



**106th
Annual Meeting
and
Professional Improvement
Virtual Conference
July 6-9, 2021**

2021
RECOGNITION AND AWARDS
COMMITTEE

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National Association of
County Agricultural Agents
2020 — 2021

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Recognition & Awards.....	Joni Ross Harper
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Extension Development Council.....	Brian Haller
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Animal Science.....	Mark Heitstuman
Natural Resources/Aquaculture/Seagrant.....	Ray Bodrey
Horticulture & Turfgrass.....	Patrick Byers
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- Gregory Endres - North Dakota
- Chris Bruynis - Ohio
- Adele Harty - South Dakota
- Katie Wantoch - Wisconsin

84th ANNIVERSARY

This is the eighty-fourth year that the Distinguished Service Awards have been presented by the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. The first time was in 1938 at the annual meeting in Chicago when twenty-two members were honored. This year, an additional sixty-six distinguished colleagues are being recognized, joining a very distinguished group of 7,523 NACAA members that have been so honored in the past.

CONGRATULATIONS HONOREES

The Recognition and Awards Committee of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents Association takes great pride in presenting the year's Distinguished Service Award Recipients.

The honorees recognized are representatives of the top two percent of the membership of NACAA as chosen by their peers and the Directors of Extension of the various states. They represent a careful search by the members of each State Recognition and Awards Committee, each of the State Associations of County Agricultural Agents and the coordination of these efforts by the Regional and National Committee members.

Please share the pride of these committees by noting the accomplishments of each honoree as indicated by his/her citation. These NACAA recipients represent the wonderful work that is being carried out across the nation by the membership of the association. Our humble congratulations to each honoree.

County Agents Receiving the DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

From The National Association of
County Agricultural Agents
2021

Winners are listed below by regions and states.

NORTHEAST REGION - MAINE

David Fuller - 24 Years of Service

For his work in expanding a field of study in non-timber forest products, including applied research on the sustainability of ostrich fern fiddlehead harvesting and wild leek distribution in Maine. Additionally, for his collaborative staff development initiatives in non-timber forest products with colleagues across the U.S. and eastern Canada. Also, for developing and delivering related educational programs to thousands of Maine woodland owners, as well as forestry professionals and youth.



NORTHEAST REGION - MARYLAND

Jennifer Rhodes - 14 Years of Service

I am responsible for planning, implementing, and teaching educational programs in a variety of delivery modes. This includes the interpretation and dissemination of latest research findings in the following fields: agriculture production and profitability, risk management, and poultry production both commercial and backyard flocks. I have co-chaired Annie's Project for Maryland for 13 years, which is designed to empower women in agriculture, provide information in farm management and build local networks throughout the state.



NORTHEAST REGION - NEW HAMPSHIRE

Heather Bryant - 12 Years of Service

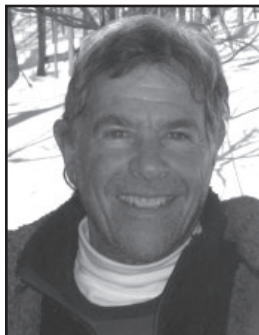


Heather Bryant joined UNH Extension's Food and Agriculture team in 2009. Her primary focus is on supporting fruit and vegetable producers with one-on-one assistance, applied research on vegetable and high tunnel production, and education aimed at reaching production and farm viability goals. She also co-created and currently leads the FSMA team which helps clients protect the safety of the food they produce and prepare for compliance with federal and other food safety regulations.

NORTHEAST REGION - NEW JERSEY

Joel Flagler - 32 Years of Service

Joel's career has focused on supporting all factors of the agricultural community along with investigating Human Issues in Horticulture. This has afforded him opportunities to help improve ag viability while bringing the benefits of working with plants to new, underserved clientele. His career priority has been on demonstrating not only how people can improve plants through better management practices, but how plants can help improve people; through accessible gardens, vocational, enabling, and therapeutic horticulture applications.



NORTHEAST REGION - NEW YORK

Quirine M. Ketterings - 20 Years of Service



Quirine Ketterings initiated and leads the Cornell Nutrient Management Spear Program, the applied research and extension program in nutrient management of field crops of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at Cornell University. She has actively involved extension educators in applied research, and routinely contributes to professional development for extension and industry. During her time at Cornell, she has developed several methods and tools to optimize crop yields while minimizing risk to the environment.

NORTHEAST REGION - PENNSYLVANIA

Jeffrey Graybill - 16 Years of Service

Jeffrey Graybill was born and raised on the family farm in Lancaster County PA. His Extension responsibilities include programming in the areas of Soil Fertility and Health, Cover Crops, Pesticides, Crop Production and Industrial Hemp. Jeff attended Penn State and Cornell universities where he holds BS and MS degrees in Agronomy, respectively. Prior to Penn State he has been employed with DeKalb Genetics, Agway Inc. and Growmark FS.



NORTHEAST REGION - WEST VIRGINIA

H.R. Scott - 29 Years of Service



HR Scott is an Ag and Natural Resources Extension Agent offering programming in horticulture, animal husbandry, farmers markets and efficient management of farm resources. He was the liaison with county funding sources in construction of a new office center which houses Extension Office, regional office for West Virginia Department of Agriculture and 15,000 square foot open air exhibition area. Currently overseeing the construction of high tunnels for Master Gardeners and Operation Welcome Home veterans organization.

SOUTHERN REGION - ALABAMA

James Jacobi - 21 Years of Service

Jim is an Extension Plant Pathologist and has managed the Plant Diagnostic Lab located at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens since it opened in 2000. His program seeks to provide high-quality diagnostic services and educational programs for the identification and management of diseases of landscape ornamentals, turfgrass, vegetables, and fruit crops. Each year the lab processes over 1,000 samples from commercial and residential clients. Additionally, he serves as an educational advisor for the Alabama Turfgrass Association.



SOUTHERN REGION - ALABAMA

Neil G. Kelly - 13 Years of Service



Currently serving as Regional Extension Agent in Southeast Alabama, Neil is a vital part of the Commercial Horticulture Team. Much of his time has been spent on-farm working with commercial producers to maximize profits. He recently received a 2020 NACAA National Communication Award for the Farming Basics Phone App, which proved invaluable for producers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Other scholarly activities include participation in over nine grants, and the development of fruit/vegetable IPM Extension bulletins.

SOUTHERN REGION - ALABAMA

Kerry P. Smith - 15 Years of Service

With Alabama Cooperative Extension, she is Extension Master Gardener (EMG) State Coordinator and Extension Home Grounds (HG) team co-leader. Since 2010, she's been Extension's leader in Harvest for Health, collaborative research pairing EMGs with cancer survivors, mentoring them to learn gardening, improve their diet, and exercise more. Highly responsive to HG Agents, she instills confidence and fosters creativity. Strong teamwork was illustrated throughout 2020's challenges. She is a servant leader with a heart for Extension.



SOUTHERN REGION - ARKANSAS

Michael Hamilton - 24 Years of Service



Mike Hamilton began his career with the University of Arkansas, Division of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service in 1997 as a County Extension Agent-Agriculture in Poinsett and Crittenden Counties. Mike conducted countless educational programs in Rice, Cotton, and Soybean production with many emphasizing on Integrated Pest Management. Hamilton developed a significant irrigation program starting in 2001 and with the success of the program accomplishments he accepted the State Irrigation Instructor position in 2014 where he is currently still serving.

SOUTHERN REGION - ARKANSAS

Ples Spradley - 37 Years of Service

Throughout his career as the pesticide safety education program coordinator in Arkansas, Ples has been extremely grateful and proud of the extension agents and county support staffs for their PSEP efforts. For that reason, Ples is delighted that funds generated by the PSEP are used to provide each agricultural agent with an iPad for job use. The program also purchases laptops, LCD projectors, large televisions/monitors, bluetooth speakers, etc., for various county educational efforts



SOUTHERN REGION - ARKANSAS

Leslie S. Walz - 23 Years of Service



Les has been with the University Of Arkansas Systems Division Of Agriculture for 23 years. He began his career in Chicot County serving two years as agriculture/4-H agent before transferring to Cleveland County where he became Staff Chair. Les has spent the last 21 years providing educational programs in livestock/forage, natural resources, horticulture, 4-H and the last five years leading a large Community Development program. Les and his wife Stacy have raised one son, Jacob.

SOUTHERN REGION - FLORIDA

James E. Davis - 14 Years of Service

Jim Davis' high-quality and impactful educational programs and service as a County Extension Director in two Florida counties make him an outstanding candidate for one of the highest honors an Extension Agent can achieve. He's a Search for Excellence winner and finalist and has won multiple FACAA communication awards which is a testament to his teaching efforts. As a dedicated member of FACAA, he serves the Association as chair and co-chair of multiple committees.



SOUTHERN REGION - FLORIDA

Ralph E. Mitchell - 20 Years of Service



Ralph Mitchell is a consummate extension professional and deserving of this award. He has received several FACA and NACAA awards, and is a recipient of awards from other state organizations. Ralph has been involved in FACA/NACAA and has been the Chair of the Professional Excellence Committee for the last three years and active Committee Membership in the Search for Excellence Committee, and the County Commission Liaison – “Country Store” for nine years.

SOUTHERN REGION - FLORIDA

Chris Oswalt - 22 Years of Service

Chris Oswalt is the UF/IFAS Citrus Extension Agent in Polk and Hillsborough Counties. His Extension program includes the Florida Citrus Growers’ Institute one of the largest citrus grower meetings in the state. He also leads the citrus cold protection program, totally supported by growers, providing timely weather forecasts during the winter to help growers protect their citrus crops. He has been recognized with multiple awards at the state and national levels for his programmatic efforts.



SOUTHERN REGION - GEORGIA

Stephanie Hollifield - 12 Years of Service



Stephanie has served agricultural producers in Brooks County for 12 years. Stephanie’s dynamic educational research programming is the direct result of grower collaborations. Stephanie has developed state and national reputations in peanut pest control, tobacco black shank, cotton areolate mildew, irrigation management for commercial vegetables, and watermelon phytophthora suppression. Stephanie now serves as Southwest District Agriculture and Natural Resource Program Development Coordinator and continues her vital role in the growth and sustainability of Georgia agriculture.

