

1970's Distinguished Service Awardees

Maurice Doan, Perrinton

Distinguished Service Awards - Agriculture and Natural Resources Week, 1970

A farmer for 40 years, he has worked long and hard to promote research in the production and marketing of dry beans both here and abroad. Largely through his leadership and direction, Michigan has developed a bean grading and inspection system regarded as the most reliable in the world.

Charles E. Donaldson Jr., Daggett

Distinguished Service Awards - Agriculture and Natural Resources Week, 1970

An active dairy farmer, he is recognized as an outstanding rural leader in the Upper Peninsula. He has provided life-long leadership in all phases of dairying, held many local and county offices, and served as chairman of the State Agriculture Commission.

Dean Pridgeon, Montgomery

Distinguished Service Awards - Agriculture and Natural Resources Week, 1970

A recognized agricultural leader, he was named Michigan's Outstanding Farmer in 1956. As vice-president of the Michigan Farm Bureau and a member of several other farm organizations, he has unselfishly served Michigan agriculture in many ways, giving freely of his personal time and efforts.

Jack W. Barnes, Royal Oak

Distinguished Service Awards - Agriculture and Natural Resources Week, 1971

As general manager of the Michigan Milk Producers Association, he has had a strong influence on the development of the milk market in Michigan. His judgment and ability to analyze complex milk marketing problems are widely recognized in the industry and he often serves as a marketing advisor to universities and dairy groups.

Wesley Myllyla, Pelkie

Distinguished Service Awards - Agriculture and Natural Resources Week, 1971

A veteran dairy farmer, he has achieved marked success in his chosen profession and has made important contributions to the solution of soil conservation problems at the state and local levels. He has given unselfishly of his time and talent to achieve the best use of community resources and to improve agricultural conditions in his area.

Henry T. Nelson, Ionia

Distinguished Service Awards - Agriculture and Natural Resources Week, 1971

An outstanding fruit farmer, his experience in orchard management has been invaluable to the many agricultural advisory and marketing committees on which he has served over the years. He is a highly respected member of his community and has provided important leadership in the area of urban and rural planning.

Kenneth Bull, Bailey

Distinguished Service Awards - Agriculture and Natural Resources Week, 1972

An outstanding fruit grower, he has shared his talents and knowledge on a number of administrative and advisory boards at the national, state and local levels. He was a leader in the use of controlled atmosphere storage for apples, in the development of fruit marketing organizations, and one of the first to build model housing for seasonal labor. He is dedicated to creating better understanding between rural and urban societies.

Richard A. & Jack DeWitt, Holland-Zeeland

Distinguished Service Awards - Agriculture and Natural Resources Week, 1972

Their exceptional ability and imagination is evidenced by the fact that from humble beginnings they were able to build one of the most integrated and progressive poultry and farm equipment manufacturing businesses in the United States. Conscientious civic leaders, they have made heavy contributions to the improvement of educational facilities and opportunities, both within their respective local communities and at the statewide level.

Basil McKenzie, Breckenridge

Distinguished Service Awards - Agriculture and Natural Resources Week, 1972

A distinguished leader in civic and crop related organizations, he played a key role in organization and program development of the Michigan Crop Improvement Association and Michigan Bean Commission and led a successful campaign to obtain legislative funds for beet and bean research. He did much to foster market development, industry cooperation and production research for the benefit of the Michigan cash crop industry.

Charles Coryell, Bay City

Distinguished Service Awards - Agriculture and Natural Resources Week, 1973

A highly respected leader in the beet sugar industry, he was one of the organizers of the Farmers and Manufacturers Beet Sugar Association. Because of his influence, this organization has been a strong supporter of important sugar beet research, providing both funds and facilities for many years. As a result, yields have more than doubled in the past 25 years. He is also an important civic leader whose opinions are highly valued.

Rebecca Tompkins, Traverse City

Distinguished Service Awards - Agriculture and Natural Resources Week, 1973

A knowledgeable and successful fruit grower, she shares management responsibilities for 200 acres of sweet cherries, tart cherries and apples. She is recognized statewide as a sound thinker, good organizer, and a prime mover that gets things done. Active in civic and educational affairs at the local level, she has also served as chairman of the Governor's Migrant Labor Commission and the Michigan Agricultural Commission.

Jack Dendel, Allegan

Distinguished Service Awards - Agriculture and Natural Resources Week, 1973

Owner of one of the most successful diversified farms in Michigan, his purebred herd of Guernsey cows ranks among the top five herds in the state each year. In addition, his cold storage unit enables him to retail nearly all of the produce from his 90 acres of tree fruit himself. Besides managing the fruit and dairy operations, he has devoted his talents to active participation in county, state and national farm organizations.

Henry C. Gleason, Three Rivers

Distinguished Service Awards - Agriculture and Natural Resources Week, 1974

An exceptional farm manager with the unique ability to keep expenditures in line while undergoing extensive expansion, he is also a recognized agricultural and community leader. He is a past president of his local Farm Bureau, has served several terms as a director of the St. Joseph County D.H.T.I.A. and M.A.B.C. Boards, and helped organize the Southwest Michigan Livestock Cooperative. He is also a member of the Michigan Milk Producers Association Board of Directors.

