



RHEDONNA ROSE SPEAKS AT 5TH ANNUAL “SALUTE TO AGRICULTURE”

Jerry Crews named 2007 Century Farmer

LAWRENCEBURG, Tenn. June 8, 2007 – Local farmers were honored at the fifth annual Lawrence County Salute to Agriculture / Farmers Appreciation Breakfast, presented by the Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce and Lawrence County Extension, on June 5 at Lawrence County High School. Guest speaker Rhedonna Rose, Tennessee Farm Bureau director of public relations, spoke about the importance of women in the agriculture industry.

The appreciation breakfast, made possible by main sponsors First Farmers & Merchants Bank and Farm Credit Services, is part of a week of activities honoring Lawrence County’s agricultural industry.

“This was a wonderful event for Lawrence County and its farming community,” said Rose. “Lawrence County should not only be proud of its farmers, but also its extension service, cattlemen and banks that support the agricultural industry.”

“Salute to Agriculture is one of the Chamber’s favorite activities,” said Daphene Cope, Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce director of operations. “Farmers are a vital part of Lawrence County’s economy and, although we all benefit from their hard work, they often go unrecognized. This year we especially want to acknowledge the importance of women in farming.”

After Rose’s speech, Tim Pettus, First Farmers & Merchants Bank president, presented Jerry and Donna Crews with the 2007 Century Farmer award. To be eligible for this award, the recipient must be the owner and operator of a family farm that has been continuously run for at least 75 years. Crew’s farm, located outside the Lawrenceburg City limits on Highway 64, has been in operation for more than 100 years.

“Being a farmer is a good life, but it’s also a tough life,” said Crews. “I couldn’t have made it all these years without my wife, Donna.”

The appreciation breakfast also included a presentation by Wendel Smith, a local farmer, on the county’s produce and special crops, a speech given by Lawrence County 4-H Club Member Matthew Stombaugh and door prizes donated by local vendors. Calvin Bryant, Lawrence County Extension director, emceed the event.

Additional sponsors of the event included Lawrence Farmers Co-Op, City of Lawrenceburg, County of Lawrence, Future Farmers of America, 4-H Club, Rural Development, Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources & Conservation Service, Lawrence County Soil Conservation District and Kiwanis.

###