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Beatrice business wins award for rural company

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LYONS — A carpet-cleaning service and vacuum store in Beatrice has won an award for rural small businesses.

The S&S Sweeper Store owned by Deb and Dale Simmons was recently recognized by the Center for Rural Affairs' Rural Enterprise Assistance Project.

The Center's Janelle Moran says the Simmons are a great example of the entrepreneurial spirit that's needed in rural communities. The Simmons start-

ed a carpet cleaning business in Beatrice in 1999. When a competing business that sold vacuums went out of business in 2006, the couple bought the equipment and inven-

tor of the Mr. Sweeper business and expanded.

The Simmons received a loan from the REAP program to help pay for their expansion and to boost inventory.