

107th Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference

National Association of
County Agricultural Agents



***Achievement Award
Hall of Fame Award
Distinguished Service Award***

July 17–22, 2022
West Palm Beach, FL



2022
RECOGNITION AND AWARDS
COMMITTEE

Programs

NACAA Officers, Directors, Vice Directors	1
NACAA Committee Chairs	2
NACAA Recognition and Awards Committee	3
Banquet Menu and Program	4
82nd Anniversary	5
Congratulations Honorees	6
Distinguished Service Awards	6-27
North Central Region	6
Northeast Region	11
Southern Region	12
Western Region.....	24
Hall of Fame Awards.....	27
Achievement Awards	33
Achievement Awards Breakfast Menu and Program	34
Achievement Awards Recipients	35-57
North Central Region	35
Northeast Region	40
Southern Region	42
Western Region.....	54

National Association of
County Agricultural Agents
2021 — 2022

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Northeast Region	Nick Polanin	New Jersey
Southern Region	Brian Beer	South Carolina
Southern Region	Paula Burke	Georgia
Western Region	Linden Greenhalgh	Utah

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Association Policy.....	Mike Hogan
Life Member.....	Paul Craig
Program Recognition Council.....	David Marrison
Communications.....	Ron Patterson
Search For Excellence.....	Linda Mcclanahan
Professional Excellence.....	Nick Simmons
Public Relations. & Ag Awareness.....	Tyrone Fisher
Recognition & Awards.....	Joni Ross Harper
Scholarship.....	Stephen Hadcock
Extension Development Council.....	Scott Jensen
Agricultural Issues.....	Katie Wantoch
Early Career Development.....	Danny Lauderdale
Leadership & Administrative Skills	Nicole Thompson
Teaching & Educational Technologies.....	Colt Knight
Professional Improvement Council.....	Sherry Beaty-Sullivan
4-H & Youth.....	Brittany Council-Morton
Agriculture Economics and Community Development.....	Amanda Smith
Agronomy & Pest Management.....	Ted Wiseman
Animal Science.....	Mark Heitstuman
Horticulture & Turfgrass.....	Cyndi Lauderdale
Natural Resources/Aquaculture/Seagrant.....	Jody Gale
Sustainable Agriculture.....	Laura Miller

2021 - 2022 RECOGNITION AND AWARDS COMMITTEE Joni Ross Harper Missouri National Chair

NORTHEAST REGION
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State Chairs:

- Laurie Wolinski- Delaware
- Donna Coffin- Maine
- Virginia Rosenkranz - Maryland
- Elaina Enzien- New Hampshire
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- Daniel Welch - New York
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- Jeff Carter- Vermont
- Daisy Bailey - West Virginia

SOUTHERN REGION
Paula Burke, Vice Chair
Georgia

State Chairs:

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- Brett Gordon - Arkansas
- Christa Kirby- Florida
- Greg Huber - Georgia
- Jessica Sayre - Kentucky
- Ron Strahan- Louisiana
- Amanda Masholie - Mississippi
- Nelson Brownlee - North Carolina
- Augustus Holland - Oklahoma
- Jeff Fellers - South Carolina
- Shannon Dewitt - Tennessee
- Janet Laminack -Texas
- Adam Downing- Virginia

WESTERN REGION
Zheng Wang, Vice Chair
California

State Chairs:

- Darren Snyder - Alaska
- Ashley Wright- Arizona
- Robin Young - Colorado
- Sharon Motomura-Wages - Hawaii
- Brad Stokes - Idaho
- Adreiane Good - Montana
- Lindsay Chichester- Nevada
- Patrick Kircher - New Mexico
- Brooke Edmunds- Oregon
- Matt Palmer- Utah
- Dale Whaley - Washington
- Donna Hoffman - Wyoming

NORTH CENTRAL REGION
Edwin Lentz, Vice Chair
Ohio

State Chairs:

- Bruce Black - Illinois
- Kelly Heckaman - Indiana
- Ron Lenth - Iowa
- Brian Rees- Kansas
- James DeDecker- Michigan
- Nathan Winter - Minnesota
- Patrick Davis - Missouri
- Ronald Seymour- Nebraska
- Gregory Endres - North Dakota
- Chris Bruynis - Ohio
- Adele Harty - South Dakota
- Katie Wantoch - Wisconsin

ANNUAL DSA BANQUET MENU

Braised Short Ribs

Green & Red Oak Lettuce with Mandarin Oranges,
Goat Cheese, Dried Cranberries & Watermelon Radish

Vegetables

Key Lime Pie

Wednesday, July 20, 2022

NACAA DSA BANQUET PROGRAM

Presiding Bill Burdine, President

Invocation..... Brian Beer, Incoming Southern Region Director

Introductions:

NACAA Board and Special Guests Bill Burdine, President
Past Officers and Life Members Mike Hogan, Chair,
Policy Committee

Dinner

Recognition Program:

Distinguished Services &
Hall of Fame Awards Joni Ross Harper, Chair,
Recognition & Awards Committee

Special Recognition..... Mike Hogan Chair,
Policy Committee

Invitation to Des Moines, IA..... Kapil Arora, 2023
AM/PIC Chair

Happy Faces Video

Installation of President and Past President J. Craig Willilams,
Past President

Passing of the Gavel Bill Burdine, President

Adjourn Phil Durst, President-Elect

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. Tonight, an additional sixty-one distinguished colleagues are being recognized, joining a very distinguished group of 7,586 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. This Annual Banquet is prepared in their honor.

The honorees who will be recognized tonight 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
2022

Winners are listed below by regions and states.

SOUTHERN REGION - ALABAMA

Joshua Elmore – 22 Years

As a Regional Extension Agent in Animal Science and Forages, Josh facilitates programs on a state, regional, multi-county, and county level relating to forages and livestock. Programs include promoting and assisting producers with the use of performance records utilizing the Alabama Beef Cattle Improvement Association, reproductive management tools and heifer development, estrus synchronization techniques, feeder calf sales, variety trials for cool-season annuals and warm-season perennials, grazing schools, soil testing, and herbicide demonstrations.



SOUTHERN REGION - ALABAMA

Cynthia Knowlton – 24 Years



In 1997, Cynthia Knowlton's career began in 4-H. Achievements include her region being awarded the first 4-H Centennial Youth Initiative Designation in Alabama in 2014. She also assisted female Extension Engineers develop an educational plan-of-work tailored to address the emerging needs of rural women and youth in Tunisia. She became a County Extension Coordinator in 2016 and is based in Mobile where her role entails serving in an administrative and programmatic capacity.

SOUTHERN REGION - ALABAMA

Bethany O'Rear – 10 Years

Serving as a Regional Agent since 2011, she coordinates Home Grounds activities, including Master Gardeners in Blount, Jefferson, and St. Clair counties. Bethany leads education and outreach programs for schools, civic groups, and community gardens. Recent initiatives include the Grow More Give More project which combines education for home gardeners and service to those facing food insecurity. Her integral role in the creation and expansion of this effort is a career highlight.



