



# Illinois Department of Agriculture

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## ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE EMPLOYEES HONORED FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. □ A seven-year Illinois Department of Agriculture employee who has been instrumental in making the Agri-First Program a success statewide was honored this week as outstanding employee of the year by Agriculture Director Chuck Hartke.

Kim Janssen, a Springfield resident and native of Lyndon in Whiteside County, was presented the Director's Achievement Award today at the department's 27th annual Employee Awards Ceremony. The award is the department's top individual honor.



"Kim is one of those people who has shown a life-long commitment to agriculture and the agriculture community," Director Hartke said. "When it comes to her work at the Department of Agriculture, Kim sets the standard. She is tireless, knowledgeable about all areas of the Department and, among many other things, has been the catalyst behind the highly successful Agri-First Program. Her talent, creativity and work habits are unequalled."

Employees of the Bureau of Weights and Measures won the Commitment to Quality Award. They were honored for their work in helping to create a detailed database of commercial weighing and measuring devices in Illinois to replace an outdated Paradox system. Team members have participated in the development and implementation of the database, which will be a major asset to consumers and the agriculture community.



Marilyn Ernst, with the Bureau of Animal Health and Welfare, won the 2005 Ag Ambassador Award for "her professionalism and eagerness to help anyone calling for assistance from the Bureau of Animal Health's Permit Program." Marilyn resides in Springfield.

Bill Gosda and Dennis Kane, both of Springfield, and both employed by the Bureau of Building and Grounds, were presented with the Ag Fellowship Award. The award recognizes both men "as the only two janitors in the Agriculture Building who have the nearly impossible task of keeping the building clean, yet who manage to keep garbage from piling up, the bathrooms looking clean and sanitary, and the building looking fantastic."

