

'08 Master Farmers continue legacy

MASTER Farmers' roots reach all the way back to 1925, when the first awards banquet was held in Chicago.

Twenty-three Masters were inducted at that inaugural ceremony.

Clifford Gregory, *Prairie*

Farmer editor at the time, conceived the program to give farmers a greater sense of pride and permanence.

Unfortunately, due to uncertain economic conditions during the Great Depression and subsequently World War II, the program was suspended

until it was reintroduced in 1968. Roger Allaman, Leon "Len" Corzine, Jim Patterson and Gary Wachtel mark the 40th class inducted since the program was reintroduced.

After a brief stint in teaching, Allaman moved back to Roseville in 1971 to farm alongside his father. He currently tends 2,097 acres.

Corzine worked at a local elevator for about a year. In 1974, he joined his father on the family farm in Assumption. Now, Corzine and his son farm 2,810 acres.

Patterson started farming in 1964, right out of high school. Now, he raises a variety of crops and livestock on 2,090 acres.

Wachtel purchased his first 100 acres adjacent to the family farm in 1972. He's now an integral part in Wachtel Farms Inc., which includes his father, brother and son. They operate on 5,700 acres.

The Master Farmer program not only looks at the production facets of each farmer. It also takes community involvement, innovation, leadership and family into account. Each of 2008 Master Farmers top the charts in these categories.

Nominate a neighbor for 2009

EACH year, the Master Farmer program continues to prosper because nominators take the time and effort to highlight farmers in their community for recognition.

If you have someone you'd like to propose for this award, please pick up a nomination form. The sense of accomplishment felt by successful applicants will make it all worthwhile.

Visit www.prairiefarmer.com to print off a copy of the nomination form. Or call the *Prairie Farmer* office at 217-877-9070 to receive a nomination form by mail.

They said it

"I see this award as recognition by others of my farming practices and my beliefs concerning conservation that I have held during my farming career. I'm also honored to have my actions related to serving the community of Roseville recognized."

Roger Allaman



"I am very humbled to have been selected as a Master Farmer. Being a smaller farmer, I hope being nominated for this award shows that hard work and honesty has its rewards. Someone is always watching, and I am thankful for the kind words from good neighbors and friends."

Jim Patterson



"I remember seeing the Master Farmers on the cover as a boy and thinking, 'Wow, I would like to meet one of those folks someday!' I liken the Master Farmer award to the Hall of Fame in sports except it is for active participants and not retirees."

Leon Corzine



"It's an honor to be included among this group. It's definitely a prestigious award. I'm just one of the spokes in the wheel of Wachtel Farms."

Gary Wachtel



Volume 180 ■ Number 7

Contents:

Inside Illinois Ag 1
 Prairie Views.....8
 Finance/Insurance..... 10
 Crops 12
 Technology.....23
 Natural Resources 27
 Livestock 28
 Farm Management32
 Prairie Life34
 Classified/Marketplace.....37
 Marketing49

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**Congratulations
 Roger Allaman
 Master Farmer
 Award Winner 2008**

*From the Directors, Officers, and
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**Congratulations
 Roger Allaman
 for receiving the 2008
 Master Farmer Award**

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