SOUTHERN REGION - GEORGIA

Brenda L. Jackson - 13 Years of Service

Brenda Jackson has served UGA Extension for thirteen years building a reputation for programming targeting pesticide industry professionals, cattle producers and homeowners in both Murray and Whitfield Counties. She serves as one of four state trainers for Georgia 4-H Certified Poultry Judging coaches and is the agent coordinator for the UGA Calhoun heifer development program. She currently serves as GACAA Vice-President and Webmaster and served as chair of the Animal Science Committee from 2018-2019.



SOUTHERN REGION - GEORGIA

Carole Hicks Knight - 14 Years of Service

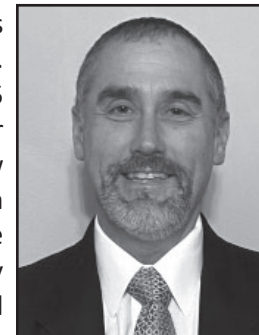


Carole began her UGA Extension career in 2006 as a Beef Cattle Specialist. She transitioned to a county agent in 2011 and is currently the Madison County Extension Coordinator and Agricultural Agent. Carole developed a broad range of educational programs producing results for county, regional, state and national clientele. Her programmatic and professional accomplishments include the following areas: Beef Quality Assurance, Women in Agriculture, Forage Production and Sustainability, and Youth Involvement in Livestock Projects.

SOUTHERN REGION - KENTUCKY

David Fourqurean - 16 Years of Service

David’s program has been unique in that he has been in two counties with different areas of focus. In Trigg County, his program focused on CPH-45 sales, a beef mineral purchasing group, bred heifer sale and a Strategic Winter Feeding Program (a new concept for wintering cows on stockpiled grass). In McLean County, his focus has been on large scale poultry production as well as developing county resources through grants (\$94,000) at the local fairgrounds.



SOUTHERN REGION - KENTUCKY

Kristin Hildabrand - 11 Years of Service

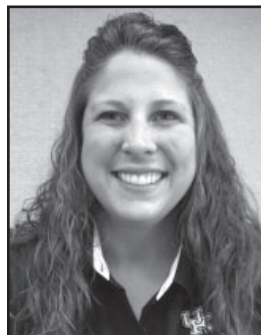


Kristin Hildabrand has served the University of Kentucky Extension Service for 11 years and serves as the Horticulture Extension Agent in Warren County. Her major accomplishments include being the lead on the Kentucky Farms, Kentucky Flavor (KYF2) project during seasons 3 and 4, which earned a national finalist video recording communication award in 2019. Other noteworthy accomplishments include launching The Sunshine Gardening Podcast and hosting the virtual 2020 Specialty Crop Conference.

SOUTHERN REGION - KENTUCKY

Michelle Simon - 10 Years of Service

Since 2010, Michelle Simon, Boone County, Kentucky Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent, has worked diligently to provide agricultural education. Her accomplishments include initiating programs such as Master Cattleman, Master Horseman, Farm Start, and commodity production updates. Active KACAA member, she won the 2015 poster contest and received her Achievement Award in 2018. Her service includes: Bluegrass and Northern Kentucky Area Director, Farm Organizations- Kentucky Cattleman's Association Representative, Agricultural Economics and Community Development Committee Chairperson.



SOUTHERN REGION - LOUISIANA

Raj Singh - 14 Years of Service



Dr. Raghuwinder (Raj) Singh is an Associate Professor in department of Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology and Director of the LSU AgCenter Plant Diagnostic Center. He provides conventional and molecular diagnostic methods to diagnose and identify causes of plant health problems submitted by county extension agents and residents of Louisiana. He serves as a statewide Extension Pathologist for Horticulture crops and deliver pathology programs for ornamentals, vegetables, fruits, trees, turfgrass, and industrial hemp.

SOUTHERN REGION - MISSISSIPPI

Bj McClenton - 12 Years of Service

Dr. BJ McClenton is an Extension Agent III in Clay County, MS. As the Extension agent in the county, his primary focus is on Agriculture and Natural Resources, Community Resource Development and 4-H Youth Development; his major emphasis being on animal science and forages. On a regional level, he is responsible for the management of the District 4-H livestock and horse shows, and judging contests. He also helps coordinate adult and youth livestock educational programs and trainings.



SOUTHERN REGION - MISSISSIPPI

Larry Oldham - 24 Years of Service

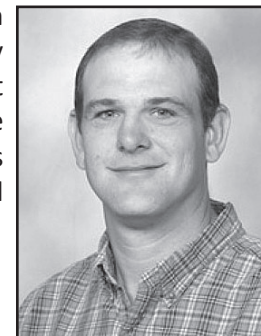


Larry Oldham conducts statewide educational programs in soil fertility, nutrient management planning, soil conservation, and soil health. He works with county and regional Extension faculty to meet the soil resource educational needs of homeowners, farmers, crop consultants, farm and environmental organizations, state agencies, industry associations, and Master Gardeners. He has served as Executive Director of the Mississippi Certified Crop Adviser Board more than 20 years.

SOUTHERN REGION - MISSISSIPPI

Phillip Vandevere - 16 Years of Service

Phillip Vandevere is the County Extension Coordinator in Yazoo County where he works daily with 4-H livestock youth. Mr. Vandevere takes great pride in serving as the swine superintendent at the Dixie National Livestock Show. Phillip also works daily with adults in a wide array of agriculture and natural resource programs.



SOUTHERN REGION - NORTH CAROLINA

Amy-Lynn Albertson - 20 Years of Service



Amy-Lynn Albertson has worked for NC Cooperative Extension since 2001 as a horticulture agent and since 2015 as the Rowan County Extension Director with horticulture responsibilities. She has a BS in Horticulture from Colorado State University and an MS in Horticulture from the University of Tennessee. She is the proud mother of Faith and daughter of Alexa, with whom she shares her home in Salisbury. When not at work, Amy-Lynn loves to run and hike.

SOUTHERN REGION - NORTH CAROLINA

Billy Barrow - 12 Years of Service

Billy Barrow has worked with the NC Cooperative Extension Service for twelve years. During that time, his responsibilities have included field crops, home and commercial horticulture, pesticide education, forestry and CRD. Most recently his programs have focused on bringing information to growers through the CHROME Regional Ag Expo, a four-county cooperative effort in NE North Carolina. Since its inception in 2018 participants have estimated its impact at \$842,165 over 39,750 acres.



SOUTHERN REGION - NORTH CAROLINA

Paige Burns - 14 Years of Service



Paige Burns has served as horticulture agent for Richmond County NC since 2007. Her program area focuses on helping farmers and forestry landowners increase economic sustainability and maintaining a rural quality of life. She is a trusted resource for forest landowners, homeowners and members of the green industry as well. Paige is known for her pragmatic approach, down to earth manner, and ability to provide information in a way that is accessible for all.

SOUTHERN REGION - NORTH CAROLINA

Troy E. Coggins - 27 Years of Service

Troy Coggins, County Extension Director for Davidson County, NC, provides agronomic field crops education and pesticide coordinator services. He strives to help farmers increase yields, improve quality and production efficiency. He is instrumental in helping farmers adapt to new marketing requirements and economic circumstances that have resulted in shifts in the farms production focus. For Coggins, helping others utilize their resources to the best of their potential is a lifestyle.



SOUTHERN REGION - NORTH CAROLINA

Keith B. Walters - 22 Years of Service



Keith began his NC Cooperative Extension career in 1999 as the field crops agent for Hoke and Cumberland Counties. He then served as the Hoke County Extension Director for almost nine years. Over the last six years he has served as the Southeast District Extension Director. His current work focuses on hiring, training and supervising staff across the district. Keith truly believes in the mission of Extension and values the difference it makes for clients.

SOUTHERN REGION - OKLAHOMA

Brad Bain - 20 Years of Service

Brad has been employed by OSU Extension since 2002, having previously served as a 4-H Educator in the mid-nineties. He is the Agriculture Educator and CED for McCurtain County, one of the largest and most agriculturally unique counties in the state. Key programs he develops and provides include training in animal waste management for commercial poultry producers, regular production meetings for beef producers, and an assortment of gardening programs for both homeowners and commercial growers.



SOUTHERN REGION - SOUTH CAROLINA

Jeff Fellers - 16 Years of Service



Jeff Fellers started working with Clemson Extension in 2004 as a Forestry and Natural Resource Agent and continues in that role today. He covers seven counties and works with landowners helping them better manage their properties for timber and wildlife. He is actively involved in planning meetings for the Newberry Forestry Association. Along with his forestry and natural resources duties, he is actively involved in 4-H programs and other programmatic activities in his counties.

SOUTHERN REGION - SOUTH CAROLINA

Alana W. West - 14 Years of Service

Alana served as a 4-H Agent first in Cherokee County and now in Newberry County. The youth development programs she oversees include opportunities in healthy lifestyles, natural resources, and livestock, with the bulk of programming offered in schools. She is a mentor for many newer agents and has also been active on several committees working to improve programs across the state and across program teams. She is currently serving as the SCACAA President.



SOUTHERN REGION - TENNESSEE

Jason de Koff - 11 Years of Service



Jason de Koff is a statewide Extension specialist and Program Leader with Tennessee State University. He currently serves as vice-president for the TAAA&S Board. He has published 23 peer-reviewed fact sheets, given 158 presentations, and received 31 awards from TAAA&S and NACAA, the Excellence in Extension Award from AEA, and the 1890s Region Excellence in Extension Award from APLU. He also secured \$600,000+ for his Extension programs in bioenergy, soil health, and drone technology.

SOUTHERN REGION - TENNESSEE

Matt Horsman - 11 Years of Service

Matt serves as the Agriculture Agent for Williamson County. Matt has conducted Master Horse and Master Beef programs on an annual basis and the Master Gardener program for two years. During his time, Matt has helped Williamson County producers receive over 2.9 million in cost-share dollars and has raised over 1.6 million for 4-H Livestock participants. Since 2015, Matt has served as County Director for a 21 member staff.