SOUTHERN REGION - ARKANSAS

Shawn Payne – 29 Years



Shawn started his Extension Career in 1993 as an Extension Agent in Nevada County. In June of 1993, he was relocated to Phillips County where he currently serves as the Staff Chair and Agricultural Agent in Phillips County. He works in the areas of row crops, natural resources, horticulture, and 4-H.

SOUTHERN REGION - ARKANSAS

Brad Runsick – 13 Years

Brad serves as the county extension agent for Baxter County, in Mountain Home, Arkansas, where his work focuses on consumer horticulture, beef cattle, forages, and 4-H youth agriculture education. He is a 2007 graduate of Arkansas Tech University with a bachelor's in agriculture business and a 2012 graduate of the University of Arkansas with a master's degree with a focus in plant science and plant pathology.



SOUTHERN REGION - ARKANSAS

Sherrie Smith – 16 Years



Sherrie Smith is the Director of the Arkansas Plant Health Clinic. Plant samples are examined, diagnosed and recommendations made. Under her role as instructor, she provides trainings to County Extension Agents, Extension personnel, and the public. Sherrie takes her portable diagnostic lab to flower/garden shows, field days, and other special events. A weekly newsletter detailing current disease problems is offered to county agents, Master Gardeners, and other interested parties during the growing season.

SOUTHERN REGION - FLORIDA

Norma Samuel – 19 Years

Dr. Samuel has over 19 years of Extension experience with expertise in pest management, vegetable gardening, volunteer development, and international extension. She has delivered 57 presentations and the recipient of 24 professional awards at district, state, national, and international levels. She has served FACAA in multiple capacities including preparation for Florida's 2nd hosting of the NACAA AM/PIC during her career. Dr. Samuel is President of the Board of the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services.



SOUTHERN REGION - FLORIDA

Karen Stauderman – 14 Years



Karen Stauderman is the UF/IFAS commercial horticulture agent in Volusia County and is a true pioneer and leader in her field by offering unique programming and resources to producers. She has also spearheaded field days and resources for olives, macadamia, cut foliage, citrus under protective structures (CUPS), pesticide safety, and foot health. As evidence of her contributions to Extension, Karen has been presented with several local, state, regional, and national awards.

SOUTHERN REGION - FLORIDA

Keith Wynn – 11 Years

Keith Wynn is the UF/IFAS Extension Agriculture Agent in Hamilton County, FL. He specializes in agronomic crop production, forage production, and pesticide safety. His programming efforts utilizing production meetings to distribute research data generated from on-farm and small plot research trials have led to FACAA and NACAA abstracts, presentations, and award recognitions. Keith has been an active member of the FACAA serving on committees, as a District II Director, and a NACAA AM/PIC voting delegate.



SOUTHERN REGION - GEORGIA

Lucy Ray – 14 Years



Lucy Ray serves as the Morgan County Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent and County Extension Coordinator. Lucy co-authored the UGA GrassMasters curriculum and is recognized statewide and nationally in equine forages. In 2021, she presented forages and horse pastures for the American Youth Horse Council was an invited speaker at the Georgia Horse Fair and assisted in developing a horse pasture management video series sponsored by Georgia's

Agricultural Commodity Commission for Equine.

SOUTHERN REGION - GEORGIA

Andrew Sawyer – 10 Years

Andrew Sawyer is the Southeast District Area Pecan Agent. He is recognized for his outstanding leadership and professional accomplishments in Pecan and Forestry programming and research. Key efforts included landowner meetings for those affected by Hurricane Michael, Longleaf Production & Management Field Day, and Low-Input Pecan Variety Trials at the Vidalia Onion Research Farm.



SOUTHERN REGION - GEORGIA

Justin Shealey – 14 Years



Justin Shealey is the County Extension Coordinator and Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent for Echols County. His outstanding leadership and professional accomplishments in Vegetables, Food Safety, Tobacco, Row Crops, and Small Fruits reach beyond Georgia. Key projects include his work on the Perishable Agriculture Commodities Act Growers Update, Multi-State Vegetable Production Meetings, Food Safety Trainings, Brussel Sprout Production Research, Fumigant

Meters in Vegetable Production, New Herbicide Labeling on Carrots, and Tobacco Variety Evaluation.

SOUTHERN REGION - KENTUCKY

Courtney Jenkins – 12 Years

Courtney Jenkins has served as a County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources for nearly 13 years. She works with local leaders and advisory councils to develop valuable agricultural programs in Magoffin County. Courtney is well-known for all aspects of her programming, but most recently for facilitating the establishment of Magoffin County's first Farmers' Market and procuring nearly \$300,000 in grant funds to build a permanent market facility in downtown Salyersville.



SOUTHERN REGION - KENTUCKY

Amanda Sears – 16 Years



Amanda serves as the horticulture agent in Madison County, Kentucky. While she covers topics ranging from sick trees to identifying insects to lawn care, her passion is fruit and vegetable production and helping her clients live happier, healthier lives. The project that has meant the most to her is her work with Liberty Place, a women's addiction rehabilitation center, where she taught hands-on gardening classes.

SOUTHERN REGION - LOUISIANA

Tara Smith – 16 Years

Tara Smith is the 2022 recipient of the Louisiana County Agricultural Agents Association Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Smith began her career in extension when she was hired as the State Sweet Potato Specialist in 2006. Presently, she serves as the Regional Director of the LSU AgCenter Central Region and continues to serve as a primary contact for the sweet potato industry and as research coordinator of the Sweet Potato Research Station.



SOUTHERN REGION - MISSISSIPPI

Melissa Morgan – 11 Years



Melissa Morgan has enjoyed working in Copiah County for the past 11 years as a Mississippi State University Extension Agent. Prior to her service with Extension, she directed the CFP program and instructed courses in the Department of Finance and Economics. She is currently in the process of completing her Doctoral degree in Agricultural Sciences. She loves working with her clientele and helping with whatever needs they may have.

SOUTHERN REGION - MISSISSIPPI

Eddie Smith – 13 Years

Eddie Smith's career with Extension started out in Hancock County, MS where he served as County Director of the Extension Service office in 2008. He currently serves as County Coordinator and Extension Agent in Pearl River County, MS. In 2011, he received the Mississippi Association of County Agriculture Agents Outstanding County Director Award. Since then, he has won numerous awards for his individual newsletters, group newsletters, newspaper column, and weekly radio program.



SOUTHERN REGION - NORTH CAROLINA

Allison J Brown – 21 Years



Allison Brown has been the Agriculture Extension Agent in Alexander County for 21 years. Major programs include livestock management, forage production, row crop production, and youth programming in livestock and shooting sports. Allison works closely with her producers and clientele, ensuring her programs are timely and relevant to the needs of Alexander County citizens. She strives to help producers increase their profits through the adaption of new technologies and research based information.

