

## Local Farmer Honored At USDA Millennium Celebration

WASHINGTON, May 26, 2000 -- On May 10, Jack Gibson, a producer and former State Senator from Boydell, Arkansas, received national recognition for his accomplishments and contributions to the farming industry during the past 60 years. The award ceremony "Celebrating the American Family Farm" was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) as part of the USDA's Millennium event series, which is exploring American agriculture in the 21st century. The event was held in Kansas City, Mo.

Upon presenting the award, James R. Baker, administrator of GIPSA, said, "Jack Gibson's desire to ensure and see proper use of this country's real assets of soil and water, and tackle erosion problems in the Delta region led to him being Chairman and an original member of the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission, and President of the Arkansas Conservation Districts." Baker added, "Jack's vision and leadership has enabled many others to achieve a higher standard of performance and we in agriculture owe him a large debt of gratitude for his untiring commitment to his fellow man."

Jack Gibson was State Senator for 12 years serving as Chairman of the Agriculture and Economic Development Committee and served on numerous other committees that provide benefit to rural Arkansas and agriculture. His role as a livestock and row crop producer, banker, and a businessman, as well as his community involvement has served him well. Today, Jack Gibson serves as Director of the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission, which is responsible for disease control in the billion dollar industry. His knowledge and professional actions have built that agency to be recognized nationwide for their successes and partnerships they have established with agriculture. Mr. Gibson was born, raised, and lives today in Boydell, Ark., in the Mississippi River Delta in Southeast Arkansas.

At the ceremony, USDA recognized farming in America and honored century farmers and farm families who have made significant contributions to the farming industry in America during the past 100 years.

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