SOUTHERN REGION - TENNESSEE

Amanda L. Mathenia - 12 Years of Service

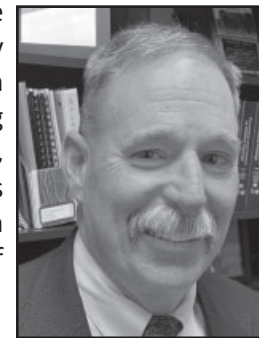


As the Agricultural Agent in Perry County, TN, Amanda's primary focus area is livestock and forage production. She coordinates the Master Beef Producer and Master Small Ruminant Producer programs each year. In 2020, her programs in livestock and forages had a financial impact of \$670,350. Amanda also serves on the state Small Ruminant Workgroup. She currently serves on the state board of TAAA&S and holds the office of State Treasurer.

SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Lane Dunn - 17 Years of Service

Lane Dunn taught Ag Science for 10 years before serving as the Agriculture Agent for Shelby County for the past 17 years. Lane works with his program area committees to address the programming needs of his county with programs in beef cattle, forage production, wildlife and natural resources and 4-H livestock. He continues to educate youth with programs that emphasize the importance of agriculture with events such as Science of Ag Day.



SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Stephen W. Gowin - 24 Years of Service



Stephen Gowin started his Extension career as the Assistant Agriculture Agent-Bowie County in 1996. He then transferred to Hunt County and served as the 4-H and Youth Development Agent for 5 years before transferring to Rains County Agricultural Agent where he has served for the past 17 years. He works closely with his program area committees to address programming needs in livestock and forages, wildlife and natural resources, result demonstrations and applied research projects.

SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Brandon Gregson - 20 Years of Service

Brandon Gregson has worked for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service as a County Extension Agent-4-H and Youth Development and Agriculture and Natural Resources for 20 years. He has served constituents in Wharton, Brazos, San Jacinto and Montgomery Counties. His dedication to agriculture is evident through programming in natural resources, livestock and forage production, and wildlife. Brandon maintains his dedication to 4-H and Youth Development and continues to be an advocate for youth program success.



SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

David W. Groschke - 16 Years of Service



David began his Extension career in 2005 and has served in 3 counties-Williamson, McLennan, and Limestone. He's currently the Ag/NR agent in Limestone County since 2011. His main program areas are in beef, forage and youth livestock education. He focuses on keeping producers updated with current industry trends and enhancing profitability and sustainability. David has an extensive set of programs geared to youth and families becoming more successful with their youth livestock projects.

SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Michael R. Hiller - 15 Years of Service

Michael Hiller has served for 21 years with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service with the last 15 years in Jackson County. He provides leadership to diverse audiences including 4-H, beef & forage production, field crops, rice production, natural resources, and a Master Gardener program. A few of his major accomplishments include the establishment of the JCCRA Annual Premium Bull and Replacement Female Sale, Texana Educational Gardens and a county-wide Path-to-the-Plate – Ag Day for youth.



SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Robert Scott - 28 Years of Service



Robert Scott has served Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service for 28 years in agriculture and youth development for the citizens in Taylor, Reagan, Erath and Lubbock Counties. His programming efforts have focused on cotton, range and pasture, dairy, beef cattle, leadership and 4-H livestock. Robert has been a Texas Path to the Plate Champion since 2017 and is responsible for educating teachers and youth on the link between ag production and health.

SOUTHERN REGION - VIRGINIA

John Wesley Blankenship Jr. - 27 Years of Service

Having over 28 years of experience working with Virginia Cooperative Extension, John Blankenship leads by example. He currently serves Tazewell County as the Agriculture & Natural Resources Extension Agent. The topography of wide valleys and rolling hills leading up to the Appalachian Mountains, lends itself to predominately growing forages grazed by livestock. John is also known for his knowledge of renewable natural resources as he delivers a wide range of diverse programs to his clientele.



SOUTHERN REGION - VIRGINIA

K. Jason Fisher - 26 Years of Service

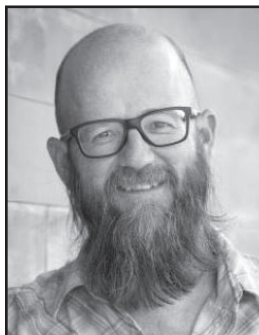


Forestry and Timber are an important component of Virginia agriculture along with educating the timber industry and landowners. Jason is known for delivering relevant programs face to face and virtually for timber industry and landowners, often pulling from his own experiences as a timberland owner. He helped develop a new program during the pandemic called “15 Minutes in the Forest.” He serves ANR Agents in his district with pesticide education and forestry topics upon request.

WESTERN REGION - COLORADO

Darrin Parmenter - 18 Years of Service

Darrin Parmenter is a Durango native and after attending Montana State University, Cornell University, and working for the University of Florida, he moved back in 2007 to work with CSU Extension. His efforts focus on home and commercial horticulture – leading the Master Gardener Program and working with the area’s established farming and agricultural enterprises. Darrin is active with local food systems, agricultural awareness, regional food distribution networks, and backyard food production.



WESTERN REGION - IDAHO

Danielle Gunn - 21 Years of Service



Danielle Gunn has served as the University of Idaho Agricultural Extension Educator with the Federally Recognized Tribes’ Extension Program on the Fort Hall Reservation for 21 years. Danielle’s leadership and collaborative programming in beef, natural resources, horticulture, and 4-H/ youth development have delivered significant impacts to a historically underserved audience. Danielle’s work with tribal producers, government, and community members has led to the delivery of stellar programs that sustain, improve, and enhance agriculture and people’s lives.

WESTERN REGION - MONTANA

Wendy Becker - 17 Years of Service

Wendy Becker received degrees from NWC-Powell, MSU-Bozeman, and NDSU-Fargo. She started in extension with North Dakota and has been with Montana State University Extension since then. She serves as the FRTEP extension agent on the Fort Peck Reservation programming in agriculture, and youth development. Wendy has served several offices and committees on the state and national level with NACAA. Wendy and her husband Kevin farm and ranch and have three boys Felixe, Beau, and Oliver.



WESTERN REGION - NEVADA

Lindsay M. Chichester - 11 Years of Service



Lindsay M. Chichester began her Extension career in 2010 with Nebraska Extension. In 2016, Chichester moved to Nevada, where she was a 10-year 4-H member. Chichester focuses on youth animal science, small acreages, social media, beekeeping, and meat science. Regionally and nationally, she is actively involved with Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) Program, the Western Regional Agricultural Stress Assistance Program, and the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program.

WESTERN REGION - NEW MEXICO

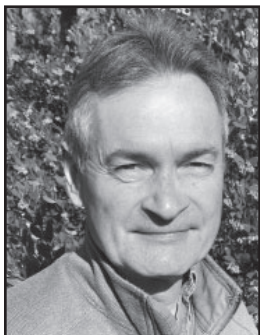
Jeff Anderson - 13 Years of Service

Jeff Anderson has served as the Doña Ana County Agronomy/Horticultural Agent for 13 years. He grew up on his family’s 40-acre apple orchard where they also raised corn, potatoes and squash. Jeff worked 16 years with the private greenhouse industry as a supervisor/grower and general manager before taking the agent position. Jeff’s programs currently focus on hemp, hydroponics, prison gardens and the Master Gardener Program. Jeff received his B.S. and M.S. in Agriculture/Horticulture from NMSU.



WESTERN REGION - OREGON

Neil Bell - 21 Years of Service



Neil Bell was Community Horticulturist for the Oregon State University Extension Service from 2000 to 2021, overseeing Master Gardener programs in Marion County and Polk County. He authored or co-authored numerous Extension publications, including the annual review of the PNW Insect Management Handbook. He developed curriculum on plant problem diagnosis for Master Gardeners and online delivery. Together with Heather Stoven, he also oversees the Northwest Plant Evaluation program, which evaluates woody plants for un-irrigated landscapes.

WESTERN REGION - UTAH

JayDee Gunnell - 15 Years of Service

For the past 15 years, JayDee Gunnell has worked as Regional Horticulturist and Statewide Master Gardener Coordinator for Utah State University. One of his professional highlights is designing and developing a 7-acre arboretum at the Utah State University Botanical Center in Kaysville, Utah. The arboretum highlights nearly 400 different species of trees and shrubs adapted to the arid west.



WESTERN REGION - WASHINGTON

Donald A. Llewellyn - 10 Years of Service



Don is a Livestock Extension Specialist with WSU Extension located in Pullman, WA. He provides statewide leadership in beef cow nutrition and alternative forages and silages. He coordinates several Steer and Lamb of Merit programs, is state Co-coordinator for the National BQA Program, and presents at various events at the local, state, and national level. Don leads a communications team to launch a podcast in 2021 and is currently Editor of the Journal of NACAA.

