



Media contact:
Miriam Pflug
Marketing Manager
AgSouth Farm Credit
864-585-6234
mpflug@agsouthfc.com

Eugene Merritt honored for spirit of cooperation

Columbia, S.C. (June 9, 2009) – Eugene W. Merritt, Jr. , a director on two Farm Credit boards in the state, has received the South Carolina Cooperative Council’s annual Distinguished Cooperator of the Year award.

Mr. Merritt, of Easley, S.C., is a landscape contractor, who also operates a timber and grass farm and co-owns an ornamental tree farm. He serves on the boards of AgFirst Farm Credit Bank in Columbia, Peoples Bancorp, the Palmetto Agri-Business Council and AgSouth Farm Credit, a rural lending cooperative serving most of South Carolina and portions of Georgia.

He is a graduate of Clemson University.

“Mr. Merritt has made valuable contributions to AgFirst and AgSouth as well as to agriculture in South Carolina,” said Ronnie Summers, South Carolina Divisional President of AgSouth.

The South Carolina Cooperative Council represents and promotes co-ops, such as electrical co-ops and cooperative lending institutions. Members include 23 electric cooperatives, five rural telephone cooperatives, AgFirst Farm Credit Bank, AgSouth Farm Credit, ArborOne Financial, the S. C. Farm Bureau Marketing Association and other organizations.

AgFirst Farm Credit Bank, AgSouth Farm Credit, and ArborOne Financial are all part of the Farm Credit system, a national network of borrower-owned rural lending cooperatives.

The Distinguished Cooperator Award recognizes individuals who have exemplified the spirit of cooperation throughout their careers.

###