

Three Hoosiers pull down top ag awards

By TOM J. BECHMAN

MATTHEW Rekeweg was once just a hard-working farm kid, raised on a family farm near Woodburn in Allen County. Now he's an up-and-coming leader in farm management and ag real estate in Indiana. Those who work with him already knew it, but a prestigious award bestowed by a na-

tional group makes it clear that others see his talents, too.

Rekeweg was recently named recipient of the Early Career Award by the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers. The group is a professional organization for those who provide management and consulting services for agricultural



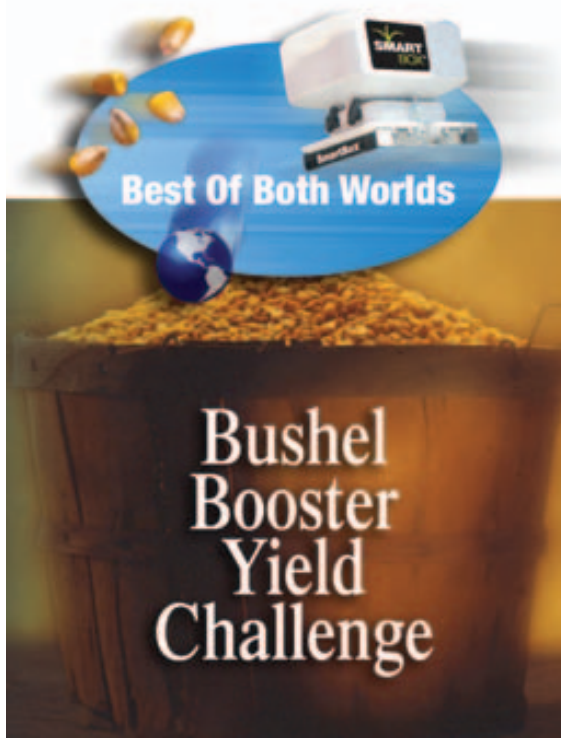
REKEWEG

and rural assets. The award was based on both Rekeweg's outstanding contributions to the society and his local community. Anyone nationwide in their first 10 years of society membership is eligible for the award.

Currently Rekeweg is vice president and national sales manager for Halderman Cos.,

Wabash. That includes both Halderman Farm Management Service Inc. and Halderman Real Estate Services Inc. Halderman officials credit Rekeweg as being instrumental in bringing their Web-based accounting and customer relationship management system online. He also plays a key role in organizing owner field days and customer appreciation programs.

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Here's how it works:

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- Each field registered must have an untreated check strip at full planter width, along the length of every 40 acres of treated corn.
- Any claims of less than 3 bu/ac yield increase must be adequately documented through Yield Monitor or weigh wagon results. Claim forms available at www.smartboxsystem.com.

Open Registration until March 15th, 2009

— Register online or by phone.

- Visit www.smartboxsystem.com to complete on-line enrollment,
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Please be prepared to provide the following information when you register for the Best of Both Worlds Bushel Booster Yield Challenge:

- Grower name, address and phone number.
- County and State where the fields are located.
- Indicate whether you plan to use Fortress 5G or Counter 15G.
- Planned number of acres to treat (60 acre minimum is required).
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Hoosier up for stewardship award

Those who have visited Clark Sennett and his son, Lance, at their beef cattle operation near Waynetown already know they go above and beyond to protect the environment while running their business. Now the rest of the country knows, too.

Sennett Cattle Co. is one of seven regional winners in the National Cattlemen's 18th annual Environmental Stewardship Award program. Clark will vie against six other regional winners for the national title. The winner will be named Jan. 29 at the Cattle Industry Convention in Phoenix, Ariz.

The Sennetts hosted a stop on the Purdue University Farm Management



LAND CAREGIVER: Clark Sennett with Julia Wickard, executive director of the Indiana Beef Cattle Association.

Tour when it visited Montgomery County a few years ago. Clark was named a Master Farmer in 2004. The award is sponsored by *Indiana Prairie Farmer* and the Purdue University College of Agriculture.

Woodson captures award

Attendees at the first Indiana Farm Bureau Convention held outside of Indianapolis in recent years helped thank Randy Woodson for the vision he's brought to both higher education and agriculture in general. Woodson, former dean of the Purdue College of Agriculture, received the Frederick L. Hovde Award of Excellence in Educational Service to Rural People of Indiana.



WOODSON

Despite a name so long even the acronym wouldn't fit on a baseball cap, the award is one of the most coveted by Purdue staff. It's presented annually to someone with a record of outstanding achievement and service to rural Indiana.

Since Indiana Farm Bureau sponsored the award, the announcement was made at its convention in Evansville. Woodson is now provost at Purdue.

Jay Akridge, interim dean, praised Woodson as a visionary leader. Akridge and two candidates from outside Purdue are vying to be the next Purdue dean. An announcement is expected soon.

