



2015 Winneshiek County Distinguished Service Award

Bob and Sadie Sersland (left above) received this award in 2015. Bob was in 4-H and he showed his projects at the fair throughout those years. Bob and Sadie had 4 children: Keith, Cheryl, Bonnie, and Deanna and as soon as they were old enough they followed Bob's footsteps and joined 4-H. Bob and Sadie soon found themselves parents of 4-Hers and both became leaders for their kids' clubs.

Bob just couldn't stay away from his involvement with the fair and in 1993 he was asked to become a member of the first Winneshiek County Agriculture Association Auxiliary (Green Shirts) and he is the only one of that group that is still active. Being a very good handyman, a lot of his work can be seen in the display cases and sign boards around the fair. But what you can't see is all of the time he spent fixing up and preparing the fairgrounds for the fair.

Sadie didn't sit still. She spent a tremendous amount of time running the Hobby House, where she was also the flower show superintendent for many years. They were also very active in the community. Bob was a member of the Winneshiek County Dairy Council, he served on various church committees, and was on the Decorah Community School Board. Sadie was a very active member of the Winneshiek County Milk Maids for several years, served as the church treasurer, and was a Sunday School teacher. Bob and Sadie were two of the people you didn't always see working, as much as you enjoyed the work they did.

Albert and Donna Ashbacher (right, above), recipients of the Distinguished Service Award have been married for 52 years. They are blessed with 3 children. When the oldest was 9, Albert became leader of his son's 4-H club, The Frankville Jolly Boys.

Their daughter later joined 4-H and Donna became leader of her club, the Frankville Farm Hands. They were very involved with dairy cattle, pigs, crafts, foods and clothing projects for at least 15 years. Some of their grandchildren were involved with 4-H and FFA. Albert later served on the TriState Breeders and Wisconsin Dairies Board of Directors. He has also received the Dairyman and the Pioneer Dairyman Award for Winneshiek County. Albert was a member of the Winneshiek County Fair Board and was also on the fair auxiliary board.

Donna kept herself busy herding the kids. She always made sure they were on time to those activities and helped organize all of their 4-H projects. She is also known as quite the quilter and has been a member of the Northeast Iowa Quilters Guild for many years. She was instrumental in organizing quilt displays at the fair and their judging.

Both were very involved in the church. Donna has been an active member of the Church Synod and President of the Washington Prairie WELCA. Albert served as a deacon at the church. Their 3 kids, Randall, Rodney, and Rhonda, say they remember dad always helping them with chores so they could be involved with sports, orchestra, choir, 4-H and FFA. You will see them every year at our Winneshiek County Fair.