

Cash need led to sweet crop

Daniels family wins Pioneer Award at annual ag banquet

By Jim Osborn

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COLUMBUS — Area flooding more than two decades ago and a need to boost their farming operation's cash flow spurred Andy and Tannie Daniels to wade into a different marketplace in the mid-1980s.

"It all started with a load of watermelons and a deep need for a secondary income," said Andy Daniels, who along with his wife decided to diversify their agricultural operation into fresh-market vegetables 21 years ago.

"It just grew from there,"

said Daniels, thanking his family members for their support while accepting the Agribusiness Pioneer Award during Monday night's 2007 Rural Recognition Banquet at Platte County Agricultural Park.

Daniels Produce produced about 350 acres of sweet corn and 4.6 million pounds of pumpkins last year, selling the vegetables at outlets in Columbus, Fremont, Grand Island and Lincoln. The business quit raising feed corn and soybeans in 2002.

"We continue to grow and prosper," Andy Daniels said. The business was supported by the Columbus area community from Day 1 more than 20 years ago, he said.

Andy and Tannie Daniels, along with men who have

Of note ...

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fattened livestock operations over the years and a woman who does radio reports on their stories were honored by the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce during Monday's 39th annual banquet.

Dairy farmer Mike Malena, cattle feeder Sam Drinnin and radio broadcaster Susan Littlefield were recognized for their contributions to agriculture.

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