SOUTHERN REGION - NORTH CAROLINA

Colby Lambert – 19 Years

Colby Lambert serves as an area specialized agent for North Carolina Cooperative Extension. His primary responsibility is working with forestry in eastern North Carolina. Colby works with county agents to provide training in forestry programming and technical assistance for landowners on forest management issues. Over the past five years, 19 training events have been conducted with 237 agents participating and has led to over 150 educational programs offered throughout North Carolina impacting thousands of landowners.



SOUTHERN REGION - NORTH CAROLINA

Mark Seitz – 18 Years



Mark Seitz has been with North Carolina Cooperative Extension for eighteen years. He began as an Area Commercial Horticulture Agent focusing on on-farm research and demonstration projects and food safety programs. In 2010 he became the County Extension Director and Field Crops and Commercial Horticulture Agent where he continues his on-farm research, food safety work, and pesticide applicator training. He conducts economic impact research focused on county pull factors and how they affect rural communities.

SOUTHERN REGION - NORTH CAROLINA

Paul Smith – 23 Years

Paul Smith is the Agriculture Agent for Gates County, NC. He began his career with NC Cooperative Extension in May of 1999. In addition to his traditional Ag Agent responsibilities of pesticide certifications, crop production meetings, on-farm test plots, and variety trials, Paul Smith is a passionate advocate for agriculture. He looks for nontraditional avenues of youth programming and community outreach.



SOUTHERN REGION - OKLAHOMA

James Lee – 32 Years



Wes Lee is currently the Ag Coordinator with the Oklahoma Mesonet where he provides weather information and products to Oklahoma farmers and ranchers. His 32 years of extension work also included being an Area Specialist in the fields of entomology and water quality as well as a County Educator and Director in Murray and McClain counties. He has previously served in the role of president and secretary of the state association.

SOUTHERN REGION - SOUTH CAROLINA

Millie Davenport – 16 Years

Millie is the Director of the Home and Garden Information Center. Her responsibilities include managing the HGIC website, which received 7.5 million page views last year, and the call center that answered over 18,000 calls and emails in 2021. In addition, she co-coordinates the Clemson building for the Southeastern Sunbelt Ag Expo, the largest agricultural expo in the Southeastern region. Before becoming the director of the HGIC, Millie served as a consumer horticulture agent.



SOUTHERN REGION - SOUTH CAROLINA

Terasa Lott – 11 Years



Currently serving as State Coordinator of the SC Master Gardener Program, Terasa has been with Clemson Extension since 2010. She is most recognized for her work with SC ETV's Making It Grow, which provides horticulture information and highlights South Carolina places and products. Terasa also oversees Carolina Yards, an environmentally friendly landscaping program that guides residents in making positive changes in the environmental quality of their yards, neighborhoods, and surrounding waterways.

SOUTHERN REGION - TENNESSEE

Christopher Cooper – 14 Years

Chris serves as the ANR Agent for Shelby County. His primary focus is Residential/Consumer Horticulture. Chris coordinates the Memphis Area Master Gardener Program. In 2021, the Memphis Area Master Gardener Program had a financial impact of \$562,671. Chris currently serves on the TAAA&S state board as Past-President.



SOUTHERN REGION - TENNESSEE

Chris Hicks – 15 Years



Chris focuses on Livestock & Forage programming, as well as Row Crop Production in Smith County, TN. Over the past four years, he has taught classes on forage production, livestock marketing, and weed control in 12 Middle Tennessee counties to over 1,000 producers. Chris has also worked with co-workers to develop a television show called Cultivating Communities featuring local farmers as well as their Extension Agents and is aired by multiple television cooperatives.

SOUTHERN REGION - TENNESSEE

Anthony Shelton – 15 Years

Anthony Shelton has been in Washington County, Tennessee serving as the Livestock Agent for over 15 years. For the past 6 years, he has also served as the County Director overseeing 11 other employees in the office while performing ANR programs. In 2014, he served as the TAAA&S State President. Anthony has developed numerous Beef, Forage, and Small Ruminant programs. He also assisted with the establishment of the East TN Cattle Alliance precondition program.



SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Joshua Blanek – 19 Years



Josh Blanek has worked for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension for 20 years in agriculture, natural resources and youth development serving citizens in Williamson, Somervell, Andrews and Tom Green counties. His programming efforts have focused on sheep & goats, row crops, beef cattle, wildlife, and 4-H livestock projects. Josh maintains a yearly camp for lamb exhibitors in collaboration with San Angelo Stock Show. Josh has also served as TCAA Animal Industries president and secretary.

SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Frank Escobedo – 25 Years

Frank Escobedo, County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources serving Kleberg and Kenedy Counties has been employed with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service for 25 years. Escobedo plays a pivotal role in addressing the needs of the community in the areas of row crop profitability, beef cattle production, horticulture, and youth development. Through educational programming and a hands-on approach, Escobedo is committed to improving the lives of the citizens.



SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Justin Hansard – 26 Years



Justin Hansard, County Extension Agent with Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service based in Montague County. His focus has been on forage management in line with diverse livestock production. This includes native forages to include a more dynamic result in how to manage more holistic. Programs have focused on a more regenerative way to manage pastures in a way to produce pounds per acre in forage and how to relate to pounds per acre of livestock produced.

Landowners understand the relation of harvesting via grazing cells and rotation of livestock.

SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Phoenix Rogers – 14 Years

Phoenix Rogers is the Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent for Galveston County, working for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in this role since 2009. She is responsible for education in livestock, horses, forages, and pesticides among other things. She is also responsible for the county 4-H horse and livestock projects. Phoenix serves as co-chair of the District and State quiz bowl contests, but her true passion lies in coaching her local livestock quiz bowl teams.



SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Pasquale Steve Swaner – 22 Years



Pasquale Swaner, Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent- Falls County, has been employed by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension for 22 years. Swaner has provided contributions to the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Program as well as impacted people's lives and communities. Swaner began his career in San Patricio County. Swaner continues to play a vital role in educating the clientele about production agriculture and helping cultivate the youth into beneficial leaders of society.

SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Sam Womble – 25 Years

Sam Womble has worked for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service for 25 years serving clientele in Erath, Victoria, Bandera, and Bexar counties. His commitment and dedication to agriculture is evident through his result demonstration work and educational programs in beef and forage production, rangeland ecology, and wildlife management. Sam is a strong advocate of the 4-H program and has witnessed firsthand the positive influence it can have on young people and their families.



