company, for his interest in youth development by active participation in the affairs of many youth groups, including 4-H and FFA, for his strong support of education and research, particularly in agriculture, and for his influential role in representing agriculture in a number of national business organizations.

Arthur J. Ingold, Blissfield

Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award - Farmers' Week, 1960

For his leadership to Michigan's livestock industry as president of the Michigan Livestock Exchange, and as an officer in state and national livestock groups, for his efforts in establishing the Lenawee County Cooperative Extension Service, for his interest in 4-H Clubs by helping build an effective livestock project in the county and state, and for his interest in strengthening farm credit sources.

Glenn Lake, North Branch

Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award - Farmers' Week, 1961

For his farm leadership, particularly in dairying, service to the dairy industry in Michigan, the Midwest and the Nation as a holder of high offices in numerous organizations and associations and devotion to agriculture and its promotion among youth in 4-H Club activities.

Thomas F. Schweigert, Petoskey

Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award - Farmers' Week, 1961

For his far reaching contributions to forest development and conservation in Michigan and the Nation, pioneering as a consulting forester and promoting an increased awareness of the potential value of timber products and the resulting boost to the state's economy.

Veril Baldwin, Stockbridge

Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award - Farmers' Week, 1961

For his leadership in the state and nation in farm organizations, confidence in agriculture in building a large scale vegetable and livestock production enterprise, devotion and support to Michigan State University in assisting with its agricultural extension and research programs.

Bernie F. Beach, Adrian

Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award - Farmers' Week, 1962

For his lifetime, dedicated service to the Michigan dairy industry; secretary-treasurer, Michigan Milk Producers Association; manager, Michigan Producers Dairy Company, Adrian; director, National Dairy Council and Dry Milk Institute; president, Dairy Society International, and friend, civic leader, and world dairy "ambassador."

Fred Reisener, Rogers City

Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award - Farmers' Week, 1962

For recognition of more than two centuries of farm experience, pioneer in the production of quality seed potatoes and the development of new varieties and a long-standing record of cooperation with the Cooperative Extension Service and Agricultural Experiment Station of Michigan State University.

David Reisener, Rogers City

Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award - Farmers' Week, 1962

For recognition of more than two centuries of farm experience, pioneer in the production of quality seed potatoes and the development of new varieties and a long-standing record of cooperation with the Cooperative Extension Service and Agricultural Experiment Station of Michigan State University.

Ervin Hopp, Rogers City

Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award - Farmers' Week, 1962

For recognition of more than two centuries of farm experience, pioneer in the production of quality seed potatoes and the development of new varieties and a long-standing record of cooperation with the Cooperative Extension Service and Agricultural Experiment Station of Michigan State University.

Walter W. Wightman, Fennville

Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award - Farmers' Week, 1962

For his service to Michigan agriculture in the Michigan Farm Bureau, as a 40-year member, former director and president of the state's largest farm organization. For his broad agricultural interest in policy, public affairs, conservation and a third of a century of active service to his church.

Elton R. Smith, Caledonia

Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award - Farmers' Week, 1963

To an outstanding dairyman and rural leader dedicated to the betterment of agriculture and the Michigan farm community. An active member in many organizations and president of Michigan Farm Bureau Services, he has given vigorous support to education, youth activities, livestock improvement, conservation and responsible citizenship.

Ernest C. Foreman, Lowell

Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award - Farmers' Week, 1963

A pioneer breeder and hatchery man of international reputation whose development of the Foreman Strain Leghorns made a significant contribution to the poultry industry. A former head of the Michigan State University Poultry Department, he has devoted a third of a century of service to the Lowell community and civic affairs of the state.

Forrest A. Smith, Lowell

Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award - Farmers' Week, 1963

Secretary-manager of the Michigan Agricultural Conference since 1949, he has spearheaded many efforts contributing to the rural progress of the state. Teacher, administrator, agri-business leader and ardent promoter of a vital industry, his is a strong and persistent voice in Michigan agriculture.

Edward J. Wright, Saginaw

Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award - Farmers' Week, 1964

A successful dairyman and leader in the dairy industry, he has made an outstanding contribution to the state's largest agricultural business. Member of the Michigan Agricultural Commission, an officer and active leader in state and county and community organizations, he provides a dynamic force for the agricultural progress of Michigan.

Arthur E. Sackett, Edmore

Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award - Farmers' Week, 1964

Charter president of the Chief Wabasis Potato Growers' Cooperative, his efforts in both production and marketing have contributed much to the state's potato industry. An ardent supporter of agricultural research and education, he is a pioneer in the adoption of new and improved farm practices and active in community, state and national organizations.

E. J. Clabuesch, Pigeon

Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award - Farmers' Week, 1964

A rural banker with an outstanding record of service to farmers and Michigan agriculture, he has demonstrated state and national leadership in the farm credit field. President of the Michigan 4-H Club Foundation and active in many community affairs, he is dedicated to continued development and betterment of rural Michigan.

