

Young leaders honored

By HOLLY SPANGLER

SEVERAL young farmers and young leaders took home top awards at last month's Illinois Farm Bureau meeting, held in Chicago.

Chad and Deb Bremmer were named winners of the Young Leader Achievement Award, given to a young farmer or farm couple based on their management and innovation in the farming operation, and on their leadership and civic involvement.

The Bremmers farm with family near Pearl City, raising corn, beans and replacement dairy heifers. As part of their award, they receive 150 hours' use of a Case IH tractor and a trip to the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting



CHAD and DEB BREMMER



BRAD and ANNA SCHMIDGALL

in San Antonio, Texas, where they'll compete against other state winners for the national title.

Chad and Deb are members of the current class of Cultivating Master Farmers, and created a bit of a legacy in winning this award; Chad's parents, Ron and Karen Bremmer, won the Achievement Award in 1982.

Warsaw young farmer Joe Zumwalt took home the coveted Young Leader Discussion Meet prize. Kurt Range, St. Clair County, was runner-up.

Zumwalt bested a large field of competitors to win the top prize and

will also represent Illinois during the American Farm Bureau Federation Young Leader Discussion Meet in San Antonio. Zumwalt farms with his family in Hancock County.

Brad and Anna Schmidgall took home the Excellence in Agriculture Award, given to a young person or young couple who have excelled in an agricultural field, but do not make their living in production ag. The Schmidgalls will also represent Illinois at the American Farm Bureau Federation Excellence in Agriculture competition in San Antonio this month.



JOE ZUMWALT

Farm Bureau recognizes Knox County producer

By HOLLY SPANGLER

BY nearly every standard, Oneida farmer Rollie Moore is a success. After *Prairie Farmer* named him a Master Farmer in 1996, Moore went on to expand his operation, restore vintage tractors, and volunteer his time and labor to various civic organizations. And at last month's Illinois Farm Bureau meeting, Moore was recognized again for his accomplishments when the organization honored him with the Charles B. Shuman Distinguished Service Award.

The award recognizes superior service to agriculture and to Illinois farmers. Over the years, Moore has served in the local Knox County Farm Bureau, and was elected chairman of the IFB State Young Farmer Committee

in the 1970s. He became vice president of the Illinois Farm Bureau from 1993-99, and during that time chaired the resolutions committee and the finance committee, and served as vice president of Country Financial.

Moore was also a member of the first class of Cultivating Master Farmers, offering up his time and expertise as part of a sounding board and training ground that pairs young farmers and Master Farmers.

More recently, he's turned his time and attention to philanthropic work, volunteering with Habitat for Humanity in Galesburg and spending time in Mississippi to help Hurricane Katrina victims rebuild their lives and property. He also volunteered with clean up following last year's Mississippi River flooding.



SERVICE AWARD: Phil Nelson (left), Illinois Farm Bureau president and Seneca farmer, presented the Charles Shuman Distinguished Service Award to Rollie Moore during last month's annual meeting. Rollie and his wife, Fran, farm near Oneida.

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