SOUTHERN REGION - VIRGINIA

Brad Mullins – 21 Years



Serving Dickenson County as the Agriculture and Natural Resource Extension Agent for over twenty years, Brad has developed a variety of programs, including the Coalfield Sheep Association and Lonesome Pine Beekeepers Association. He spearheaded the development of the Coalfield Agricultural Education and Marketing Center as project chair and serves as manager. He is the Educational Advisor to the Coalfield Beef Cattle and Land Use Association. Programming focus includes forage production, livestock production, and value-added marketing.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - INDIANA

Amy Thompson – 24 Years

Amy Thompson is County Director and Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Educator in Monroe County for Purdue Extension. Her career began with University of Kentucky Extension focusing on water quality education, she joined Purdue in 2002 with a 4-H/ANR appointment, changing to full time ANR in 2006. Amy's programming focuses on consumer horticulture, including supporting an active Master Gardener group. Additionally, she devotes much of her time to supporting beginning farmers and small diversified producers.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - IOWA

Fred M. Hall – 19 Years



Fred Hall has excelled in developing programs that met the needs of underserved audiences. To help service the needs of Hispanic employees beyond teaching dairy management protocols, Hall developed a Spanish newsletter available on break-room tables that addressed “life-skill” topics. The newsletter is focused on employees in Iowa’s food producing industries, from dairy farms and egg handlers to harvest centers and food distribution centers. The Siouxland Latino Work/Life Celebration is sent to 100 regional businesses.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - KANSAS

Carla Nemecek – 25 Years

Carla Nemecek began her career as the Haskell County Extension agent working with agriculture, natural resources and 4-H. From 2005-2021 she enjoyed serving as the County Ag Agent and then District Extension Director in the Southwind Extension District that includes Allen, Bourbon, Neosho and Woodson Counties. Currently, Carla is the Eastern Region Director for K-State Research & Extension and takes pride in providing administrative leadership for the 34 counties in the eastern third of Kansas.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - MICHIGAN

Christina Curell – 25 Years



Christina Curell has served over 25 years as a Michigan State University Extension Educator in many different roles but all focus around the environment and water quality. Currently she is a statewide cover crops and soil health educator serving all agricultural commodities. Michigan farmers and MSU Extension colleagues benefit from her efforts.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - MINNESOTA

Julie Weisenhorn – 15 Years

Julie Weisenhorn delivers horticulture education to consumers, professionals, and volunteers statewide by utilizing in-person and virtual learning, media, and web resources. Key areas include sustainable landscape design, plant selection, and management practices. Julie coordinates and appears on the weekly radio show Smart Gardens. She is a content expert for Master Gardeners and former state program director. Julie chairs the state’s Noxious Weed Advisory Committee and serves on the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association Education Committee.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - MISSOURI

Amie Schleicher – 21 Years



Amie Schleicher has served as a field specialist in livestock with University of Missouri Extension for 21 years, headquartered in Atchison County and covering five counties in northwest and west central Missouri. She serves as committee chair for the Three-State Beef Conference and is a founding member of the Pearls of Production: Women in Agriculture conference, and was secretary, vice president, and president of the Missouri Agricultural Extension Professionals.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - NEBRASKA

Brent Plugge – 27 Years

My educational focus has been in beef production systems. My most significant accomplishments have been establishing the Nebraska Ranch Practicum, a comprehensive ranch management program graduating over 700 participants and teaching science focusing on ruminant nutrition, through the Husker Beef Lab, established in 2011, reaching over 20,000 students. I have also served on several state and regional committees and have mentored many new educators. I am currently a faculty advisory for the NIBS Hub.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - NORTH DAKOTA

Penny Nester – 14 Years



Penny Nester is the ANR agent in Kidder County in central North Dakota. She does a variety of programming ranging from livestock management, agronomy, horticulture and farm business management. She also is a co-chair of the state's natural resource management program team and coordinates her counties 4-H program. Nester started her Extension career in 2008 as a Livestock Educator in Sturgis, SD. She has been in her current position at NDSU the past 10 years.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - OHIO

Pam Bennett – 29 Years

Pam joined OSU Extension as Clark County ANR Educator 1992. Today her roles include Associate Professor, County ANR Educator, State Master Gardener Volunteer Program Director, and Interim Program Director of Chadwick Arboretum. Her areas of specialization include landscape horticulture, volunteer management and development. She coordinates the MGV program in Clark County and works with 64 County Coordinators. She has served nationally on the Extension Master Gardener National Committee and the National Initiative for Consumer Horticulture.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - OHIO

James Jasinski – 28 Years



Mr. James Jasinski has worked for Ohio State University Extension since 1993 in southwest Ohio. Most of his career was spent working in specialty crop IPM focused on pumpkin, squash, tomato and sweet corn. In 2013, Mr. Jasinski created the OSU IPM video library on YouTube and became the state IPM Program Coordinator overseeing projects in agronomic crops, specialty crops, bed bugs, pollinator health and the pest diagnostic clinic.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - SOUTH DAKOTA

Laura Edwards – 10 Years

Laura Edwards was SDSU Extension's first Climate Field Specialist in 2011 and was promoted to State Climatologist in 2017. She is active in many regional teams addressing climate education, planning and adaptation. In 2017, Laura co-founded the North Central Climate Collaborative (NC3), a multi-state team of extension professionals in the North Central Region. She led fundraising and finances for South Dakota at the 2015 AM/PIC and was elected as SDAAEF President in 2021.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - WISCONSIN

Aerica Bjurstrom – 15 Years



Aerica is a Professor with the University of Wisconsin – Madison Division of Extension. She has been in her role as Agriculture Educator for 15 years serving Kewaunee and Door Counties and recently transitioning to a regional dairy educator. Aerica specializes in dairy farm management focusing on herd health and wellbeing. Aerica is currently the President-Elect of the Wisconsin Association of County Agricultural Agents and will begin her term as president in 2022.

WESTERN REGION - ARIZONA

Ayman Mostafa – 11 Years

Dr. Mostafa has demonstrated skills in profession and leadership to make him deserving of the Distinguished Service Award. Ayman's programs bring science-based, information with a focus on decreasing footprints on the environment and health. These programs have made a significant impact on Arizona's agricultural producers. Ayman's leadership skills included being the NACAA's Administrative Skills Committee vice-Chair and Chair, Different rules with the Entomological Society of America, Arizona Agriculture Extension Association, and the University of Arizona.



WESTERN REGION - COLORADO

Robin Young – 12 Years



Robin Young was the lead for Colorado Extension on proposition 114 to reintroduce wolves in Colorado. Robin was responsible for the construction of fact sheets, information handbooks, and acted as a liaison working with other stakeholders including Parks and Wildlife, the Conservation Collaboration Center, as well as others. She was also instrumental in keeping producers updated and informed on the reintroduction.

WESTERN REGION - IDAHO

Mario E. de Haro Martí – 14 Years

Mario E. de Haro-Martí has worked as a Dairy/Livestock Environmental Education Extension Educator in Gooding County, Idaho, for 14 years. Dr. de Haro-Martí serves a six counties area in topics related to livestock environmental management and bilingual training of the dairy workforce. He has achieved impressive external funding success to support his research and extension activities, contributing to increasing the livestock industry sustainability, educating citizens on environmental-related topics, and training traditionally underserved workers' populations.



