

Kiwanis

National Farm City Week

National Farm City Week was established in 1955 to encourage understanding, increase cooperation and solidify relations between rural and urban residents.

Cooperation is the key. Neither the farm nor the city can exist in isolation. Instead, the interdependence of the two creates jobs, products, markets and relationships that make our economy and nation strong. The two are *"Partners in Progress"*.

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The John Veneman award is given each year to someone who has contributed in the advancement of Agriculture and the relationship with our Urban friends.

John Veneman was a local peach farmer. He was active in local politics and served in the State Assembly (1962-1969). Later John was appointed by President Nixon to the US Department of Health Education and Welfare.

Modesto Kiwanis and Greater Modesto Kiwanis (now merged as Modesto Kiwanis) have been honored to have presented the John Veneman Award to the following;

1995- Ann Veneman (John Veneman's Daughter, Secretary of Agriculture)

1997- Bill Lynon Sr. (Mapes Ranch)

1998- Nick Blom (Farmer/Board of Supervisors)

1999- Paul Wenger (Farmer/President of California Farm Bureau)

2001- Ron Vella (Farmer)

2002- MJC Agriculture Dept.

2004- John Scheuber (Ag Museum Committee Chair)

2005- Modesto Chamber of Commerce Agri-Business Committee

2006- Yosemite Farm Credit Association

2007- Ken Wilmarth (4H Farm Advisor)

2008- Bill Burchell (Burchell Nurseries)

2009- Sam Bettancourt (Stanislaus Farm Supply)

2010- Ed Perry (Farm Advisor)

2011- Dr. Mark Bender (CSUS Ag Dept)

2012- Jame S West (JS West & Co)

2013- Wayne Zipser (Farmer/ Farm Bureau Exec Manager)

2014- Jim DeMartini (Martini Farms/Board of Supervisors)

2015- Vito Chiesa (Chiesa Farms/Board of supervisors/Farm Bureau/FairBoard)

2016- Ugo Lea (MJC, Kiwanis, philanthropy)