WESTERN REGION - WYOMING

Kellie Chichester - 14 Years of Service

Kellie Chichester started her career as an agriculture agent working with ranchers and land managers. After eight years, Kellie moved to Niobrara County where she is currently the 4-H Agent. Along with volunteer management and program development, she has developed a monthly educational opportunity for livestock members to expand their knowledge and started an apiary where the 4-H members maintain four beehives. She is also a member of the development team for STEAM 4-H Fridays.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - INDIANA

Scott Gabbard - 21 Years of Service



D. Scott Gabbard is the County Extension Director for Purdue Extension-Shelby County. During his 21 years with Purdue Extension, he has had the privilege to serve his state and home community. A Certified Crop Advisor and sUAS licensed operator, he has worked with programs on agrosecurity, USAID, planning and zoning, drone technology, on-farm research as well as field crops, horticulture, Master Gardeners, and hemp production. His professional affiliations include IEEA, NACAA, and Farm Bureau.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - INDIANA

Kelly Heckaman - 25 Years of Service

Kelly Heckaman is the County Extension Director and Agriculture and Natural Resources educator for Purdue Extension-Kosciusko County. During her 25 years in Extension she has provided leadership to the Purdue Women in Ag, Succession Planning, Farm Stress and Indiana 4-H Dairy Youth activities teams. Kelly has worked with programs on farm strategic planning, horticulture, beef production, agriculture education for 4th graders, and farm land leasing. She served as co-chair for the 2019 AM/PIC.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - IOWA

Paul A. Mariman - 19 Years of Service



An Agricultural Business Economist, began his career by instructing rural residents on electric rates for a Fortune 50 Utility. He went on to become the University of Illinois Extension Farm Business and Farm Marketing Educator providing instruction in marketing, safety and a number of community programs. He assisted in ISO certification, Farm Bill education, and developing a displaced worker program. Paul now serves as a Regional Director for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - MICHIGAN

Phillip Tocco - 15 Years of Service

Phil Tocco has served as an Extension educator in Jackson County Michigan for over 17 years. He serves as an educator in food safety on the farm for fruit and vegetable farmers statewide. He has functioned as the state coordinator in on-farm food safety since 2009. Phil is an excellent educator and prized collaborator. Michigan is proud to recognize his stellar years of service.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - MINNESOTA

Tana Haugen-Brown - 32 Years of Service



Tana Haugen-Brown has been a University of Minnesota Extension educator for 32 years. As a Pesticide Safety and Environmental Education program Extension educator and Co-Coordinator, she provides leadership for the Private Applicator program team that works with and educates 16,000 producers to become certified/recertified. Her focus is educating all pesticide applicators throughout Minnesota so that they safely and effectively apply pesticides to crops and landscapes using safe pesticide application practices and environmentally sound pest management decisions.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - MISSOURI

Darla Campbell - 22 Years of Service

Darla Campbell joined the University of Missouri Extension in 1999 as a Business Development Specialist and has since transitioned to an Agriculture Business and County Engagement Specialist. Her areas of focus include farm leases, estate and succession planning, legal and regulatory issues in agriculture, dog production, local food systems, and community economic development. She has provided leadership in curricula development, grant writing, local partnerships, FFA Alumni, and extensive association committee work.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - MISSOURI

Karen Funkenbusch - 25 Years of Service



Karen Funkenbusch joined University of Missouri Extension in 2015 as an extension research specialist. She has statewide health, safety and wellness responsibilities and addresses the needs of farmers, ranchers, and farm families across Missouri. Programmatically she provides agriculture-based leadership as the statewide director of many holistic health, safety and wellness programs to engage beginning, disabled, elderly, minority, socially disadvantaged, veteran and women farmers, ranchers, farm families, community-based social service agencies, government representatives and agriculture stakeholders.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - NEBRASKA

Jennifer Rees - 16 Years of Service

Rees' career highlights include co-coordinating 25+ websites into the UNL CropWatch website for Nebraska Extension crop-related information. She served as the UNL agricultural liaison and co-led a team of 60 individuals who developed training for four Nebraska National Guard teams deploying to Afghanistan on Agribusiness Development Teams. She's worked with farmers to complete 117 on-farm research studies. Rees authored 462 blog posts, authored/co-authored 216 CropWatch articles, MailChimp audience of 906 subscribers, Twitter following of 2914.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - NORTH DAKOTA

Bill Hodous - 19 Years of Service



Bill Hodous started his North Dakota State University Extension career in 2001 and is currently the Ramsey County ANR agent. Bill is also co-chair of NDSARE. Bill's take great pride in his accomplishments to include: Lake Region Extension Roundup, Problem Based Learning approach to educational transformation, a saline/sodic tiling project and horticulture educator for urban and rural communities. Bill was instrumental in developing a Nebraska trip to educate North Dakota agents of Palmar Amaranth.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - WISCONSIN

Ryan Sterry - 14 Years of Service

Ryan Sterry joined UW Extension in 2006, first serving as Agriculture Agent for Polk County, and is currently serving in St. Croix County. Ryan's educational programming has focused on dairy, farm management, and livestock, with a current emphasis on Dairy and Livestock Management Education. Ryan is an active member in the Wisconsin Association, where he recently completed his term on the state board as Treasurer, and is the current state Search for Excellence chair.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - OHIO

Eric E. Barrett - 23 Years of Service

Eric Barrett is an Associate Professor and Extension Educator for Ohio State University Extension in Mahoning County and Area 10 Leader. He started as an Extension Associate in Ag Economics, supporting county educators, and has served as educator in Fairfield and Washington Counties. His specializations are is direct marketing, local foods, and horticulture. His passions in Extension are teaching, helping farmers improve marketing practices, and empowering volunteers to extend Extension's impact in communities.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - OHIO

Amy K. Stone - 20 Years of Service



Amy joined OSU Extension in 1992, and continues to serve Ohio in her role as an AgNR Educator in Lucas County. Her areas of specialization include landscape horticulture, urban forestry and invasive species. She coordinates the local Master Gardener Volunteer Program, an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Program, and a Master Urban Farmer Program. She is a founding member of Emerald Ash Borer University, and works collaboratively with the Department of Agriculture on invasive species issues.

NACAA Hall of Fame Award

The NACAA Recognition and Awards Committee is proud to present these three recipients with the NACAA Hall of Fame Award. The Hall of Fame Award recognizes one member or life member from each NACAA region. Each state can nominate one individual. Based on a 500 word summary and three letters of support, the state nominees are evaluated on their Extension programming, state and national association activities and humanitarian efforts beyond the normal call of duty.

Our thanks to Pipeline Ag Safety Alliance for sponsorship of the NACAA Hall of Fame Awards



2021

**Northeast Region
Hall of Fame Award**

**Mena Hautau
Pennsylvania
36 Years - Retired**



Mena Hautau was hired by Iowa State Extension in 1980. She was the third female County Agent hired by Iowa State and worked in Taylor County, Scott County, and eastern Iowa as an Extension Field Specialist in Horticulture. Her first NACAA meeting was in 1981 at Cornell University. She has attended 11 NACAA meetings and worked with PACAA to host the 2013 meeting in Pittsburgh, PA.

In 1992, she served as the first female President of the Iowa Agricultural Extension Association (IAEA). The following year, she served on the first NACAA Futuring Committee (1992-1993), whereby recommendations were made to strengthen the professional development opportunities that are common at national meetings, such as the poster and research entries. During her tenure at Iowa State, she served as a reviewer for the Journal of Extension from 1990-1993. From 1994 to 1996, she attended graduate school at Iowa State University on an extension assistantship and received the Virgil K. Webster Award.

Mena moved to Pennsylvania in 1994 and was hired as the Agronomy and Agriculture Extension Educator in Berks County. In her 22-year tenure in PA, she rose to the challenge of providing programming for a range of crops producers including mushroom growers, fruit and vegetable growers, graziers, large scale grain producers and organic farmers. She worked with 10 growers and conducted over 150 corn and 75 soybean yield checks for the PA Corn Club and the PA Soybean Yield Contest. Yields increased from a 159 to over 300 bu/A for corn and from 40 to 90 bu/A for soybeans. She received a \$15,000 SARE Partnership grant and conducted research on mob grazing with 5 dairy graziers and led a pasture walk in collaboration with PASA Sustainable Agriculture, which attracted 50 participants. Mena established "study circles" which brought peer learning to organic farmers. This program continues under the leadership of other educators. She assisted faculty in implementing on-farm and university-based research, including cover crops, soil health on no-till farms and manure injection for dairy farms. She led efforts with farmers, local state legislators and the PA Department of Agriculture to add Palmer Amaranth to the noxious weed list through farm visits, presentations, and a public policy on-farm meeting for stakeholders.

With PACAA she served on the Board of Directors from 1999-2003, chaired the Sustainable Agriculture Committee from 2008-2016 and served on the Membership and Program Development Committees. She helped to host two spring meetings.

Mena received her DSA in 2011. Other honors include 2011 Communication Award - Website, NACAA and 2003 Communications Award, Regional Finalist, NACAA.

She served as a Board Member of the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture, 1999-2008. During her time with PASA, she assisted the organization with raising an average of \$150,000 per year and helped with the transition and retention of Executive Directors.

In retirement, Mena has maintained her Certified Crop Advisor certification and has served on four grant review committees for Northeast SARE from 2017-2020.

Year DSA Awarded: 2011

**2021
Southern Region
Hall of Fame Award
Mickey Cummings
Georgia
40 Years - Retired**



In 1982, Mickey Cummings' career began with an extension appointment as 4-H Agent in Wilkes County, Georgia. For three decades, Mickey provided first-class extension programming and delivered timely research-based information to the counties he served. Mickey's career as an agent was most strongly associated with livestock production, earning him the Georgia Cattleman's Association County Agent of the Year in 2005. He was also well-respected for his work in vegetable production, water quality and sweet sorghum production.

Upon retirement, his knowledge and versatility served him well as the manager of the Union County Farmers Market/Canning Plant in Blairsville, Georgia. Under his leadership this facility achieved an economic impact of \$1,000,000/year attracting approximately 150,000 people/year in a county of 25,000 people. The Market, comprised of 84 vendors (70% agriculturally related), stimulated a ten-fold increase in the number of vegetable producers in Union County, reversing years of steady decline and making a positive impact in Union County Agriculture. The Union County Canning Plant processes over 17,000 jars/year for 200-300 persons. During 2020, while many farmers markets closed due to COVID-19, the Union County facility continued to operate under strict guidelines protecting the public without incident of health concern.

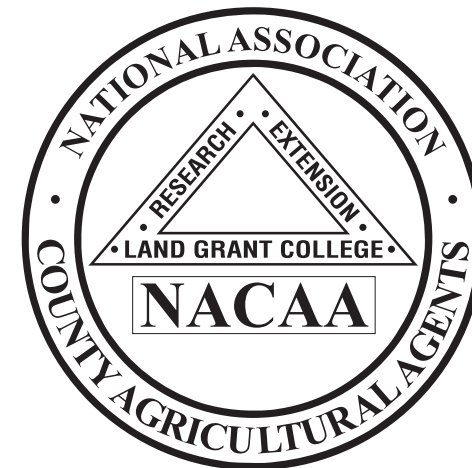
Throughout his career Mickey gained the respect of his peers and clientele through his educational efforts. He made 2 international presentations on beef management, 25 national lectures on a range of topics including beef production, forages, water quality and vegetable production. He presented 49 lectures in 12 states on topics including vegetable production, leadership, livestock, entomology, and soil fertility. He published 28 compilations of agricultural research over his extension career.