WESTERN REGION - MONTANA

Sharla Sackman – 23 Years

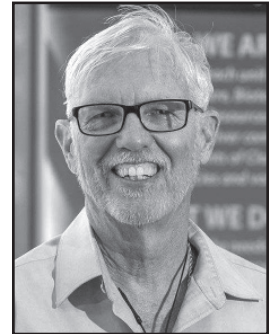


Sharla Sackman has served as the Montana State University Extension Agent for Prairie County since 1999. Programming areas include range livestock production, crop production, invasive plant management, 4-H youth development, and rural community development. Sackman engages clientele through classroom teaching, field tours, one-on-one teaching, and cooperative projects.

WESTERN REGION - NEVADA

M Robinson – 30 Years

Professional Horticultural Management Program targets adult learners in the green industry of southern Nevada. The ultimate goal of these programs is to provide research-based information, focusing on improving the knowledge and skills of those already in the Green industry as well as to provide a foundation for those looking to enter the industry. Participants are provided the opportunity to earn certificates, professional development units and certified educational units upon completion of applicable programs.



WESTERN REGION - NEW MEXICO

Chase Elkins – 11 Years



Chase Elkins is a Cibola County, NM native that works every day to give back to the community who has given him so much. Chase has been employed with New Mexico State University's Cooperative Extension Service for the past 11 years, and serves as the NMSU Cibola County CES Program Director, Agriculture, and 4-H Agent. Core programming has focused on 4-H, rangeland management, beef production, and urban agriculture for both adults and youth.

WESTERN REGION - OREGON

Jay Pscheidt – 34 Years

Jay W. Pscheidt has been an Extension Plant Pathology Specialist and professor of Botany and Plant Pathology at Oregon State University since 1988. His principal duties are to lead a statewide extension program related to the diagnosis and management of diseases of all fruit, nut, and ornamental/nursery crops. He has authored or co-authored numerous Extension publications and is co-editor of the regional publication The Pacific Northwest Plant Disease Management Handbook.



WESTERN REGION - UTAH

Taun Beddes – 15 Years



Taun Beddes has worked for USU Extension for 15 years. His focus has included horticulture journalism, where he hosts a weekly radio gardening radio show with a listenership of at least 50,000 people. He also regularly contributes educational columns to local newspapers. His other work include fruit and vegetable field trials, and public education.

WESTERN REGION - WASHINGTON

Don McMoran – 15 Years

Don McMoran is the Director of WSU Skagit County Extension and the President the Washington State Extension Agents and Specialist Association (WEASA). Early in Don's career he focused his program areas on Leadership, Outreach to Underserved Audiences and Irrigation Outreach. Since 2019 Don has increased his focus in Total Farmer health including AgrAbility, Farm Stress and Suicide Prevention.



WESTERN REGION - WYOMING

Brian Sebade – 10 Years



Brian Sebade is a University of Wyoming Extension Educator located in southeast Wyoming. Brian's focus for Extension is related to agriculture and horticulture education with a smaller focus on 4-H and youth development. A few of the major programs and subjects Brian has taught and facilitated include native plant identification and awareness, range monitoring, poisonous plants, edible plants, weed management and identification, Master Gardeners, wildflowers for reclamation and pollination, and pesticide certification.

NORTHEAST REGION - MAINE

Ellen Mallory – 12 Years

Ellen Mallory, Extension Specialist and Professor of Sustainable Agriculture at the University of Maine, conducts research and outreach on grain production, soil health, soil fertility, and climate adaptation. She also offers professional development programs for agricultural service providers as the Maine State SARE Coordinator. She serves on the board of directors of the Maine Sustainable Agriculture Society and the Maine Grain Alliance, and is a founding member of the Maine Climate and Agriculture Network.



NORTHEAST REGION - MARYLAND

William Lantz – 15 Years



Willie serves Garrett County in agronomy, pesticide, livestock and farm management education. Willie also has non-traditional programs including fruit and vegetable production and marketing, working with food councils and youth. Willie helps farmers establish high tunnel production to expand vegetable production in a county with short growing seasons, helped establish a farmer cooperative for marketing local produce, founded and chairing the Western Maryland Food Council and has led youth programming in the area of robotics.

NORTHEAST REGION - NEW HAMPSHIRE

Jeremy DeLisle – 17 Years

Jeremy DeLisle has served the Cooperative Extension Service for a total of seventeen years. Beginning his career in North Carolina as a County Agricultural Agent in 2004, Jeremy served agricultural clientele through his sustainable agriculture-focused programming until 2014. At this time, he returned to his home state of New Hampshire, joining UNH Extension, serving in the Home Horticulture Education Center, before moving into his current role of County Field Specialist in 2017.



NORTHEAST REGION - PENNSYLVANIA

Stacie Hritz – 14 Years



Stacie Hritz started her Penn State Extension career in 2007, serving in various roles of agriculture program assistant to 4-H educator and currently the Pennsylvania 4-H Enrollment Specialist CRM. Stacie has a great passion for helping youth to make the best better by developing a greater understanding of agriculture and the STEM fields. It is her career goal to focus on raising blue-ribbon kids instead of blue-ribbon animals.

NORTHEAST REGION - WEST VIRGINIA

Brandy Brabham – 14 Years

Brandy Brabham serves as Extension Agent, Associate Professor and County Program Coordinator for Roane County. Over 14 years, Brandy has provided leadership in agricultural programming. Active in the WV County Agents Association, Brandy served as secretary/treasurer and currently as vice president. With programming efforts focused on diversified production, marketing, and risk management and a passion shared through agriculture literacy for 4-H, schools, and beginning farmers, increased small farm sustainability and profitability result from her work.



NACAA Hall of Fame Award

The NACAA Recognition and Awards Committee is proud to present these four 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



2022

Southern Region Hall of Fame Award Eugene McAvoy Florida 25 Years



Eugene (Gene) McAvoy has provided an exemplary role model during his 25-year career with the UF IFAS Extension service beginning in 1997 when he joined the Hendry County Extension Office as the Vegetable/Horticulture Agent providing direction and leadership to the Vegetable Horticulture Program.

In 2004, Gene became one of University of Florida IFAS' first Regional Specialized Extension Agents (one of 2) in which role he continued to provide direction and leadership for the development, implementation, and evaluation of Extension educational programs for vegetable producers in the five-county area of Southwest Florida in the following areas: crop production efficiency and sustainability, farm safety and regulatory compliance, integrated pest management, post-harvest quality, and food safety, and vegetable nutrition and irrigation management as well as planning and implementing the Environmental Horticulture program in Hendry County where he delivered Extension programming to area homeowners, civic groups, and 4-H youth.

McAvoy became the County Extension Director for Hendry County in 2005 and continued to serve in that role as well as Regional Specialized Vegetable/Horticulture Extension Agent IV until he retired in 2019.

Gene did not stay retired long and after 19 days he was invited back to join UF IFAS as the Associate Director for Stakeholder Relations at the UF IFAS Southwest Florida Research and Education Center a position in which he continues to serve the agricultural community of Southwest Florida and beyond.

