

Unique awards return to show

By JOSH FLINT

THIS year we celebrate the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birthday. Lincoln demonstrated his commitment to agriculture by establishing the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the land-grant college system. To honor his dedication to agriculture, the

Key Points

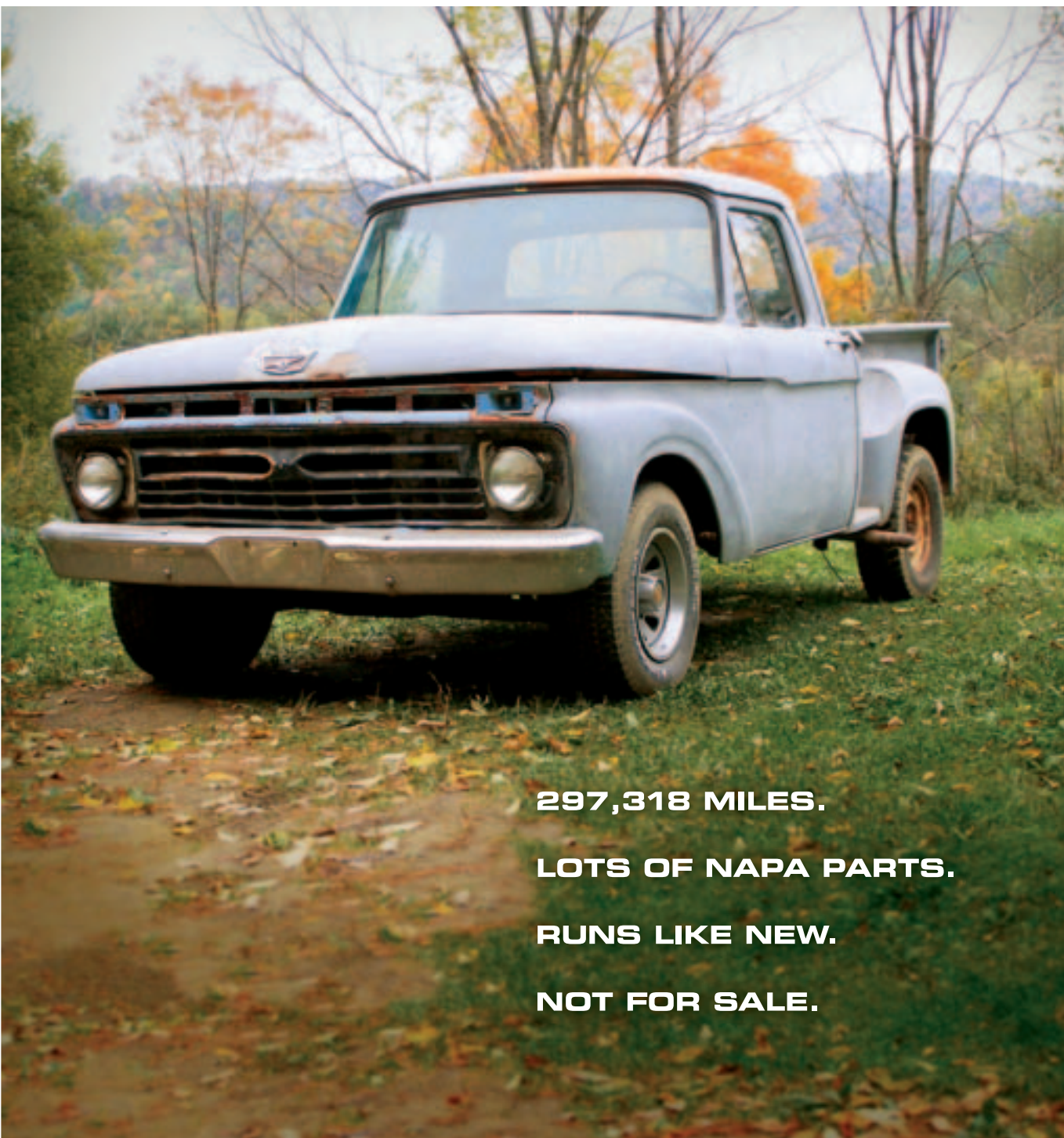
- Abraham Lincoln National Agriculture Award nominees sought.
- The award will be presented at the 2009 Farm Progress Show.
- Applications are due June 26. Winners will be announced Sept. 1.

Abraham Lincoln National Agricultural Awards committee is seeking nominees for 2009.

Recipients of the bi-annual Abraham Lincoln National Agricultural Awards will be honored at the Farm Progress Show on Sept. 1. Each will receive a 23-inch statuette of Honest Abe made by Lincoln sculptor John McClarey.

Nominate an achiever

NOMINATIONS and applications are due June 26 for the Abraham Lincoln National Agricultural Awards. Forms are available online at www.farmprogressshow.com. For more information, call Kim Bauer at 217-424-2779 or e-mail him at kbauer@decaturil.gov. You can also call Cindy Laegeler at 217-875-7211, ext. 577, or e-mail her at claegele@richland.edu.



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2007 winners

While living in Decatur, Lincoln began his career in politics and was nominated as a presidential candidate in 1860. Decatur's agricultural tradition continues as the lifeblood of this community. The inaugural winners of the Abraham Lincoln National Agricultural Award were announced during the 2007 Farm Progress Show at the Decatur show site. Winners were:

Agribusiness Award: John Huston's commitment to the beef industry earned him the Agribusiness Award. He served as president of the National Livestock and Meat Board and executive vice president of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. He has also been recognized for his volunteer work on behalf of 4-H and Extension, inducted into the International Stockmen's Hall of Fame, and named National Agri-Marketing Association Agri-Marketer of the Year.

Agriculturalist Award: During John Block's service as secretary of agriculture, he convinced President Ronald Reagan to end the highly unpopular Russian grain embargo. From a grain and hog farm in northwestern Illinois, he rose to leadership roles at county, state and national levels. His input into the 1985 Farm Bill helped pull rural America out of a recession and put it on a path of upward progress that has been uninterrupted to this day. His role in shaping the industry earned him the Agriculturalist Award.

Education Award: Jim Evans is best known for establishing the Agricultural Communications Department at the University of Illinois. His efforts also gave rise to the Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow, as well as to a pair of international organizations focused on agricultural communications and information dissemination. For this contribution, he was awarded the Abraham Lincoln National Agriculture Award for Education.

Legislative Award: Former Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert was honored with the Legislative Award. He was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1986 after six years of service in the Illinois General Assembly, and 16 years as a popular teacher and successful coach. His extensive list of achievements includes grain warehouse regulations, the Water Resources Development Act and persuading President George W. Bush to sign the 2002 Farm Bill.

Technology Award: During his presidency of the National Corn Growers Association, Leon Corzine was instrumental in the success of the Renewable Fuels Act. Corzine won the Technology Award for his dedication to renewable fuels. In addition, he was named a *Prairie Farmer* Master Farmer in 2007.