Service to his employer included serving on the UGA CAES Strategic Planning Committee, public service promotion committees and search committees. He attained the rank of Senior Public Service Associate with UGA CAES which only 3-4% of agents ever reach.

Mickey has been a member of GACAA and NACAA for 38 years attending 20 NACAA AM/PIC's and 34 GACAA AM/PIC's. Service to GACAA includes the offices of Secretary, Vice President and President. On the national level he served as Chairman of Public Relations, NACAA Secretary, Vice President and President. He served as the Vice Chair of the 2002 NACAA AM/PIC in Savannah, Georgia where his responsibilities included raising funds and developing committee structure. Notably, his work on the NACAA Public Relations Committee included the development of the First Timers Orientation for agents attending the AM/PIC for the first time.

Mickey has been active his community currently serving as President of the Blue Ridge Mountain Cattleman's Association and on the Boards of the Union County Farm Bureau, Union County Historical Society and the Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D. He has served on the Boards of the Blue Ridge Mountain Soil and Water Conservation District and the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC where he served as President for 2 years. He has served as Chairman of the Union County Comprehensive Land Use Planning Committee. Additionally, he served the children and youth of Union County as a youth baseball/basketball coach for 7 years.

Year DSA Awarded: 1994



**2021
Western Region
Hall of Fame Award
Dr. Ed Martin
Arizona
37 Years**



Ed Martin began his nearly 37-year extension career (29 at the University of Arizona) as an Extension Associate at Michigan State in 1984. The commitment to extension and leadership he has demonstrated make him exceptionally deserving of the Hall of Fame award. As a specialist in the Department of Agriculture and Biosystems Engineering (1992 - present), Ed's programs serve a diverse audience of commercial and urban horticulture and encompasses everything from irrigation frequency for arid-adapted landscape trees to water and fertilizer applications in large scale cotton, lettuce, and alfalfa (three of Arizona's biggest commercial crops). His research on optimizing water usage for both home and commercial crops has made a significant impact on all of Arizona's agricultural producers. His work bringing this information to the producers is always well suited for the needs of the audience, as evidenced by his work with several of the tribal nations teaching them to install low tech drip irrigation.

Ed has demonstrated excellence in leadership, becoming the Associate Director of Extension for Ag and Natural Resources in 2007, and the County Director for Arizona's most populous county, Maricopa, in 2012. Maricopa County is home to over 4.5 million people, and Maricopa County Cooperative Extension is an extremely complex county serving many diverse audiences including low-income, urban, youth, and rural agriculture. Ed has masterfully managed all of these moving parts and those who work under him speak of his commitment to ensuring everyone has what they need for success, and his perseverance in creating positive change.

Ed has continued to exemplify what it means to be a leader and a mentor through his work with the Arizona Agriculture Extension Association (AAEA) and the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA). At the state level, he has been a constant presence as an officer and as state chair for many committees throughout the years. Perhaps

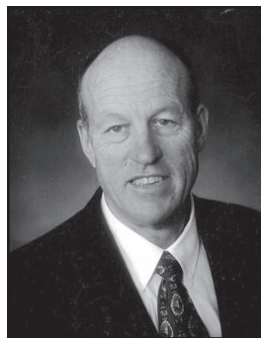
most importantly, he has been an ever-present mentor for new members, helping them navigate the organization and making sure each officer is primed to fulfill their duties. At the national level, Ed has served as regional committee vice-chair at least four times and is currently the National Chair for the Leadership and Administrative Skills committee.

In the community, Ed has invested himself heavily in serving the people extension serves well beyond his job responsibilities, as well as working extensively with several other state and national organizations. He chooses to spend his personal/volunteer time working with many of the community members served by extension, including youth and Arizona 4-H. He leads 4-H volunteer training sessions, assists youth on livestock weigh-in days at the county fair (definitely outside the realm of a bioengineering specialist!), and serves breakfast at the Arizona National's Livestock Show. When Maricopa County was between 4-H agents, Ed took leadership on several programs and continued to participate (especially the Zoo Crew) even after a new agent was on board. Arizona Extension and NACAA is immensely richer because of the personal and professional time Ed has committed to these organizations.

Year DSA Awarded: 2003



**2021
North Central Region
Hall of Fame Award
Donald Drost
Wisconsin
26 Years - Retired**



Don Drost served as agricultural agent in Barron County, Wisconsin, for 27 years specializing in farm management, general agriculture education, and in administration. He received various awards within UW Extension, including National and State Associations for County Agriculture Agents (NACAA and WACAA), and is a highly respected colleague and community member.

The impacts of Don's programs were recognized throughout the state and based on the needs of his clientele. Dairy production was the major agricultural industry in Barron county, represented by 1,400 county dairy farms. Don also served a wide range of the programming needs of all county farmers. Don initiated an annual UW-Extension Dairy Road Show event to draw special emphasis to the dairy industry in Northwest Wisconsin. He attracted nationally recognized presenters, industry representatives, and hundreds of dairy farmers attended the event each year.

Through Don's efforts, producers, educators and industry professionals collaborated to establish Barron County Agriculture Promoters. This initiative supported and encouraged agricultural education and activities throughout the county, targeting non-farm community members to inform them of the importance of agriculture to the local economy. To highlight this effort, Don served as executive secretary in hosting the Agriculture Technology Days in 1987, one of the largest agricultural exhibitions and shows in the nation.

Don was recognized for his variety and scope of excellence in agricultural education with the University of Wisconsin-Extension Excellence in Agricultural Programming award. He was promoted to the rank of Professor within the UW-Extension Ag/Ag Business Department. In addition to his program efforts Don served for three years as the academic Department Chair for all Agriculture Agents in Wisconsin.

His dedication to the association is demonstrated through the numerous committees he was involved with. Don served the Wisconsin Association in an assortment of leadership positions. In 1990 he began his leadership with NACAA and held the positions of North Central Vice Director and Regional Director roles before being elected to serve as the NACAA Vice President, President-Elect, President and Past President.

During Don's term as NACAA President, the NACAA committee structure was shifted and new guidelines were developed, commencing at the 1998 NACAA Meeting over which he presided. In addition, the groundwork was laid to create an executive director position during his tenure. The decision to have an executive director and NACAA national address has stood the test of time and the position has been in place for over 20 years.

On a humanitarian level, Don is a dedicated contributor to his community. He served over 40 years as a county 4-H leader, including leading the 4-H Ontario youth exchange program for 15 years. Don is active in his faith and serves as his church's parish council chair; men's club president; lector; and usher. He is involved with community organizations and has served leadership roles with the Barron County Rotary, Cameron School District, Rice Lake curling club, and local telecommunications telephone cooperative where he currently serves as Chairman of the Board. Don also volunteers his time with the Barron County Restorative Justice program and is a past volunteer for the Kinship program, which provides a father figure to troubled youth.

Year DSA Awarded: 1991

2021

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD HONOREES

It is with great pride that the Recognition and Awards Committee of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents salutes the Achievement Award Honorees for 2021. The recipients of this award have less than ten years of service in the Cooperative Extension Service. They have been selected by their peers and are being recognized for excellence in their field of professionalism. Each state can select up to two percent of their association's membership for this award. The year's seventy recipients join 2,374 Achievement Award winners who have been recognized since this program began.

Please share the pride of the Recognition and Awards Committee by noting the accomplishments of each honoree as indicated by her or his citation. NACAA is exceptionally pleased to recognize their achievements.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

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County Agents Receiving the Achievement Award From The National Association of County Agricultural Agents 2021

Winners are listed below by regions, state and year of service.

NORTHEAST REGION - MAINE

Rebecca J. Long - 2 Years of Service

Rebecca is the Agriculture and Food Systems Professional for Oxford County and works with both farmers and gardeners. Additionally, in her role as co-chair of the Home Horticulture team, she has provided leadership for new statewide online programming efforts including a Gardening Webinar Series and a newly revamped curriculum for the Master Gardener Volunteer Program. She is currently the Secretary of the Maine chapter of NACAA.



NORTHEAST REGION - MARYLAND

Neith Grace Little - 7 Years of Service



Neith Little's Urban Agriculture Program is the epitome of what extension education for productive, sustainable, and profitable agriculture looks like. Urban farmers face specific challenges growing in a city and Little addresses these challenges understanding that unique physical and cultural context. Little forged unique programs that reaches communities who have not traditionally been served by agricultural extension bringing advancing innovative, profitable and sustainable agricultural production systems to almost 4,000 people involved in urban agriculture.

NORTHEAST REGION - NEW JERSEY

Megan Muehlbauer - 4 Years of Service



Megan's program efforts aim to enhance the New Jersey tree fruit industry through apple rootstock evaluation, plant nutrition education, and crop diversification. Her research and outreach on hard cider cultivar selection and production has assisted three established hard cider mills in New Jersey, and six new hard cider mill/orchards currently in development. In addition she participates in hazelnut research for orchard production in NJ and oversees the county Rutgers master Gardener program.

NORTHEAST REGION - NEW YORK

Jarmila Haseler - 5 Years of Service

Jarmila Haseler has been Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County's sole agriculture educator for five years, re-establishing a local program after a four-year absence. Jarmila established several annual agriculture trail experiences for communities, publishes a farmers' market guide in collaboration with a local representative, and teaches hands on agriculture experiences to students in grades K-12. She actively promotes agriculture through her collaborations and support of local small, midsize, and large farms and farm businesses.