During his Extension career, McAvoy served as President of the Florida Association of County Agricultural Agents and was President when Florida hosted the NACAA annual meeting in 2004. His dedication to agriculture and penchant for professionalism and service did not stop there, Gene went on to become President of NACAA in 2019 and was influential in helping steer the association through the Covid 19 pandemic helping transition the 2020 Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference to the first-ever virtual AMPIC attended by nearly 1500 county agents from across the Country. As NACAA President, McAvoy welcomed Guam into the association.

He currently serves as the President of the Joint Council of Extension Professionals.

McAvoy was a late comer to Extension and in some ways an unlikely candidate to achieve all that he has during his career. Born in Orange, New Jersey, McAvoy spent his formative years in East Orange, New Jersey, just a few blocks from Newark, NJ. From his first part-time summer high school job on a farm, where he picked strawberries, peppers, and tomatoes, McAvoy developed a love for his lifelong passion - agriculture.

Gene received his BS (Plant Science) and MS (Horticulture) from Rutgers University.

After graduating from Rutgers, McAvoy joined the Peace Corps, serving in Niger. This led to 12 years with the US Agency for International Development, working with vegetable growers in Niger, South Africa, and Jamaica before moving his family north to Florida to join UF.

Gene has received multiple awards during his years of service and has spent over 50 years supporting and advocating for the agriculture industry in Florida and beyond.

DSA awarded in 2008.

**2022
North Central Region
Hall of Fame Award
Karl Hoppe
North Dakota
32 Years**



Karl began working with North Dakota State University Extension in 1990 as Extension Associate at the Carrington Research Extension Center. His efforts were to increase sheep and goat production in North Dakota through collaborative programming with county extension agents and direct producer education. Sheep and

goat numbers increased by 11% during this grant funded effort. In 1992, Karl's position transitioned to an Area Livestock Extension Specialist focusing on beef cattle nutrition and management for cow calf and feedlot.

With experiences in both livestock development and cattle feeding, cattle feeding education was delivered with several cattle feeding producer participation projects like the 'Dakota Finishers Project' which was a 1996 NACAA Search for Excellence National Finalist. The North Dakota Cattle Feedlot School was started in 1996 and has continued yearly for over 26 years showing the commitment to growing the cattle feeding industry in North Dakota. In 1997, Karl was recipient of the NACAA CME Chicago Mercantile Exchange Livestock and Dairy Hedging Seminar Award and in 2000 received the NACAA Achievement Award. He developed a deep appreciation for the nationwide efforts that extension professionals deliver as the 2001-2002 NACAA North Central Vice-Chair for the Search for Excellence Committee. His leadership experiences grew as a NC-NELD - North Central Extension Leadership Development recipient and as acting Extension District Director. Karl held various other leadership positions including election to the Midkota School Board and Grace City Park Board, and appointed as City Auditor-Grace City and Foster County Soil Conservation District Supervisor (16 years).

His involvement in farming, conservation and sustainability led to an additional appointment as SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education) State Coordinator for North Dakota. Education in sustainability led to outreach with 1994 land grant colleges and development of the North Dakota SARE Discovery program. Livestock production is a major emphasis in Karl's life with sole ownership of a cattle and sheep ranch. Ranching led to a 31-year member of the North Dakota Stockmen Association where he was a director on the NDSA Feeder Council and as Director for the ND Lamb and Wool Growers Association. Karl attended his first NACAA AMPIC at Little Rock, AR in 1992 and 24 years later received the NACAA Distinguished Service Award in Little Rock, AR. Karl participated or coordinated in seven NACAA AMPIC Animal Science Preconference Tours and was NACAA North Central Vice-Chair for the Animal Science Committee 2019-2021.

Karl continues to provide nutritional and management education for beef cow calf and feedlot as Extension Livestock Systems Specialist. For 28+ years, he has conducted cattle feedout projects where cow calf producers experience custom feeding, carcass data, and profitability of feeding cattle. He has worked with producers to develop a cattle finance cooperative, cattle feeding partnerships, and cattle slaughter and processing businesses. Working with agents, producers or youth, Dr. Hoppe provides a well-balanced extension program in livestock production. Karl serves in his state Association (NDAAEA) as chair and past-chair for the Search for Excellence, Professional Excellence and Animal Science committees.

DSA awarded in 2016.

**2022
Western Region
Hall of Fame Award
Woods Houghton
New Mexico
44 Years**



JWoods Houghton served New Mexico State University and the Cooperative Extension Service for 43 years as an employee and agent. Woods spent his career helping all citizens no matter their background, occupation, or creed and was often the key antagonist putting together coalitions to solve problems. He worked tirelessly on a wide variety of programming efforts which included natural resources, agronomic production issues, along with animal and human health.

New Mexico is an arid state and water is the lifeblood of the people. Woods helped establish the Lower Pecos River Water Users' Organization, which developed the Regional Water Plan for the southeastern portion of the state. He also facilitated the formation of the Lower Pecos River Watershed Alliance, a group dedicated to watershed health for the Pecos River. Additionally, he was nominated by the governor to serve on the Agriculture Water Conservation Task Force.

Woods worked to positively impact cotton and was instrumental in the Boll Weevil Monitoring and Eradication Program, Pink Boll Worm Monitoring Program, and facilitated the formation of the Boll Worm Eradication Committee. Woods promoted the permanent date for cotton plow-down completion for the Pink Boll Worm program and worked with the New Mexico congressional delegation seeking restitution for the farmers after catastrophic pesticide damage in the county.

Woods is steeped in tradition and firmly believed that an extension agent is an educator. Woods wrote over 650 articles since 1999 and did a weekly radio program and has delivered educational information through local television programming, newsletters, and email. He delivered the Worker Protection Standard trainings in Spanish as well as English to accommodate his diverse audiences. Woods headed a coalition of agencies to address the treatment and removal of over 300,000 acres of brush and weeds in the county. He also helped develop a coalition of agencies to establish noxious weed management activities throughout the county. Woods headed up community action groups to educate local producers and communities on Trichomoniasis and rabies education and prevention programs in the county.

Woods was a career member of the NACAA and NMACAA and has held all offices within the organization and served as president when New Mexico hosted the AM/PIC in 2001. Woods received the DSA in 2004, served as the state association Awards Committee chair for 15 years, and attended multiple AM/PIC conferences through the years.

Outside of his Extension role, he made an impact on the community. Woods played a key role in organizing three anti-drug coalitions in and around Eddy County since 2004. The purpose was to bring together stake holder groups and focus efforts to identify and solve

drug-related problems. Woods used his experience as an Extension educator to provide classes on health, finances, and youth leadership. These coalitions are self-sustaining and have contributed to a decrease in drug and alcohol use in the county. Due to his anti-drug and anti-gang work in Eddy County, Woods was appointed by two separate governors to the New Mexico Behavioral Health Council.

DSA awarded in 2004.

**2022
Northeast Region
Hall of Fame Award
Eugene Schurman
Pennsylvania
34 Years - Retired**



Eugene Schurman's Extension career began in 1974 in a new Dairy Educator position in Franklin County, Pennsylvania. Gene quickly started educational programs for dairy producers and 4-H dairy youth. One program was the creation of a 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl Contest, which was the first in the state. In Virginia's 1977 Eastern Dairy Bowl Contest, the team represented Pennsylvania, placing fourth.

