

2010 Farmer of the Year Award

This year's Farmer of the Award is being sponsored by EnergyUnited. We would also like to thank the Cooperative Extension Office for assisting with the application and judging process for the Farmer of the Year award.

The recipient of the Farmer of the Year Award has been described as a hard worker with a strong work ethic. He works tirelessly from sunrise to sunset without complaint. He loves his farm and is careful to care for not only the animals but for the land as well. He uses no-tilling planting methods and properly stores both liquid and dry waste to prevent contamination. This farm has also exported Jersey breeding stock all over the country and the world, including, Ecuador, Columbia, Mexico, etc.

The family farm began in 1943 when the farmer's parents were given a Jersey cow as a wedding gift and the farm grew from there. Many animals in the herd today can be traced back to that beginning. This individual is an honest man who is no doubt a hard worker. He loves his cows and his farm and has used this love to provide for his family. Through his strong work ethic, he has taught his family what it means to give one hundred percent to everything you do. His love for the Jersey cow and the land is obvious. Farming is not a profession from which one chooses to get rich or become

famous. In fact, one would not even consider it a profession but rather a lifestyle. There is always something to be done and cows need to be milked even on holidays and weekends. Farming is something people choose because they love it.

This farmer spends a lot of time giving back to the community. He has received recognition for his environmental awareness by being named a NC River Friendly Farmer, as well as receiving the NC Jersey Breeder's Distinguished Service Award. For three years in a row he has had the highest lifetime fat production Jersey cow in the state. This year's Farmer of the Year is very active in many organizations and in Alexander County. He is the Vice President of Thrivent Financial Branch, The Vice President of the Planning and Zoning Committee, a board member of the Farmland Preservation Organization, the Treasurer of the NC Jersey Breeders Association, a board member of Dixieland Sires, and a board member of United Dairy Herd Improvement Association.

For all of these reasons, it is my pleasure to present this year's **2010 Larry Payne Farmer of the Year Award to Coy Reese**, owner of Reese Dairy Farm.