NORTHEAST REGION - PENNSYLVANIA

Ginger D. Fenton - 9 Years of Service



As an educator with Penn State Extension in Mercer County, Ginger Fenton works with dairy producers and processors. Previously, she was a regional food safety educator. Her programming and outreach efforts include statewide food safety preventive controls certification workshops for human and animal food manufacturers, dairy programs focusing on milk quality, assisting with value-added dairy enterprises, and agricultural safety and health issues.

NORTHEAST REGION - VERMONT

Mark Cannella - 9 Years of Service

Mark's UVM Extension career began in 2011 with an outstanding Farm Business Management program for Vermont agriculture producers. He has written dozens of articles, Technical reports, Extension Teaching Publications, and made more than 30 Regional and National professional presentations. He has been featured on numerous Radio/TV programs. He's the key individual with UVM Extension's Farm Viability Website, Monthly Blog, & Resource Library. He has received more than \$3.3 million dollars in grant awards as Principal Investigator.



NORTHEAST REGION - WEST VIRGINIA

John David Johnson - 9 Years of Service



A/NR Extension agent John David Johnson has worked diligently with beef genetic improvement programs and beef marketing programs, including WVU Southern Bull tests and WVU calf pools. In addition, he enjoys working closely with WV vegetable producers to help them establish good agricultural practices and to ensure quality produce is available locally. He prides himself in working with local youth in agriculture because he believes it is important to nurture our next generation of farmers.

SOUTHERN REGION - ALABAMA

Allie Logan - 5 Years of Service

Born and raised on her family's farm in Barbour County, Alabama. She attended Auburn University where she obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture Communications and Master's Degree in Adult Education. As Barbour County Extension Coordinator, she works hard to improve the quality of life for Barbour County citizens and hundreds of 4-H students. Her passion is educating farmers on fruit production, mental health, business planning, and marketing. She is an Annie's Project facilitator for Alabama.



SOUTHERN REGION - ALABAMA

Rishi Prasad - 2 Years of Service



During his three years with Alabama Extension, Dr. Prasad has conceived and developed effective and innovative programming to ensure two goals of vital importance to the Alabama and national farming sectors: profitability and sustainability. He has achieved this through multifaceted, interdisciplinary programming that reaches all elements of the farming sector – clients, stakeholders, non-governmental organizations and federal and state agencies.

SOUTHERN REGION - ALABAMA

Paul Vining - 5 Years of Service

His primary focus is to provide Extension programming designed to improve livestock systems in Northwest Alabama. Much of his past programming emphasized techniques to improve grazing systems. Utilizing his training as a ruminant nutritionist he has aided beef cattle producers by balancing cost effective diets. He recently wrote a publication; ANR 2517 Raising Calves for Freezer Beef Production. This publication was written in response to a significant increase in interest regarding locally produced red meats.



SOUTHERN REGION - ARKANSAS

Jason A. Davis - 7 Years of Service



Jason has served as an Application Technologist with the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture for the past 7 years. He has provided state-wide educational and technical assistance to county Extension agents and Arkansas producers on sprayer calibration, spray equipment selection, and drift mitigation in row-crop, pasture, and specialty crop production systems. Additionally, he assists producers with the adoption and use of GNSS technology, GIS applications, and precision agriculture equipment.

SOUTHERN REGION - ARKANSAS

Robert S. Harper - 8 Years of Service

Robert began his Extension career as the agricultural agent in Logan County in 2013. Robert currently serves as staff chair in Logan County. Robert's agricultural educational programming includes: beef and forage, row crops, and home and garden. Robert is also the advisor for the Logan County Master Gardener program. Robert uses a mix of on-farm demonstrations and educational meetings to educate producers of Logan County.



SOUTHERN REGION - ARKANSAS

Amy Tallent - 9 Years of Service



Amy Tallent has served as a County Agent in Prairie County since 2016, prior to this she was a Program Associate for the Department of Plant Pathology as the lead for a satellite plant disease lab. She has used her knowledge of agricultural technologies to assist producers and homeowners as an agent. Her goal is to instill her passion for agriculture into the 4-H youth that she works with, as well.

SOUTHERN REGION - FLORIDA

Lauren Butler - 4 Years of Service

Lauren Butler joined UF/IFAS Extension in Okeechobee County in 2016 as the County Extension Director and Livestock Agent. Recognized by her peers at the state and national levels, Lauren has also proven herself among her clientele with relevant, timely and impactful Extension programs. She has developed an abundance and variety of high-quality deliverables and has garnered an abundance of monetary and in-kind contributions to support her program. Lauren's Extension program has resulted in meaningful outcomes.



SOUTHERN REGION - FLORIDA

Evelyn Prissy Fletcher - 7 Years of Service



Prissy serves as the Commercial Agriculture Agent for St. Johns County. She manages the Hastings Plant Triage Lab and focuses her program efforts in integrating alternative crops into production systems while working on her PhD. She has also served as a Horticulture Agent for in Putnam County for 5 ½ years and has received numerous awards from FACAA, FANREP, NACAA, UF/IFAS Extension Administration, and NAE4-HA. She is currently serving on the AMPIC 2022 Fundraising Committee.

SOUTHERN REGION - FLORIDA

Kalan Taylor - 7 Years of Service

Kalan Taylor has become a leader in agriculture and natural resources by offering a wide variety of programs to both producers and to youth. Kalan has presented her work at multiple state and national conferences. As evidence of her contributions to Extension, Kalan has been presented with several local, state, regional and national awards from multiple professional associations. Kalan is involved in FACAA/NACAA, FAE4-HA, and ESP. She serves on several committees in each organization.



SOUTHERN REGION - GEORGIA

Heather N. Kolich - 6 Years of Service



As County Extension Coordinator and ANR Agent for Forsyth County, Heather demonstrates outstanding achievement in public service and outreach. Her educational programs in urban forestry, worker safety, and biosecurity for backyard poultry earned state and national awards from GACAA and ANREP. Heather expands outreach through accessible programming and peer-reviewed publications. Her Edible Landscaping with Native Plants program drove establishment of a community orchard and reintroduced hundreds of native fruit and nut plants throughout the county.

SOUTHERN REGION - GEORGIA

Greg Pittman - 6 Years of Service

Since 2015, Greg Pittman, has served as the Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent and County Coordinator for UGA Extension in Jackson County. His programming focuses on improving forage quality, beef cattle production, and turf management for golf courses and homeowners. Greg was awarded for his actions in a collaborative research project which studied the impact of horn fly suppression in beef cattle. The results of this study have been published in state and regional publications.



SOUTHERN REGION - GEORGIA

Ty Torrance - 6 Years of Service



Ty Torrance has served UGA Extension as Agriculture and Natural Resource Agent since February of 2015. He has been recognized regionally for his work in peanut, cotton and commercial vegetable production. He transitioned to the Tri-County Vegetable Agent covering Tift, Colquitt, and Worth Counties in 2020. Ty has served GACAA as the Public Relations/Ag Issues Committee Chair and currently sits on the State Board as Treasurer.

SOUTHERN REGION - KENTUCKY

Adam Barnes - 9 Years of Service

Livingston County Extension Agent, Adam Barnes, has developed quality educational programs concentrating on the wide range of diverse county needs from home owners to large scale agricultural operations. In the last eight years, he has developed agricultural programming that range from bee keeping, small space gardening, basic yard care to forage and beef cattle improvement programs. In addition, he serves as Fiscal Contact and has covered vacancies for FCS, 4-H, and SNAP-Ed positions.



SOUTHERN REGION - KENTUCKY

Alexis Sheffield - 7 Years of Service



Since 2013, Alexis has been developing the horticulture program in Boyle County, as the first Horticulture Agent to have ever served there. Over the past seven years, Alexis has trained Master Gardeners, created a demonstration garden, and worked with farmers to improve growing practices, marketing needs, and community engagement. Her educational offerings range from hands on classes in home gardens to commercial needs on season extension and soil ecology with both adults and youth.

SOUTHERN REGION - LOUISIANA

Jessie Hoover - 7 Years of Service

Jessie Hoover was introduced to the Cooperative Extension Service as a 4-H member growing up in Southeast Louisiana. She began her Extension career in 2013, working as a 4-H Agent in Livingston Parish. In 2017, she moved into a County Agent position focused on commercial horticulture production and consumer horticulture education in East Feliciana, West Feliciana, and St. Helena Parishes. She enjoys working with farmers and teaching people about agriculture.



SOUTHERN REGION - MISSISSIPPI

Preston Aust - 9 Years of Service



Preston serves as the County Coordinator/ Ag Agent for Mississippi State University Extension in Humphreys County. As an Agriculture Agent, Mr. Aust works with producers on fertility, irrigation efficiency, variety placement, seeding rates, and weed & pest management. Most recently, he has pushed irrigation efficiency with the aid of pipe planner, moisture sensors, surge valves, and pump automation.

SOUTHERN REGION - MISSISSIPPI

Heather Jennings - 5 Years of Service

Heather Jennings has enjoyed working as an Extension Agent in Rankin County for the past five years. Her primary responsibility is 4-H and Youth Development where she loves teaching youth about the various projects and activities; especially livestock and animal science. She enjoys engaging with youth and their families to achieve their goals and watching them grow.



SOUTHERN REGION - MISSISSIPPI

James Shannon - 4 Years of Service



James Shannon has served Pontotoc County for the previous four years as an Extension Agent for the Mississippi State University Extension Service. Mr. Shannon reaches a diverse cross section of clients through Extension efforts involving beekeeping, community resource development, horticulture, forestry, livestock production, row crop production and 4-H. He takes great pride in helping the citizens of Pontotoc County.

SOUTHERN REGION - NORTH CAROLINA

Jessica Anderson - 9 Years of Service

Jessica Anderson has brought enthusiasm, dedication and drive to her position as an Agriculture Agent in Wilson County. During her 3 years in Wilson, and 9 years in NC Cooperative Extension, Jessica has made a concerted effort to meet the producers of her county and offer new and revived programming that meets the needs of the rural area. In Wilson County, Jessica is responsible for livestock, forages, youth livestock, waste management, cotton & peanuts.



