

Wayne Nielsen, 54 /

Aug. 10, 1952 - Nov. 27, 2006

AVOCA — Wayne Eugene Nielsen was born to Eugene and Margaret (Pond) Nielsen Aug. 10, 1952, in Council Bluffs. He was baptized and confirmed at the Altamont Baptist Church in rural Harlan. He attended the Avoca Community Schools throughout his entire school career, graduating with the class of 1970 and being named a State of Iowa Scholar that year. He went on to attend Iowa State University in Ames, being admitted "with recognition" and majoring in Agricultural Engineering. After receiving his Bachelor of Science degree in 1974, he started farming in Fairview Township, seven miles northeast of Avoca. He was instrumental in initiating many conservation practices in his farming career.

Jan. 20, 1979, Wayne married Janelle Drake of Walnut. They raised two children, a daughter, Renea, and a son, Curtis. Wayne continued to live on the farm with his family until his illness and death Nov. 27, 2006 at age 54 years, three months, and 17 days.

Wayne is survived by his wife, Janelle, of Avoca; his children, Renea Nielsen of Seattle, WA, and Curtis Nielsen of Ames; his parents, Eugene and Margaret Nielsen of Harlan; one sister, Diane (Dan) Kenney of Council Bluffs; one brother, Gary (Leslie) Nielsen of Avoca; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A Celebration of Life was held Dec. 1, 2006, with Pastor Dave Swinton officiating at the First United Methodist Church in Harlan. Casket bearers were Jason Kenney, Philip McCarthy, Calvin Nielsen, Simon Nielsen, Ethan Nielsen, and Larry Madsen. Burial was at the Monroe Township Cemetery in Rural Walnut, with honorary casket bearers Sara Allen, Sydney Galligan, Sonya Nielsen, Terry Hamdorf, Bob Edwards, and John Edwards. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.