



Thanks to the 2020 Kansas Ag Heroes!

Hayes Kelman, Boot Hill Distillery

Hayes Kelman is a corn farmer and co-owner of Boot Hill Distillery in Dodge City. This spring when the COVID-19 pandemic hit Kansas and sanitizing products were gone from store shelves, he could have easily sat back and enjoyed the profits from the increased liquor sales due to stay-at-home orders. However, Hayes wanted to do more for his community and the people of southwest Kansas. Knowing that many families in the area had essential jobs and needed hand sanitizer to prevent the spread of novel-coronavirus, Hayes quickly started doing research to convert his distillery's production away from vodka and whiskey to a CDC-approved hand rub. Then, he and the distillery staff delivered it out in the local communities of southwest Kansas at no cost. He partnered with local businesses to continue making the sanitizer and eventually began taking orders from the large production facilities in the area. For a donation back to the cause, he supplied sanitizer to employees of large companies such as Cargill and Sunflower Electric. He did his part to protect the people of southwest Kansas who keep our state's agricultural industry healthy, and for that we believe he is an Ag Hero.

Nominated by Kansas Corn

