

Blunt Appoints New Director Of Agriculture

JEFFERSON CITY, MO.

Gov. Matt Blunt appointed Don Steen to lead the state's Department of Agriculture. Steen will replace Katie Smith, who is stepping down from her position on July 3rd in anticipation of an expanding family.

"Mr. Steen's lifelong farm experience, history of public service, and active involvement in all that is Missouri agriculture will build on our successful efforts to Missouri agriculture," Gov. Blunt said. "I appreciate Katie Smith's service to our state and Missouri agriculture and wish her and her growing family the very best."

Steen, 58 of Eldon, was born and raised in Missouri and continues working on the same farm where he grew up

and where he raised his family. His family has been in the turkey business for 35 years and also raises cattle. Mr. Steen has a bachelor's in animal science from the University of Missouri and continued his education at Ozark Christian College.

From 1990 to 1998 Mr. Steen served the people of Cole, Camden and Miller Counties in the Missouri House of Representatives. His public service experience also includes a 13-year stint on the local school board and six years serving on Mizzou's Agriculture Alumni Board. He has resigned from his post as Miller County Assessor to serve Missourians in this new capacity as the Director of Agriculture. Δ