

JONES

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Agricultural Service Award by Farm Bureau Manager Elaine Stone during the event held Monday, February 10 at Big Horse Vineyards in rural Lewistown.

The award is named after the late Leo Sharp who served as the Extension Service Ag Advisor in Fulton County for 32 years.

It is given to recognize a person who is not a full-time farmer but has contributed significantly to agriculture in Fulton County and the farm community.

Stone said Jones has been "truly a friend to the youth of Fulton County." He's helped multi-generations of show families prepare their animals, including many three-generation families.

"There are probably four generations within one family he has worked with," she said.

"He is a transplant to Fulton County, growing up in Brighton (Macoupin County), Illinois. His family moved to the Little

America area in the mid 1970's to work for the Kenneth Shelby Farms.

"The nominee was in high school at the time, and graduated from Lewistown Community High School," said Stone in her introduction.

Jones worked for Delbert Endres on the farm, then worked for Caterpillar and then MoorMans Feeds, starting a 34-year career as a livestock feed salesman.

He also worked for ADM Feeds, and currently is with Hopedale Agri Center, she noted.

"He is a great advocate of agriculture in our county and is willing to help people promote their businesses, fairs exhibitions, and activities any way that he can. He greatly supports our agricultural youth and helps them with their projects in many ways.

"When donations or sponsorships are needed for the local fairs, 4-H clubs, or FFA chapters, he steps up to the plate. Most of

the time, you don't have to ask for a donation because he has already asked you what you need to help the cause," Stone said.

She also said the person who nominated Jones for the award commented, "I think he does not get the recognition he deserves, as he stays behind the scenes."

Jones said he felt deeply honored and

thanked everyone very much. He said growing up around so many positive people in his life meant a great deal to him. He mentioned several family farmers' names who made a difference in his life.

"If you see anything positive in me, it's a reflection of those people. Thank you," Jones said.

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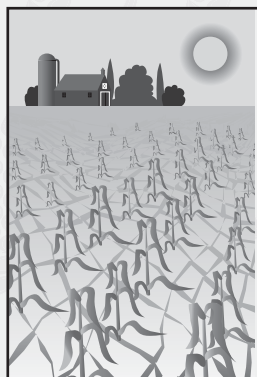
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