R. H. "Ike" Walton, Caseville

Distinguished Service Awards - Agriculture and Natural Resources Week, 1974

A long-time promoter of livestock improvement and marketing programs, general manager of the Michigan Livestock Exchange for 25 years. During that time the cooperative's business volume expanded from \$7 million to \$80 million. He has been a strong supporter of 4-H and FFA livestock programs throughout the state, has assisted with Junior Livestock training schools and been a leader in livestock marketing efforts. He has also been active in the National Livestock Producers Association.

John Zelenka, Grand Haven

Distinguished Service Awards - Agriculture and Natural Resources Week, 1974

An outstanding agricultural innovator, he has developed the largest and one of the most successful production nurseries in Michigan. A pioneer in the development of polyhouses for the winter storage of evergreens, he also helped develop the "papier-mache" container used extensively in potting nursery stock. He has also been a strong supporter of university teaching, extension and research projects and has provided extensive training experiences for students of agriculture.

Frank Merriman, Deckerville

Distinguished Service Awards - Agriculture and Natural Resources Week, 1975

Highly devoted to his church, community and state, he has served in numerous leadership positions, including chairman of Michigan State University Board of Trustees for eight years. He is presently chairman of the Board of Trustees, Michigan 4-H Foundation. Other key positions have included chairman, State Cooperative Extension Advisory Board member, Michigan Civil Rights Committee. His 80-cow registered Holstein herd operation includes more than 400 acres of cash crop production.

David Morris, Grand Ledge

Distinguished Service Awards - Agriculture and Natural Resources Week, 1975

His record of accomplishment and continuing contribution to family, church and community is outstanding. His successful 800-acre farm operation supports 1,000 head of beef cattle, yet he has afforded time to have served on more than 22 local, regional or state organizations. Some of these include: member, Michigan Agricultural Extension Advisory Board; member, Development Council, MSU Alumni Association; president, Michigan Cattle Feeders Association; past-president, Michigan Conference of Youth Fellowship, Methodist Church.

Erwin Raven, Birmingham

Distinguished Service Awards - Agriculture and Natural Resources Week, 1975

Demonstration of sincere and outstanding service in helping farm operators, farm families and youth achieve a better life is only part of his continuing concern for others. An employee of Detroit Edison, he has widely promoted 4-H programs throughout his community, and given strong support to Cooperative Extension and vocational agriculture programs at local, county and state levels. His numerous other civic memberships include teaching youth at St. James Episcopal Church, Birmingham.

Milton J. Brown, Mt. Pleasant

Distinguished Service Awards - Agriculture and Natural Resources Week, 1976

His co-owned 1,300-head cattle feeder operation based on 900 acres has enabled him to become one of Michigan's outstanding agricultural producers and a dedicated community, state and national organization leader. He has served as president of the National Livestock Feeders Association, Michigan Livestock Exchange, Michigan Cattle Feeders Association, Isabella County Farm Bureau and Mt. Pleasant Board of Education. Active in numerous state and national livestock operations, he is currently chairman of the Michigan Beef Industry Commission, a position held since establishment of the commission in 1973. He was awarded the 1974 "Minuteman Award" by Governor William G. Milliken for his service to Michigan agriculture.

Herbert W. Corey, Stephenson

Distinguished Service Awards - Agriculture and Natural Resources Week, 1976

Menominee County's strong agriculture status reflects his dedication and leadership through the Bank of Stephenson, with which he has been associated since 1929. He has received state and local recognition, an indication of his concern and continuing interest in 4-H youth, young farmers, local civic and church activities and the Upper Peninsula's future. Among his memberships are: state president, Michigan Bankers Association; chairman, International Bridge Authority; and member, Board of Directors, Menominee YMCA. His many awards include the 1974 FFA Distinguished Service Award and 1970 Man of the Year Award by Menominee Area Chamber of Commerce.

David G. Friday, Hartford

Distinguished Service Awards - Agriculture and Natural Resources Week, 1976

He has displayed a keen desire and dedication to the successful development of mechanical aids and mechanical harvesting equipment for the fruit industry. The Friday tractor, strawberry wiggle hoe, mechanical straw spreader, mechanical pruning aids and pruning bucket and bulk box handling equipment have contributed to mechanization of horticultural practices. Utilizing his engineering talent, he designed, developed and manufactured mechanical cherry harvesters. He is a nephew of a former Michigan Agricultural College President. Active in his local community, he has served on his school and church boards. He has presented papers on various aspects of harvest mechanization at many horticultural meetings throughout the country.