Gene left Franklin County to pursue her career as a 4-H Educator in Indiana County. Before rejoining Extension in 1982, Gene taught Vocational Agriculture and conducted the Young Farmer Program at Purchase Line High School.

Gene partnered with a fellow educator to conduct an intensive dairy calf and heifer growth study after returning to Extension in Indiana County. The study concluded that dairy calves and heifers in Southwest (SW) Pennsylvania were well below the standard growth charts, with delayed age at first calving well above the 24-month standard. This discovery led to creating programs to improve dairy calf and heifer nutrition, housing, and health care. As a result, the Regional SW Dairy Day Program was designed (continues today) to help educate area dairy producers. The study led to a new Extension and Research Position in the Dairy/Animal Science Department focusing on Dairy Calf and Heifer Management and developed national growth standards for dairy calves and heifers from the findings. Gene and his collaborator were award winners in the NACAA Search for Excellence in Livestock Production. The results of their study were published in "Successful Farming" magazine and "Hoard's Dairyman."

Gene's work with dairy producers was aimed at helping them remain profitable, improve efficiency, and adopt innovative technologies. He did this by developing dairy nutrition, calf and heifer, dairy cattle breeding/reproductive management, labor management, milk pricing/risk management, milk quality/milking management, and dairy herd management workshops. He organized and moderated three SW Pennsylvania dairy discussion groups and six dairy profit teams. Gene coordinated the formation of county animal response teams in two counties.

He successfully obtained grant funding (NESARE) for two on-farm demonstrations and research projects to reduce excessive phosphorus and protein in lactating cow diets. He received funding from the Northeast Extension Risk Management Education Center to conduct programming to transition from conventional dairy production to organic and monitor income over feed cost to improve dairy farm profitability.

Gene developed extensive educational programs for southwest Pennsylvania youth in dairy production and management and farm, tractor, and equipment safety. He served as chair of the Pennsylvania 4-H Achievement Days Safe Tractor and Skid Steer Contest Committee for 20 years. Gene coordinated the Pennsylvania state delegation to the National 4-H Engineering Event for 20 years, with Indiana County sending 21 members to the contest. Active in encouraging young people in their 4-H projects, he worked on the Pennsylvania 4-H Animal Science Program Policies and Guideline Committee and served on the Pennsylvania Junior Dairy Show Advisory Committee. Gene's career focused on helping dairy farmers be profitable was the focus and gratification.

DSA Awarded in 1995.



2022

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 2022. 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 sixty-two recipients join 2,438 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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ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS RECOGNITION BREAKFAST

Tuesday, July 19, 2022

MENU

A duet plate of eggs and waffles with powdered sugar,
mixed berries, maple syrup,
and sausage links

PROGRAM

Welcome Joni Ross Harper
Chair, NACAA Recognition & Awards Committee

Thought of the Day..... Paula Burke
Southern Region Committee Vice Chair

Introductions Joni Ross Harper

RemarksErin Bain
American Income Life Insurance Company

Presentation of AwardsJoni Ross Harper
(Assisted by Vice Chairs; President Bill Burdine)

County Agents Receiving the Achievement Award From The National Association of County Agricultural Agents 2022

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

SOUTHERN REGION - ALABAMA

Zachery Brannon - 2 Years



As Winston County Extension Coordinator, he works hard to improve the quality of life for Winston County citizens. He delivers advice tailored to the local communities and is involved in an ongoing process of getting information to farmers and helping them acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to use the information effectively to increase productivity. He develops and executes educational programs in agriculture as well as other fields in Northwest Alabama.

SOUTHERN REGION - ALABAMA

Heidi Tilenius - 8 Years

Heidi Tilenius joined the Alabama Extension System in 2013 as a Regional Agent/ Family Consumer Science. In 2015 she transitioned to the Lauderdale County Coordinator. Heidi earned a BS in Psychology from Murray State University, and an MBA from the University of North Alabama. She promotes agriculture by offering tours combining workforce development and food sources. Tours focus on 6th-grade students, teachers, and graduate teachers.



SOUTHERN REGION - ALABAMA

Alice Moore - 5 Years



A Regional Agent serving ten counties in west-central Alabama, Alice provides certification-based food safety training for the foodservice industry, home bakers through the Alabama Cottage Food Law, School Nutrition Staff through professional development training, and the seafood industry through AFDO Seafood HACCP. She also provides egg safety training for 4-Hers and backyard produces and home food preservation methods to the public. Food safety is achieved when knowledge becomes action.

SOUTHERN REGION - ARKANSAS

Rachel Bearden - 6 Years

Rachel Bearden has served Hot Spring County as the county agent since 2015. She is the Staff Chair, Agriculture Agent, and provides support for the 4-H program. Her primary focus areas are livestock, forages, home horticulture, and the 4-H Veterinary Science program. She has developed programming to serve beginning cattlemen and works closely with her producers to help them become successful. She also works closely with local leaders and elected officials on community projects.



SOUTHERN REGION - ARKANSAS

Allison Howell - 5 Years



Allison has served as a County Extension Agent for nearly 6 years in Clay County. Her agriculture responsibilities include education in livestock, pastures, and row crops with an emphasis in cotton, corn, soybeans, and peanuts. She utilizes field demonstrations and works closely with producers. Allison also works with several local commercial horticulture operations. Her 4-H efforts involve ensuring that the youth of Clay County gain life skills to become productive citizens and leaders.

SOUTHERN REGION - ARKANSAS

Adam Willis - 9 Years

Adam began his career as a County Extension Agent in Newton County Arkansas in June of 2012. In 3 years, he was able to achieve staff chair status as well as the title of Agent II. He graduated from Deer High School in 2003, received a Bachelors in Ag Business through Arkansas Tech University 2006, then furthered his education at the University of Central Arkansas obtaining a Master of Arts in Teaching in 2008.



SOUTHERN REGION - FLORIDA

Matthew VanWeelden - 6 Years



Matthew VanWeelden is the Palm Beach County agronomic crops agent. Degrees include MS-Purdue and PhD-LSU (Entomology). He develops science-based recommendations for sugarcane/rice production, varieties, pest control, and environmental BMPs. His national leadership (Rice Technical Working Group) collaborations benefit Florida rice farmers. FACAA contributions include Officer (Secretary), committees (Abstracts, Agronomy/Pest Management), and District Director. Six national awards (four with NACAA)

include NACAA Applied Research Poster (National Winner) and two ASSCT (sugarcane) Best Presentation/Posters.

SOUTHERN REGION - FLORIDA

Bonnie Wells - 7 Years

Bonnie is a Doctor of Plant Medicine (DPM) with a specialization in sustainable commercial plant production with areas of expertise in integrated management, plant health diagnostics, pesticide safety and stewardship, on-farm food safety, and tree health management. Much of Bonnie's effort focuses on delivering IPM programs to the turfgrass and landscape industries through the Space Coast Golf and Turf Association. Bonnie also delivers Extension programming focused on invasive species management, urban farming, beekeeping, and arboriculture.