SOUTHERN REGION - NORTH CAROLINA

Andrea W. Gibbs - 6 Years of Service



Andrea Gibbs began her Extension career six years ago as the Hyde County Agriculture Extension Agent. She now serves as the Agriculture Extension Agent for Hyde and Tyrrell Counties. Andrea has excelled at building strong, trusting relationships with her farmers and has a passion for helping them improve their operations. She is a team player and enjoys collaborating with other agents to provide valuable programs for area farmers.

SOUTHERN REGION - NORTH CAROLINA

Ben Grandon - 7 Years of Service

Since 2013, Ben Grandon has served as a Horticultural County Extension Agent for the Cooperative Extension Service where he has spearheaded a countless number of educational initiatives that have served to benefit the good people of North Carolina. Through a focus on hand-on and interactive programming, Ben has been able to positively affect the bottom-line of countless farmers and homeowners, aiding with pest and disease issues as well as general horticultural knowledge.



SOUTHERN REGION - NORTH CAROLINA

Travis Hoesli - 9 Years of Service



Travis's first seven year of service he worked for CSU as agriculture/4-H Agent in Colorado. During this time, he ran a successful Master Garden Program, managed four community gardens while expanding and developing the 4-H livestock program in the county. After moving to North Carolina to serve as Caswell County Extension Director, he expanded a partnership with Piedmont Community College to develop and find funding for the Center for Education and Agriculture Development (CEAD).

SOUTHERN REGION - NORTH CAROLINA

Mack Johnson - 8 Years of Service

Mack Johnson has dedicated his energy and commitment to increasing the horticultural knowledge of the citizens of Robeson County. Through interactive and unique teaching programs, Robeson County citizens have increased home vegetable production, improved lawn care, and acknowledged conservation of our natural resources is essential. Mack also encourages school students toward agricultural endeavors and careers with energetic class demonstrations and instruction. He always strives for others to succeed.



SOUTHERN REGION - OKLAHOMA

Augustus Holland - 6 Years of Service



As the Tulsa County Ag/4-H Educator, Augustus Holland keeps clientele updated on pertinent information through newsletters and social media. He has provided programming to clientele on PWME, estate planning, pasture management and forage production to name a few. He started 4-H Day at Flying Cow Genetics, which gives youth the opportunity to work hands on with reproduction. He also works with neighboring county educators and area/state specialist to conduct regional and state-wide Ag/4-H programs.

SOUTHERN REGION - SOUTH CAROLINA

T. Ashley Burns - 6 Years of Service

Ashley Burns serves as the Assistant Director for 4-H Youth Development at Clemson University. She earned degrees in science fields from the University of Georgia, Kansas State University, and Clemson University. She works closely with the state 4-H leader, specialists, agents, and administration to provide program leadership and development for 4-H statewide, focusing on natural resources and science program areas. She also serves as the volunteer specialist for South Carolina 4-H.



SOUTHERN REGION - SOUTH CAROLINA

Lindsey Craig - 8 Years of Service



Lindsey Craig has worked for Clemson Extension since 2012 as a Livestock and Forage Agent, covering the upstate area of South Carolina. She works with livestock producers to improve their operations and increase forage diversity. Lindsey enjoys connecting with new and experienced producers through farm visits, hands on workshops, and producer meetings.

SOUTHERN REGION - TENNESSEE

Xiurui Iris Cui - 3 Years of Service

Iris's area is in farm management. Over the past three years, she has published 6 budgeting and decision-aid tools for producers in Tennessee. Iris has taught 63 farm management courses and webinars. She has led two grant proposals addressing farm safety issues. As a result of these programs, 678 participants increased their knowledge and skills in farm and financial planning, and 128 increased their potential farm income by \$882,757 by implementing a financial plan.



SOUTHERN REGION - TENNESSEE

Seth Whitehouse - 3 Years of Service



Seth delivers agriculture programming with a focus on horticulture. Over the past 3 years, he has held 24 educational sessions related to entomology that have reached over 900 direct contacts. And through the Master Gardener and Master Beef programs, there was an economic impact of over \$82,000. Seth also serves on the Residential & Consumer Horticulture Leadership Team, Fruit & Vegetable Workgroup, 2020-2030 Strategic Planning Committee, and is the current Eastern Region Director for TAA&S.

SOUTHERN REGION - TENNESSEE

Kathleen Wilson - 3 Years of Service

Kathleen Wilson became a UT Extension Agriculture agent in 2017. Kathleen hosted the first ever Master Beef Program in Carter County in 2017. Since the start, there have been 60 producers who have benefited from the Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program, earning approximately \$1.5 million for producers to expand and improve their farms. This has expanded Carter County's beef programs to include pregnancy check, beef quality assurance, value-added meat, beef conferences, expos and workshops.



SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Bruce Boyd - 6 Years of Service



Bruce Boyd has been a County Extension Agent in Agriculture and Natural Resources for Hamilton County, Texas for six years. Bruce has continued building the Extension program and gaining the trust of the people of Hamilton County. He has provided high quality educational programming for producers, consistently offering new project areas and activities to the 4-H members of the county. Bruce has served the producers of Hamilton County to the best of his ability.

SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Jessica Chase - 5 Years of Service

Jessica Chase has served as the Agricultural & Natural Resources Agent in Brazoria County since 2015, providing programs related to forage, pesticides, livestock and urban ranching. She has developed a version of Egg to Chick for local libraries, as well as securing over \$47,000 to support Agricultural Awareness Day, "Captain Shiskabob". Jessica is heavily involved in her AIC and has served on strike teams that have traveled to CA and NC to assist with emergencies.



SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Gerri Kline - 5 Years of Service



Gerri L. Kline is currently the Ag and Natural Resources agent in Lee County and began her career as an assistant agent in Gonzales County in 2016. She enjoys working with landowners on forage, livestock, wildlife topics and homeowners on gardening. She also focuses on ag literacy and outdoor education for youth. She is passionate about the Natural Resources 4-H Projects. Gerri received her M.S. in Agriculture and Consumer Resources from Tarleton State University.

SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Jo A. Smith - 8 Years of Service

Raised in the beef industry in Houston County, Jo became the Agriculture Agent in 2012. She has both BS and MS degrees in the agriculture field. She holds numerous educational workshops and field days. Conducting multiple result demonstrations related to Beef & Forage production, she works closely with specialists, program area committees, and cattle industry leaders. In addition to an extensive beef program, she covers ag literacy, horticulture, 4-H youth development, and manages 150 volunteers.



SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Jacob Spivey - 6 Years of Service



Jacob Spivey has served Tyler County for 6 years. He holds a BS degree from Stephen F. Austin State University and MS from Texas A&M Kingsville. At the Texas Agriculture Agents Association Conference in 2019 he was awarded the Early Career Award and he has a Communication Award in the past. In 2017 he received the inaugural Future of Tyler County award from the Tyler County Chamber of Commerce.

SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Stacie Villarreal - 5 Years of Service

Stacie served as ANR Agent in Waller County since October 2015 and recently transferred to Austin County. She is responsible for various educational programs including those for beef & forage producers and 4-H where she serves as 4-H Coordinator and meat judging coach. She supervised the Master Gardeners' educational programs for residents; where participants learn best practices for gardening, fruit tree care, and more. Stacie received her B.S. and M.S. from Texas A&M University-Kingsville.



SOUTHERN REGION - VIRGINIA

John Benner - 7 Years of Service



John's passion for agriculture serves the livestock producers of Augusta, Rockingham and Rockbridge Counties where he works closely with other Extension colleagues and Agri-businesses to address emerging needs of some of the biggest Ag counties in the State. From forage testing and farm visits to a variety of adult and youth programming, John positively impacts the people and communities of these important agricultural counties. John currently serves his fellow agents as a VAAEA board member.

SOUTHERN REGION - VIRGINIA

Brittany Council-Morton - 9 Years of Service

Brittany led the agriculture program in Greenville/Emporia for 3 years prior to moving to Virginia's Capital City to serve as the 4-H/Urban Ag Extension Agent from 2014 to present. Brittany saw unique opportunities to bridge the gaps to local food production, horticultural experiences and agricultural awareness, where others saw disparities with urban lands & agriculture. Brittany has won numerous awards from NACAA, serves as the VAAEA Communications Awards Chair, and NACAA Communications Regional Vice Chair.



WESTERN REGION - ARIZONA

Dr. Duarte Diaz - 9 Years of Service



Dr. Duarte Diaz (Associate Professor/State Extension Dairy Specialist) is internationally recognized for his work on mycotoxins and heat stress in livestock. He created Arizona Dairy Farm Training to train dairy farm employees (95% Hispanic) in their native language. He has extensive scientific knowledge and experience, but he effectively shares the information at audience appropriate levels. He conducts Beef Quality Assurance trainings and significantly increased AZ extension BQA trainers, including most AZ Tribal Extension agents.

WESTERN REGION - CALIFORNIA

Sonia I. Rios - 6 Years of Service

During Sonia's 6 years as sub-tropical (dates, avocados, citrus) farm advisor in Riverside and San Diego Counties, she has made 71 presentations, created 10 scientific posters, organized/co-organized 145 extension meetings, trainings, and workshops, and hosted 5 production management short courses. She co-authors a quarterly group newsletter which is e-mailed to 5,000+ clientele and her individual newsletter reaches 890+ clientele in addition to 79 articles in peer reviewed journals, popular magazines, trade magazine, newsletters, and abstracts.



WESTERN REGION - COLORADO

Kali Benson - 5 Years of Service



Kali has served CSU Extension for 5 years as a Director, 4-H and Livestock and Range agent. She is the past president of the Colorado chapter of NACAA and has held all executive positions and has been instrumental in bringing more members into the chapter. Kali has provided diverse programming to her community, addressing needs and concerns. She conducts herself with professionalism and a smile. Kali is a huge asset to our organization.

