



Kenneth Metcalf, Sr. was born on October 18, 1936 in Mechanicsburg Township. When he began attending school, he attended both Buffalo Grade School and Mechanicsburg Grade School. Kenny's high school years were spent at Tri-City High School, where he graduated in 1954. During those high school years, Kenny also farmed over 200 acres and worked part time for the Oliver dealer in Mechanicsburg.

In December of 1958, Kenny took on a new path. He went to work for the Sangamon County Sheriff's office as a deputy. In 1964, he went to work for the Illinois State Police in the Drug Enforcement Division but he never did leave his roots and still continued to farm. Eventually Kenny became a major in the State Police and at one time supervised all of the criminal investigators in 68 counties of the state. He continued his career path and his farming habit until his retirement from the state in 1988. Upon retirement, he began to focus solely on his farming.

In January 1961, Kenny held a brief stint in the Army as a Military Police officer but was discharged early in October of 1962 in order to return home to take care of the farm.

Throughout many wonderful years Kenny had the company of his wife Jean (Mann). They were married in 1963 and became the parents of one child, Kenneth Jr. in 1965.

Once Kenny Jr. was old enough to play a significant role in the farm, father and son worked to grow the farming operation to over 2000 acres.

Part of Kenny's passions has always been raising cattle. Not one for just raising the usual cattle, he began raising the Piedmontese breed and went so far as to take his product all the way from the farm to the plate under the Piedmontese label. Grocery stores sold his product for 5 years but in 1996 he got out of the breed and just raised commercial beef again.

Around 1996, Kenny moved into yet another phase of his agricultural career. Trucking and marketing silage business became one of his staples due to his connections with cattle producers around the state and the large quantities of silage available from the nearby Monsanto plant in Illiopolis. He marketed and sold so much silage that he eventually became and still is the sole trucking firm to haul silage from the Illiopolis plant.

Just as many farmers do, Kenny served numerous roles in the community. He served on the Tri-City school board for nine years and currently has served on the Mechanicsburg village board for 20 years. As far as agricultural organizations go, Kenny sat on the Sangamon County Farm Bureau board for nine years including four of those years as its President, as well as serving on the National Piedmontese board and holding the office of President for two years.

While reflecting back on his farming experience, Kenny noted, "The progress in the size and convenience of machinery along with the huge advancements in seed technology have been two of the biggest changes I've seen over my many years in agriculture."

**2015 Recipient
Kenneth Metcalf, Sr.
Mechanicsburg, IL**