

NEWS
RELEASE

National Association of Farm Broadcasting
1100 Platte Falls Road
Platte City, MO 64079

CONTACT

Mindy Oberly
Marketing and Communications Manager
(816) 431-4032, mindy@nafb.com

For Immediate Release



National Association of Farm Broadcasting Honors Members

Three honored for their contributions to the association and industry.

PLATTE CITY, Missouri (November 19, 2014) – At the 71st Convention of the National Association of Farm Broadcasting (NAFB) three outstanding members were recognized for the dedication, commitment and passion for farm broadcasting and the agricultural industry.

Bill Farmakis, J.L. Farmakis, Named 2014 Dix Harper Meritorious Service Award

This award is presented to an Allied Industry Council or Management & Sales Council member who has demonstrated exemplary and committed service to NAFB. The award was renamed in 2006 to honor longtime member, leader and historian Dix Harper.

Longtime NAFB member and radio advocate Bill Farmakis was awarded the Dix Harper Meritorious Service Award last night during the Night of Honors Celebration. The Award recognizes outstanding support and leadership to the broadcasting industry and association by a member of the Management & Sales Council or the Allied Industry Council. Bill speaks loudly and proudly to advertisers and agencies emphasizing the importance of placing agriculture commercials within in agriculture programming. Bill works tirelessly behind the scenes to enhance the profile for farm broadcasting. Bill Farmakis serves as President of J.L. Farmakis, Inc, and is a 20-year member of NAFB.

Ken Anderson, Brownfield Radio Network, Named 2014 Farm Broadcaster of the Year

Since 1969, NAFB has been recognizing distinguished broadcasters with the Farm Broadcaster of the Year award. It is given to individuals who have proven their abilities in broadcasting, have shown true commitment to the industry through their actions and their promotional efforts, and have shown leadership in the industry and within their communities. It is perhaps the most coveted award in our industry.

Ken Anderson, ag reporter and news anchor for Brownfield Radio Network, based in Lincoln, Nebraska. Ken grew up on a farm in northeastern South Dakota and attended South Dakota State University, majoring in broadcast journalism. His broadcasting career began in 1977 with KRVN Radio in Lexington, Nebraska. From there, he went to work for regional seed company NC-Plus Hybrids where he

was in charge of marketing communications activities. That was followed by public relations stints with two advertising agencies. In 2008, Ken returned to his first love—broadcasting—with Brownfield Ag News. Among Ken's honors are the Excellence in Marketing Communications Award from the National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA) and the Editor's Choice Award from the National Association of Farm Broadcasting (NAFB) News Service. He has also received the Media Appreciation Award from the Nebraska Corn Board and the Friend of the Iowa Soybean Farmer Award from the Iowa Soybean Association. Ken is a past president of the National Association of Farm Broadcasting Foundation board of directors and a past president of the Nebraska Agribusiness Club. A graduate of Nebraska's ag leadership program (LEAD), Ken now serves on the LEAD Alumni Association board of directors.

Nicole Heslip, Michigan Farm Radio, Named 2014 Horizon Award Winner

The award was established in 1995 and serves to recognize a broadcaster with less than five years of membership. It's always an honor to publicly acknowledge these new broadcasters not only for their dedication to the field of broadcast, but also for the new perspectives and passion that they bring and breathe into our organization.

Nicole Heslip, Agri-News Reporter with Michigan Farm Radio Network. Nicole brings the latest market updates and agricultural news to more than 250,000 listeners across Michigan. You can find her at many agricultural events around the state, providing remote coverage as well as working with local advertising.

Nicole also currently serves on the communications work group for the Michigan Agricultural and Environmental Assurance Program and contributes to the Michigan Ag Council's From the Farmer Blog. As a student at Michigan State University (MSU), she majored in Agricultural and Natural Resources Communications, and specialized in Agri-Business Management and Public Relations. Nicole's background serving as an agricultural communicator includes serving as a Michigan Dairy Ambassador, National Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow Editor and Michigan FFA Region I State Vice President. As a dairy farmer's daughter, Nicole grew up in Allegan County, where her family today milks over 2,800 cows and operates a custom farming business.

The National Association of Farm Broadcasting is a 501(c)(6) professional organization whose mission is to lead, promote and support growth in agricultural and rural broadcasting for the benefit of our members, audience and industry.

###