



**Congratulations to
Steve Drake**

**2006
St. Louis
AgriBusiness
Club
"Agribusiness
Leader of the
Year"**

Steve Drake named AgriBusiness Leader of the Year

Feel free to send Steve a personal congratulation at - drake@drakeco.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 14, 2007

Contact:

Pam Helmsing
Drake & Company
16020 Swingley Ridge Rd. Suite 300
Chesterfield MO, 63017
(636) 449-5050
Fax: (636) 449-5051
helmsing@drakeco.com

Steve Drake named AgriBusiness Leader of the Year

ST. LOUIS - The St. Louis Agri-Business Club named Drake & Company President and CEO Steve Drake as its Agri-Business Leader of the Year on Tuesday.

Since 1981 the St. Louis Agri-Business Club has been recognizing outstanding leaders in agriculture by honoring them as Agri-Business Leader of the Year. Former recipients include Senators Christopher "Kit" Bond and Jim Talent, as well as many other accomplished individuals.

The award recognizes the individual's service to agriculture through personal accomplishments and outstanding leadership, a willingness to serve others and a passion for the future growth of agriculture. Furthermore, the individual must display community leadership through participation in civic, church, and other organizations and public service activities.

"The award is a well-deserved recognition of Steve's many accomplishments," said Ken Bader, a long-time friend and former colleague, and former recipient of the Agri-Business Leader of the Year.

Drake was raised on a bull farm in Ohio, and attended Ohio State University, where he earned degrees in agricultural economics and international Journalism. He moved to St. Louis in the late 1970s to become Vice President of Public Affairs for the American Soybean Association.

In 1992, he founded Drake & Company, an accredited association management company. Based in Chesterfield, DrakeCo manages nine non-profit organizations and foundations, several of which have an agricultural focus.

Through his organization, Drake and his team have brought the national headquarters of the Alpha Zeta Fraternity and Foundation, the National Christmas Tree Association and the Dairy Calf and Heifer Association to the greater St. Louis area. Drake was also instrumental in founding the Christmas SPIRIT Foundation and the Country Living Association, both of which are managed by his firm.

Drake has been recognized by the Public Relations Society of America with its Silver Anvil, the highest award in public relations, four times. He has also received the Agricultural Relations Council Founders Award twice, first for his work on Monsanto's Rural Flood Relief Efforts, and a second time for his work with the Christmas SPIRIT Association's "Trees for Troops" in 2005.

Drake has served as the President of the Agricultural Relations Council and currently serves as the Vice President of the AMC Institute, a trade association made up of owners of association management companies.