A. Edwin Baur, Kalamazoo

Distinguished Service Awards - Agriculture and Natural Resources Week, 1977

He has been a strong influence in agriculture within his county and Southwestern Michigan through his association with farm oriented businesses, particularly the First National Bank and Trust Company. He has worked closely with MSU and the Cooperative Extension Service for the continuation of educational programs for persons involved in agriculture and was responsible for setting up the Charles Force Memorial Scholarship Fund for students enrolled in the Institute of Agricultural Technology. He also works with students in international programs. He is presently serving on the Board of Directors of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Alumni Association. He has been extremely active in 4-H youth, local civic governmental and church activities through his community. Within these areas he has been recognized as a leader and a generous benefactor.

William & Marvin DeWitt, Zeeland

Distinguished Service Awards - Agriculture and Natural Resources Week, 1977

Starting with 160 acres of land and a few buildings in 1938, the brothers have built Michigan's largest complete poultry rearing and processing industry, consisting of 3,000 acres and more than 50 buildings, which handles over a million birds annually. This large family operation is noted for many innovative advances within the industry and their production of an excellent product for consumers. They are known for their humanitarian work, notably in Nigeria, and for their generous and constant support of local, civic and church programs. Throughout the years they have been extremely cooperative in furnishing MSU poultry science faculty and students with material to conduct academic studies. They have been leaders in the Michigan Turkey Association, Michigan Allied Poultry Industry, and the National Turkey Federation and have served on boards in all of these industry organizations.

Walter F. Frahm, Frankenmuth

Distinguished Service Awards - Agriculture and Natural Resources Week, 1977

Co-owner of an excellent 60- to 70-cow dairy operation based on about 500 acres of land, he is one of Michigan's outstanding dairy producers and a dedicated leader of the farming community. A strong advocate of the land grant philosophy and MSU, he works actively and willingly with the dairy science advisory committee and faculty. He is active in several important Farm Bureau leadership positions, serves in a variety of capacities with several state and regional dairy organizations while participating in local educational and church-related activities. He was named Saginaw County Jaycees' Outstanding Young Dairy Farmer in 1955 and MSU's Dairyman of the Year in 1975.

Theron Comden, Lakeview

Distinguished Service Awards - Farmers' Week, 1978

His 1,000-acre cash crop and timberland operation in Montcalm County is mute testimony to his love of the soil and nature, and the future of Michigan agriculture. This interest is exemplified in his many activities in soil management and gift of a 40-acre woodlot to the Montcalm Soil Conservation District for education purposes. This tract, and the subsequent building of Hill House, the material donated by him and his family, has been used by over 5,000 persons since its inception. He also leases 80 acres of his farm to MSU for research and is an ardent supporter of activities conducted there by student and researcher alike.

Joa Penzien, Mt. Clemens

Distinguished Service Awards - Farmers' Week, 1978

Known and respected for production of high-quality potatoes on his 555-acre farm, he has demonstrated exceptional agricultural leadership on county, state and national levels. His many services to the State of Michigan include having been a member of the Governor's Task Force and he is currently the vice-chairman of the Michigan Agriculture Commission. He is a strong supporter of MSU, the Cooperative Extension Service and agricultural research. His relationship with the Michigan Legislature and U.S. congressmen has been a strong asset to Michigan and national agriculture.

Thomas Vernon Angott, Orchard Lake

Distinguished Service Awards - Farmers' Week, 1978

A dynamic and innovative president of four large Detroit-based manufacturing operations, he plays a major role in the milk industry of Michigan. Within these circles and other industry endeavors, he holds an impressive list of accomplishments which has earned him the respect of business associates throughout the state. He is known as a tireless worker who gives generously of his time and talent within these realms, and of equal importance, are those services he provides the local and state civic community as well as nationally important organizations through which he serves his fellowman with enthusiasm and dedication.

Marvin Dreyer, Holland

Distinguished Service Awards - Agriculture and Natural Resources Week, 1979

Dedicated to the furtherance of agricultural improvement in his community and through much of the state, he sees continuing education as a primary need in everyday life. Examples of his enthusiasm are evident in his many religious and civic activities which include leadership in the Michigan Allied Poultry Industries, Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service, the Michigan Christmas tree industry, the Michigan Farm Bureau, as a member of the board of a local bank, and a leader in the Christian Reformed Church.

Harold Lein, St. Louis

Distinguished Service Awards - Agriculture and Natural Resources Week, 1979

Known and respected for his activities in Michigan's cattle industry, he has demonstrated exceptional leadership in agricultural circles through the state. His many services to Michigan include an appointment by Governor William Milliken to the Michigan Beef Industry Commission, President of Michigan State University College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Alumni Association, president of the Michigan 4-H Foundation, and member of the National Livestock Producers Association Manager's Cabinet. He is extremely supportive of Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service's Agricultural Education Programs for youth and adults.

Peter C. Morrison, Williamsburg

Distinguished Service Awards - Agriculture and Natural Resources Week, 1979

Respected throughout Michigan for his ability in marketing and fruit production, he currently operates a 1,100-acre cherry farm in Grand Traverse County. Among his many agricultural accomplishments is vibrant leadership in the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Association, the Michigan Cherry Administration Board and the Michigan Farm Bureau. He is a strong supporter of Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service and the University Agricultural Experiment Station Research for Northwest Michigan, as well as being involved in civic activities for his community.