

Mark Pedigo named Leo Sharp Agriculture Award winner

Honoree has roots in the soil of both Mason and Fulton counties

By JOHN FROEHLING
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This year's recipient of the Leo Sharp Agricultural Service Award has been with Growmark Inc. for the past 42 years. He has been an active member of the Fulton County Fair Board, Easton Community Board, Lake Camelot Board and many other boards over the years.

Mark Pedigo was presented the Leo Sharp Award by outgoing Fulton County Farm Bureau President Bill Carlberg at the 102nd Fulton County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, held February 11 at Big Horse Vineyards.

Pedigo grew upon a family farm near Biggs. His service career in agriculture began in Easton where he worked at a grain elevator.

He graduated from Easton High School and Black Hawk College in Kewanee with an

Associate in Applied Science Degree in agriculture supply.

He has been recognized many times for his accomplishments during his career. He became a certified crop specialist, then a Growmark Superior Seed salesman and was named Top Western Region Combination Salesman.

He also was named Top Western Region Crop Salesman, Monsanto-DeKalb Elite Dealer and Monsanto-Asgrow Top Seller.

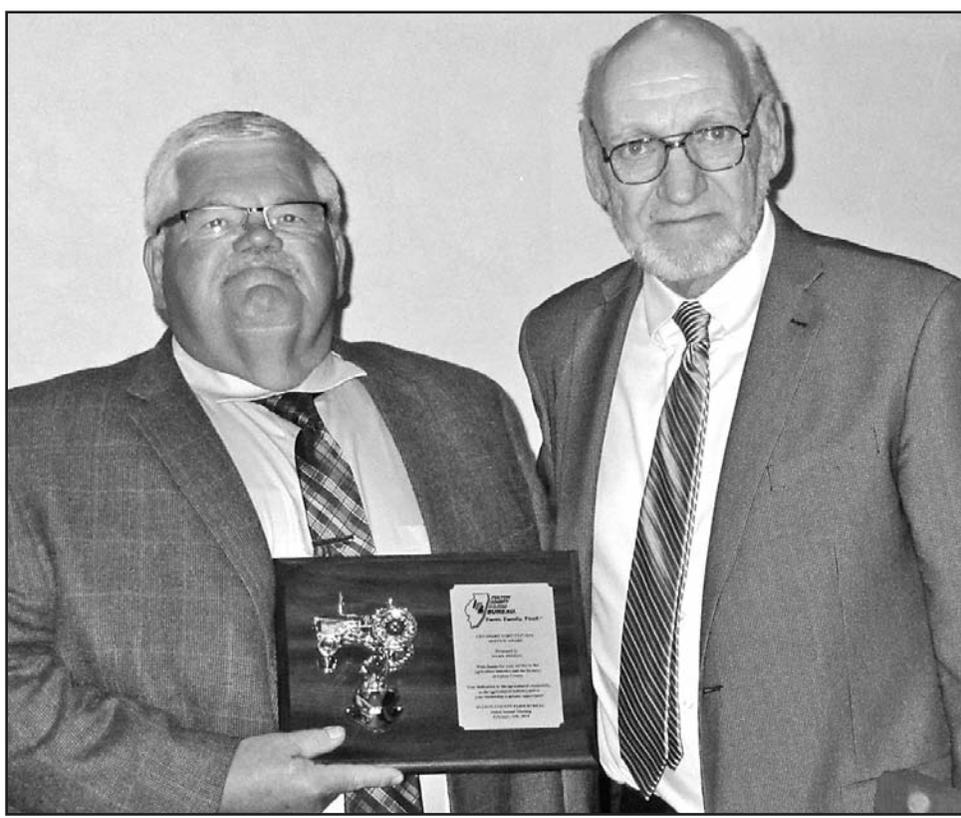
Pedigo began his career in Mason City as a plant manager. He then worked in Kilbourne as a crop specialist. He moved to the Easton facility to continue as a crop special, then moved to Peoria County as a general marketing manager.

He went on to spend 18 years as the Fulton FS General Manager and currently serves as the Agronomy Marketing Manager at Ag-Land in Pekin.

Pedigo and his wife Jo Dee have been married 39 years and have two children, Sara and Scott, along with four granddaughters.

"I'm very honored and I'm very surprised," Pedigo said in accepting the award. "This means more to me than anything."

He said when he came to Fulton County in 2000, he was very scared and tried to surround himself with good people. That hap-



■ Mark Pedigo (left) was presented the 2019 Leo Sharp Agricultural Service Award by outgoing Fulton County Farm Bureau President Bill Carlberg at the 102nd Annual Meeting of Fulton County Farm Bureau. The award goes to someone who does not farm but has been a strong supporter of agriculture. Pedigo served 18 years as General Manager of Fulton FS and now is the Agronomy Marketing Manager at Ag-Land in Pekin.

pened.

"You're surrounded by good people," he added. He thanked the Fulton County Farm Bureau Manager Elaine Stone and the rest of the organization, and said they have been a great family for him to be with.

The late Leo Sharp, after whom the award is named, served as a Fulton County Cooperative Extension Service advisor for 32 years. The award is given to someone who does not farm but has been a strong supporter of agriculture.

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