



LANCASTER AG SOCIETY
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For Immediate Release

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Lancaster County Agricultural Society Honors Award Winners

LINCOLN, NE – The Lancaster County Agricultural Society is pleased to announce and honor the 2011 award winners of the Ak-Sar-Ben Pioneer Farm Family, Ak-Sar-Ben Good Neighbor Award, Lancaster County Ag Society Hall of Fame Recipients and the Outstanding Individual of the Lancaster County Super Fair. Recipients of this year's awards will be honored at the Lancaster County Super Fair Foundation Fundraising Dinner and Awards Banquet on July 7, 2011 at the Lancaster Event Center.

For more than 50 years, the **Pioneer Farm Family Award** has honored farm families in Nebraska whose land has been owned by the same family for 100 years or more. To date, more than 8,000 families in all 93 Nebraska counties have been honored. This award is sponsored by the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben Foundation and the Nebraska Farm Bureau. Each recipient receives an engraved plaque and gatepost marker. This year's Lancaster County recipients are Burdette Piening of Lincoln, and Lynette Nelson of Davey.

Lynette Nelson's grandfather purchased 80 acres in 1909. Seven years later he bought the adjoining 80 acres. He owned those 160 acres for 35 years. The farm was then passed on to his daughter, Loretta Piening. She owned the property for 34 years. In 1978, the farm was passed on to Loretta's daughter, Lynette, who now has owned the farm for 33 years.

Louie and Lizzie Piening bought their farm in December of 1910. They owned the land for 55 years. It was then passed on to his son, Adolph and Loretta Piening in 1966. They owned the land for 12 years. In 1978, it was then passed on to his son, Burdette and Virginia Piening who have owned the land for 33 years.

The **Lancaster County Ag Society Hall of Fame Award** formally recognizes those individuals who have dedicated time and effort to the Lancaster County Agricultural Society beyond the normal volunteer and have made significant contributions to the establishment, development, advancement or improvement of the Lancaster County Super Fair. This year's honorees are Lorene Bartos of Lincoln and Rod Hollman of Martell.

Rod Hollman has been involved in 4-H for almost all his life. He has served as Superintendent of 4-H and open class, and volunteered for many additional activities at the Lancaster Event Center. Rod has served as a board member of the Lancaster County Ag Society and President. He was on the board when the Lancaster Event Center was developed and built, and served as Interim Manager. He has contributed many volunteer hours over the years and played a vital role in what the Event Center and Fair have become today.

Lorene Bartos developed her passion for 4-H as a young child, and has continued that passion as an Extension Educator for Lancaster County for over 25 years. Lorene has played many roles throughout her years at the Extension office and extends her talents to involvement in the Lancaster County Super Fair. Lorene is always willing to help wherever needed, whether its serving breakfast, bbq or helping in the open class divisions. Volunteers like Lorene are highly valued and appreciated.

The **Good Neighbor Award**, initiated in 1944, is co-sponsored by the Omaha World-Herald and the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben Foundation, and recognizes those individuals who unselfishly place others before themselves. This year's recipients are Kathy Holland of Lincoln, and Mark & Mickie Jeter of Lincoln.

Kathy volunteered to assist a neighbor when medical issues arose with the family and they were called away for several months. Mark & Mickie Jeter are good neighbors by helping with the neighbor children, cleaning up after storms caused tree damage, snow removal and much more.

The **Outstanding Individual Award** goes to Mary Ramsier of Waverly for her valuable contributions to the Ag Society during the 2010 Lancaster County Super Fair. Mary has been the Accounting Manager for the Lancaster Event Center for the past seven years.

Tickets for the Lancaster County Super Fair Foundation Fundraiser and Awards Banquet are available by calling the Lancaster Event Center at 402.441.6545. Your ticket is tax-deductible. The Lancaster County Super Fair Foundation exists to support the Lancaster County Agricultural Society and enhance public awareness and appreciation of agriculture through the promotion of the Lancaster County Super Fair.