Charles O. Zollar, Benton Harbor

Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award - Farmers' Week, 1965

Fruit grower, nurseryman, business and agricultural leader, his efforts have contributed much to the state's horticultural industry. Legislator, manufacturer and civic leader, his record of public service has made an indelible mark on Michigan agriculture and continuing state progress.

Ernest Girbach, Saline

Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award - Farmers' Week, 1965

Livestock breeder, dairyman, leader in county, state and national farm organizations; he has made invaluable contributions to the state's animal industries. With a dynamic willingness to serve, his interests in youth activities and public affairs have earned him a respected voice on the rural Michigan scene.

Jean Worth, Escanaba

Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award - Farmers' Week, 1965

Staunch supporter for Michigan progress, his enthusiasm and news columns wage a perennial campaign for rural-urban understanding. Editor, tree farmer, conservationist and civic leader, he interprets today's events for the future growth and development of the Water-Winter Wonderland.

Allen Lester, Ithaca

Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award - Farmers' Week, 1966

Outstanding farmer, rural and community leader, his successful management serves as a model for Michigan farmers. State legislator, bank director and former board chairman of the St. Paul Bank for Cooperatives, his leadership and public service have made a significant contribution to Michigan progress.

Blaque Knirk, Quincy

Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award - Farmers' Week, 1966

A strong voice for Michigan agriculture, his staunch support has resulted in major developments for the state's livestock industry. Successful farm manager; member of the Michigan Agricultural Commission; delegate to the Constitutional Convention; farm, business and civic leader; he has given freely of his talents for a progressive, rural Michigan.

J. Stanley Sherman, East Lansing

Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award - Farmers' Week, 1966

Thirty-five years as an agribusiness leader, he was instrumental in the coordination of the state's grain marketing services. Officer and director of state and national market organizations, his leadership and untiring efforts have done much to advance Michigan's agricultural industry.

O. E. Herkner, Traverse City

Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award - Farmers' Week, 1967

Progressive leader in Michigan's fruit industry, he has worked diligently to initiate changes for the efficient production and marketing of the state's cherry crop. Early to adopt new methods and practices, from research results, he maintains an active role in state and national grower and marketing organizations.

R. W. Petersen, Lakeview

Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award - Farmers' Week, 1967

Conservationist, successful farmer and businessman, he has made a significant contribution to present and future generations. Soil conservation leader, agribusiness manager, certified seed grower and dairyman, he has given freely of his talents toward rural progress on both the state and national scene.

Frank Heim, Jackson

Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award - Farmers' Week, 1967

For nearly two decades he has been an informed spokesman for Michigan dairy farmers. Successful dairyman, former president of the Michigan Animal Breeders' Cooperative; and member of the State Extension Service Advisory Council, he has contributed much to the forward progress of Michigan agriculture.

Duane Baldwin, Stockbridge

Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award - Farmers' Week, 1968

Outstanding farmer and rural leader, application of agricultural research has made his farms a model of crop production. Active in commodity and marketing groups, president of the Michigan Agricultural Conference, his is a regarded voice for rural progress.

Garfield G. Wagner, Flint

Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award - Farmers' Week, 1968

Providing dynamic leadership to the dairy industry, he has demonstrated skill, success and responsibility in business management, organization, and civic affairs. His influence, interest, and personal impact have made an indelible mark in Michigan agribusiness.

Stanley H. Woods, Deerfield

Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award - Farmers' Week, 1968

Certified seed grower, cattleman and farm leader, he is a champion of excellence. President of the Michigan Crop Improvement Association, successful farmer, responsible citizen; his vigorous support is a respected ally for the betterment of Michigan agriculture.

Perc. R. Schepers, Jackson

Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award - Farmers' Week, 1969

As a recognized leader, Mr. Schepers has consistently exhibited a deep personal interest in agriculture and rural families in this State. He has authorized grants for agricultural research and extension and has provided exhibits and personnel for farm clinics. An active member of the Board of Trustees of the Michigan 4-H Club Foundation, he has won both State and country-level awards for his efforts.

Felix Witt, Jasper

Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award - Farmers' Week, 1969

Long a producer of superior beef cattle, Mr. Witt is also a foundation seed grower who has played a prominent role in the initial increase of several important small grain and soybean varieties. His reputation as a leading farmer, businessman and seeds man is of the highest caliber, and he has given strong support in time and money to youth and extension activities in his community.

Harry Burns, Millington

Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award - Farmers' Week, 1969

An outstanding poultry producer, Mr. Burns has 40,000 laying hens and 18,000 pullets on his 400-acre farm. He also operates his own feed mill, has huge storage facilities, feed mixers, a grinder and egg processing station. Known as "Mr. Poultry Man," he is an all-around good citizen and has long been a recognized civic leader and supporter of charitable organizations.