

To: Award Selection Team

From: Troy E. Coggins, Davidson Co. CED

Re: NACAA Search for Excellence Award - Letter of Recommendation

It is my pleasure to recommend Sara Drake and her team of County Agents and Area Specialized Poultry Agents for the 2020 NCCE Foundation Search for Excellence Team Award. With the onset of COVID-19 came great uncertainty and limited availability of goods on the retail shelves. The United States had not experienced anything like this since WWII. This created the desire within many people to become self-sustaining and produce their own food. Sara quickly realized this would result in a surge of backyard poultry flocks, for both eggs and meat, by people with no previous experience and little to no knowledge of poultry production.

To address this situation, Sara pulled together livestock agents from Davie, Forsyth, and Yadkin counties and our Area Specialized Poultry Agents to conduct a five-week Home Flock training series. The opportunity to conduct programs and events as usual (onsite/in person) was not an option during this time of social distancing. Sara and her team utilized their computer and technology skills to deliver the training sessions in a virtual world.

This group of county and area specialized agents were able to reach the citizens of our state and educate the clientele during a time of great need by working together, sharing their time, knowledge, and skills. COVID-19 brought about new challenges and this response demonstrated dedication to educate our clientele, working as a team to accomplish the mission and leadership during a very stressful time. This team truly represented NC CES excellence in both programming and customer service. I encourage you to please support this team as 2020 NCCE Foundation Search for Excellence Award recipient.