



To: Newsroom Directors and Assignment Editors

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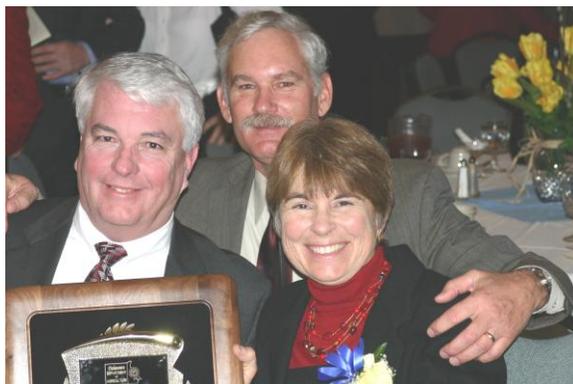
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### Ed Kee receives the Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service to Agriculture

On Saturday, January 26, Secretary Michael Scuse presented the Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service to Agriculture to Ed Kee, Extension Vegetable Specialist at the University of Delaware. The award was given in recognition of meritorious service for Delaware agriculture.

According to Scuse, "Many men and women in Delaware have made significant contributions to Delaware agriculture. Several deserving people were nominated for this award. I want to remind everyone that it is an honor to be nominated and I thank everyone who took the time to nominate these dedicated people."



Left to right: Ed Kee, Michael Scuse, Debbie Kee

Scuse continued, "Kee was chosen because of his more than 35 years of meritorious service to Delaware agriculture and community involvement. His accomplishments are many and he is recognized locally, nationally, and internationally by his peers for his work. He will soon be leaving the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension, but not food and agriculture, to take a position with Hanover Foods. I cannot imagine the University without him, but I am sure that he will always answer the call if we need him."

Robin Morgan, Dean and Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station, said of Ed Kee, "Since 1978 when Ed came on board, Delaware has seen a 10,000 acre increase in vegetable production, and this has resulted in an increase in cash farm income of \$15 million. Ed was involved in many aspects of this effort, some of which include:

- Introduction of drip irrigation to Delaware vegetable growers;
- Development of sound recommendations for fertilizer, insecticide, and herbicide use on vegetable crops;
- Evaluation of vegetable crop varieties that have resulted in higher crop yields;
- Development of innovative planting and harvesting technologies;
- Identification of new markets for growers; and
- Attraction of new agricultural industry to Delaware."

"Ed Kee is a generous man," Dean Morgan continued. "He has given much to both the University of Delaware and to Delaware's communities. Perhaps one of the ingredients to whatever makes up Ed Kee is that he truly enjoys others, and he lives to help them."

### Ed Kee:

- Kee received his B. S. and M. S. in Agriculture from the University of Delaware in 1973 and 1975 respectively.

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- Kee began his professional agricultural career as the farm manager at Nassau Orchards in Lewes
- Joined the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension as the Kent County Agricultural Agent in 1978 and since that time has become Delaware's vegetable expert.
- Kee has authored or co-authored over 30 articles in peer-reviewed scholarly journals. These include articles published in the fields of horticulture, vegetable science, agricultural engineering, agricultural economics, history and civil rights. Kee has also written numerous articles for the commercial agricultural press, including a monthly column for *The Delmarva Farmer*.
- In the last two years, Ed has taken the lead in the LEAD Delaware program that is designed to develop men and women in agriculture with leadership potential – our leaders of tomorrow.
- In 1996, Ed received the George M. Worrilow Award for Outstanding Service to Agriculture by a University of Delaware College of Agriculture graduate.
- In 2007, Ed received the Award for Excellence in Extension from NASULGC, A Public University Association that is the nation's oldest higher education association. Awardees are individuals who excel at extension programming, make a positive impact on constituents served, and provide visionary leadership for the system.
- In 1996, he completed the requirements for a Master of Arts-Liberal Studies at the University of Delaware. His thesis project centered on the 1954 School Integration Crisis in Milford. This work was published in *Delaware History*, the publication of The Historical Society of Delaware. Since that time, he has hit the lecture circuit and has had a positive impact on people's understanding of the issue then and now.
- He has published or lectured on agricultural or historical topics across the United States and in Mexico, Germany, Hungary, Canada, and the Ukraine. He is the author of *Saving Our Harvest: The History of the Mid-Atlantic Canning and Freezing Industry*, and *Delaware Farming*. True to form, Ed is donating the royalties from *Delaware Farming* to the Delaware Agricultural Museum and Village to help with their effort to preserve Delaware history.
- Ed Kee led the campaign to build a new library in Milford, Delaware. This \$3 million project was completed in 1993. He has served on the Milford Library Trustees and the Governor's Advisory Committee for Libraries. Kee was elected to the Milford Board of Education from 1995 to 2000, and currently serves on the Delaware Interscholastic Athletics Association Board of Directors. He serves on the Delaware Banking Commission and the Delaware Heritage Commission. He is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Delaware Agricultural Museum and Village.
- Kee is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of The Felton Bank, and sits on the board of the bank's holding company, Shorebankshares, Inc., of Easton, Maryland. He served as the secretary-treasurer of the University of Delaware Agricultural Alumni Association for 20 years. Ed and his wife Debbie established a scholarship to send graduates of Delaware High Schools majoring in agriculture to the University of Delaware.
- In 2005, he received the University of Delaware's Ratledge Award for Outstanding Public Service, the highest award the university gives for public service.
- Kee, a sixth generation Delawarean, lives on a farm near Lincoln with his wife Debbie. Debbie and Ed have been married for 32 years. They have two grown daughters, who live in Michigan and Pennsylvania.

An electronic copy of the picture is available at: [anne.fitzgerald@state.de.us](mailto:anne.fitzgerald@state.de.us)

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