WESTERN REGION - IDAHO

Kate Painter - 5 Years of Service

Kate Painter initiated an annual Forage & Grazing School for North Idaho. She maintains enterprise budgets for all major North Idaho crops. She created a Farm Financial Fitness workshop series. She established a white rot decline trial in Boundary County. She created an online farmers market pilot program. She is PI on 10 funded grant proposals worth \$1,374,495. Kate has authored or coauthored 5 refereed journal articles and 12 Extension publications. She is currently a SARE Fellow.



WESTERN REGION - MONTANA

Rose Malisani - 8 Years of Service



Rose Malisani grew up on a cattle and horse ranch outside of Cascade, Montana. In April 2012, she became the Agricultural Agent for MSU Extension in Cascade County. Rose works with farmers, ranchers, gardeners, and horse and livestock 4-H members. Rose is a past president of the MACAA. When Rose isn't working for Extension or the family ranch, she is on the mighty Missouri River or in the Big Belt Mountains, exploring Montana's treasures

WESTERN REGION - NEW MEXICO

Lynda Garvin - 7 Years of Service

Lynda Garvin began working as the Agriculture Agent for Sandoval County in 2013. Her major work involves food production and food security at the household and commercial level. She provides seed saving training and resources through the Sandia Seed Stewards. She managed the Sandoval Extension Master Gardener Program educating about and promoting adaptive landscapes and food gardens. In September of 2020, she was transferred to Valencia County as the Interim Program Director and Agriculture Agent.



WESTERN REGION - OREGON

Brooke Edmunds - 7 Years of Service



Brooke Edmunds serves as an Associate Professor of Practice of Horticulture in Linn and Benton Counties in Oregon. In her current role, she works with home horticulture clients and oversees the Master Gardener volunteer program in both counties. Her Extension programs focus on supporting sustainable gardening and local food production, community horticulture education, and integrated pest management using innovative delivery methods.

WESTERN REGION - UTAH

Steven Price - 3 Years of Service

Steven Price is an Assistant Extension Professor of Agriculture, Natural Resources and 4-H serving Carbon County in eastern Utah. His integrated pest management background is an asset to Extension and his research has improved regional knowledge of alfalfa pest biology. His other working areas include forage production improvement, noxious weed control and natural resources youth engagement. Steven strives to exemplify the mission of “building knowledge, improving lives” in his rural community.



WESTERN REGION - WASHINGTON

Brook Brouwer - 5 Years of Service



Dr. Brook Brouwer is Director of WSU Extension San Juan County and a Regional Agriculture Extension Specialist. Based in Friday Harbor, Washington, Dr. Brouwer serves a wide range of diversified crop and livestock producers locally and in the region. His programs support local food system development, crop variety evaluation and sustainable agricultural production. Collaborative projects range from on-farm pasture research to hosting community listening sessions to educational programs.

WESTERN REGION - WYOMING

Abby Perry - 6 Years of Service

Abby Perry is an Area Extension Educator from Wyoming based in the southeast corner of the state. She covers topics in horticulture and natural resources. Specifically, she enjoys working with non-traditional Ag audiences, helping clientele navigate urban landscaping challenges, and using Ag economics to help answer questions and make decisions.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - ILLINOIS

Candice Hart - 8 Years of Service



Candice joined University of Illinois Extension in 2012 as a multi-county horticulture educator. She became an Illinois Chapter member fall 2013. She has held the positions of Jr. and Sr. District Director for the North regions, as well as serving as the advisory member for the Illinois Ag in the Classroom group since 2015. She received the Illinois Extension Action Award in 2015 as well. She currently serves as the State Master Gardener Specialist.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - INDIANA

Jeff Hermesch - 7 Years of Service

Jeff serves as the County Extension Director and ANR Extension Educator for Purdue Extension-Decatur County. During his 7 years in Extension, Jeff has worked in the ANR and 4-H program areas. His primary focus is Turfgrass/Horticulture in which he serves as a turf consultant for multiple athletic facilities throughout Indiana. Jeff is also a member of the Purdue Hops team and teaches Master Gardener programs statewide.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - INDIANA

Crystal Van Pelt - 6 Years of Service



Crystal is a current member of the Northcentral Region ANR Academy and has served NACAA as the hospitality committee chair for the 2019 AMPIC. She also serves her state Educator association as a board member. Her experience with Unmanned Aerial Vehicles has been a valuable resource for producers, as well as the regional Farm to School Network. She also maintains an active Master Gardener program, hosts Annie's Project, and facilitates on-farm research, among other programs.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - IOWA

Carter Oliver - 3 Years of Service

Carter is the county director for Harrison County, Iowa. As the county director, agriculture and natural resources are top programming priorities. A few programming successes include pest resistance management, beef quality assurance, and water rocks! He attended Iowa State University for their undergrad and is now working on their master's degree through Colorado State University.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - KANSAS

Justin Goodno - 2 Years of Service



Justin co-hosted the Stateline Sheep and Goat Conference and a Calving Management school, which were joint programs between K-State and Oklahoma State local units. He developed a local initiative which placed over 5,500 lbs. of local beef in Barber County, KS schools. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Justin helped develop another local initiative that placed 3,443 lbs. of local beef and 2,155 lbs. of local pork in the Food Bank/Pantry in Barber County, KS.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - KANSAS

Anastasia Meyer - 7 Years of Service

Anastasia Meyer has been the Marshall County Ag and Natural Resources Agent with K-State Research & Extension since 2014. Her focuses are Farm Management and Agronomy. Anastasia's educational efforts include Farm Bill ARC/PLC economics, farm financials, pest management, crop diseases and educating youth about agriculture in addition to local 4-H programming. She is a Board of Director and Communication Chair of her state association. Anastasia also farms and runs a cow/calf operation with her husband.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - MICHIGAN

Ben Phillips - 6 Years of Service



Ben works with commercial field and greenhouse vegetable growers in the Bay and Thumb areas of Michigan. Ben's pioneering spirit, creative ideas and zest for learning are infectious. He is greatly appreciated by his colleagues and growers and we are thrilled to nominate Ben for the National Association of County Agricultural Agents Achievement Award.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - MINNESOTA

Karen Johnson - 7 Years of Service

Karen joined University of Minnesota Extension in 2014. Currently, Karen serves as the Agriculture/Horticulture Extension Educator in McLeod and Meeker Counties. Karen has worked to provide programming that addresses current needs of farmers and gardeners via workshops, field days, radio segments, news articles, and technical assistance. Karen has spent time honing existing programs and developing new ones where needed. Karen currently serves as Past - President of the Minnesota Association of Extension Ag Professionals.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - MISSOURI

Reagan Bluel - 6 Years of Service



Reagan Bluel is a MU Extension dairy field specialist. Her programming helps producers minimize production costs and enhance bottom line through diet formulation. She also covers best management practices in dairy production. Her programming also includes “Women in Dairy” and her monthly podcast, “Dairy Science Digest”. Reagan also serves the industry as Missouri Dairy’s Educational director. Currently she also serves as interim superintendent for the University of Missouri Southwest Research Center, in Mt. Vernon, MO.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - MISSOURI

Juan Cabrera-Garcia - 1 Year of Service

Juan Cabrera joined MU Extension in late September 2019 and he serves as a horticulture specialist in the bootheel area of Missouri. Areas of interest include commercial production of fruits and vegetables, soil fertility, greenhouse production, master gardener coordination, and hydroponic cropping systems. Juan provides leadership for webinar series aimed at commercial growers, home gardeners, and Hispanics in Missouri. The webinars have reached individuals at the state, national and international levels.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - NEBRASKA

Jessica Groskopf - 8 Years of Service



Jessica Groskopf is a Regional Extension Economist and the Director of the Nebraska Women in Agriculture Program. Groskopf provides farm management education, specializing in grain marketing, and financial management. She has served as the PI/Co-PI on over \$10 million of awarded grants, and presented numerous conference posters and presentations. She has been recognized for her innovative programming by Nebraska Extension, the UNL Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Western Agricultural Economics Association and NACAA.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - NORTH DAKOTA

Paige Brummund - 9 Years of Service

Paige serves as an ANR Extension Educator in Ward County. Her area of expertise is in beef cattle and equine management but she also provides programming on topics ranging from horticulture to agronomy to farm business management. Paige works on a variety of project teams; her favorites include Annie’s Project, Design Your Succession Plan, and the 4-H Animal Science and Equine committees. Her passions include sharing production agriculture with urban stakeholders and coaching 4-H youth.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - OHIO

Lee Beers - 5 Years of Service



Lee Beers joined Ohio State University Extension as the ANR Extension Educator in Trumbull County in December 2015. His areas of specialization include agronomic crop production and alternative crops. Lee uses field days, demonstrations, and other educational events to help farms increase productivity and profit. As an Area Leader he provides leadership to three other counties, and he is a member of the statewide Agronomic Crops and Extension Leadership teams.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - OHIO

Christine Gelley - 5 Years of Service

Christine Gelley is the Noble County Extension Educator for Agriculture and Natural Resources. Specializing in forage quality and management in grazing and hay systems, she serves as the co-leader of the Ohio State Extension Forage and Sheep Teams. An avid writer, videographer, and researcher, Christine strives each day to be an encouraging voice of reason to her clientele, while seeing challenges as opportunities, and posing viable solutions to enhance the lives of Ohioans.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - SOUTH DAKOTA

Adam Varenhorst - 6 Years of Service



While working for SDSU, Adam has dedicated his time to work for the South Dakota stakeholders. To date, he has authored or co-authored 28 peer-reviewed publications, 11 fact sheets, 17 insect identification guides, 69 chapters for the South Dakota Pest Management Guides, 384 extension articles and presented 120 research-based extension presentations to stakeholders. As a member of NACAA he has attended the state's annual meeting every year and have served on several committees.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - WISCONSIN

Lyssa Seefeldt - 7 Years of Service

Lyssa Seefeldt has worked for University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension since 2013 and currently serves as the Dairy and Livestock Educator in Eau Claire County. Her programming and outreach has included livestock production, animal well-being, assisting beginning farmers, and currently serves as the Pork Quality Assurance Trainer in Wisconsin. She has served as president of the WI Association of County Agriculture Agents and various state committee chair roles.