SOUTHERN REGION - FLORIDA

Yvette Goodiel - 9 Years



Yvette is a dedicated Extension agent who is consistently there to help her clientele and fellow agents. She teaches Best Management Practices to protect the ecologically sensitive Indian River Lagoon and supports agriculture through food system programs. Yvette has taken on leadership roles within FACAA and the UF/IFAS Initiative teams, and she is often sought out to serve on local committees. She has garnered over \$150,000 in candidate allocated grant funds for her programs.

SOUTHERN REGION - GEORGIA

Ashley Hoppers - 4 Years

Ashley Hoppers launched innovative, virtual Extension programming during the pandemic, reaching national and international audiences, including the award-winning Backyard Fruits Webinar Series, Virtual Professional Learning Day for K-12 teachers, and the Backyard Basics Webinar Series. Hoppers has earned a national reputation for her significant contributions in fruit production and earned the Fruit & Vegetable 40 Under 40 National Award (2021), GAE4HA Educational Package-Team Award (2021), and the district and state Young Professional Awards (2020).



SOUTHERN REGION - GEORGIA

Josh Fuder - 7 Years



The Georgia Heritage Apple Orchard project preserves increasingly rare apple diversity, focusing on varieties with significance in Georgia. Education and awareness as to apple production, history, and diversity across the state was increased through this project and news of the project gained attention across statewide and national media outlets including the Georgia Farm Monitor, Georgia Grown, Vegetable and Specialty Crop News, Farmers and Consumers Market Bulletin and The Weather Channel, among others.

SOUTHERN REGION - GEORGIA

Jay Porter - 8 Years

Jay Porter serves as the Pulaski County Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent. His innovative “Keeping it R.E.A.L. (Ready to Engage in ATV Learning)” program, assessed the ATV safety knowledge of Pulaski County 4-Her’s and developed programming. On a state and national level, the project was showcased on the Georgia Farm Monitor, Georgia Public Television, RFDTV, Youtube, and Social Media reaching an estimated 2 million viewers.



SOUTHERN REGION - KENTUCKY

Jessica Bessin - 7 Years



Jessica has served Mercer County farmers and residents as the county’s first-ever Horticulture Agent since 2014. In the past seven years, Jessica has started a new beekeeping club, trained Master Gardeners, created an insect club for youth, partnered with the local Farmers Market, and works with commercial growers to improve growing practices. As for homeowners, she offers a wide range of educational horticulture programs for both adults and youth in the community.

SOUTHERN REGION - KENTUCKY

Chris Schalk - 7 Years

Chris strives daily to provide the very best customer service and timely programs to clients. Chris uses the county council structure to steer the direction of programming. The development of a small ruminant producers group, programming in the growing Amish community, and the Tri-County Hay & Straw Auction have made a long-term impact. Partnerships with the Chamber of Commerce & local school systems have brought new clients to Extension.



SOUTHERN REGION - LOUISIANA

Randall Mallette - 7 Years



Originally from Lucedale, Mississippi, Randall Mallette graduated from Mississippi State University in 2012 and began his extension career in 2015 as County Agent in Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana. In 2018, he took on additional agriculture responsibilities in Red River Parish, eventually becoming Red River Parish Chair in 2020. Randall enjoys working closely with producers, homeowners, and 4-H youth in his parishes and is thankful for the opportunities that extension has offered.

SOUTHERN REGION - MISSISSIPPI

Jessica Sibley - 2 Years

Jessica Sibley is an Extension Agent II with Mississippi State University Extension Service with responsibilities in Agriculture, Natural Resource, 4-H Youth Development and Community Resources Economic Development. Ms. Sibley has also received awards in the Southeast Region Communicator of the Year award, State Winner for the Program Promotional Package, Published Photo & Caption, and Educational Video Recording. Ms. Sibley's greatest accomplishment was being awarded the MACAA Excellence in ANR Youth Programming Award.



SOUTHERN REGION - MISSISSIPPI

Zach Yow - 6 Years



Zach Yow has been employed with Mississippi State University Extension Service for 6 years as the Agriculture/Natural Resources/4-H Extension Agent in Tishomingo County. He received a B.S. in Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture and an M.S. in Agriculture and Extension Education both from Mississippi State University. During his time as a member of the Mississippi Association of County Agricultural Agents he has served as a Membership Chairman, a Junior Director, and currently serves as Treasurer.

SOUTHERN REGION - NORTH CAROLINA

Andrew Baucom - 9 Years

Enhancing small grain production has been a focus for Andrew over his 9 years working with field crop producers. Using on-farm research conducted with NCSU Extension Specialists, NCSU Official Variety Testing, and County-led production tests, Andrew has worked on over 100 research trials, held 9 Southern Piedmont Regional Field Days, and assisted with 3 statewide extension agent trainings. Results of these efforts include increased yields and profitability and additional purchasing outlets for producers.



SOUTHERN REGION - NORTH CAROLINA

Travis Birdsell - 9 Years



Pumpkin production is relatively new to Ashe County, and has grown steadily over the past 15 years. Travis has focused his work on improving the management of pumpkins in a no-till system on sloped ground. This has included 9 years (2013-2021) of research on variety selection, spacing, nutrient, insect, and disease management. In that time, production acreage has increased from under 500 acres to now over 2,000 acres and yields have increased by 49%.

SOUTHERN REGION - NORTH CAROLINA

Karen Blaedow - 9 Years

Karen Blaedow, Commercial Vegetable and Small Fruits Agent in Henderson County, NC is being recognized for overall achievements in her program. These include her county-based research trials, technical expertise, leadership with state-wide educational conferences, and her active role with numerous grower associations. Her other accomplishments include the work with the Henderson County Farmers Market Coalition, Pesticide Safety Education classes, and Food Safety Farm assistance.



SOUTHERN REGION - NORTH CAROLINA

Colby Griffin - 8 Years



Colby joined NC Cooperative Extension as a Horticulture Agent in 2013. During Colby's tenure, he has made countless strides in networking with stakeholders and clientele. His responsibilities include providing educational programming for home and commercial horticulture and green industry professionals. Colby doesn't know a stranger, is a hard worker, a team player, and is willing to assist others when needed. Clientele count on him for the knowledge and assistance he provides on a daily basis.

SOUTHERN REGION - OKLAHOMA

Jennifer Patterson - 4 Years

Adair County Ag/4-H/CED Educator, Jennifer Patterson works closely with community/civic/youth/tribal groups within the county. She chairs programs for the Cattlemen's Association, Strawberry Growers Association, local and district 4-H events, and is an agricultural liaison and board member of Kiwanis and Chamber of Commerce. She promotes agriculture education locally and statewide through programs such as establishing an annual Pasture Tour, poultry waste management certification, herbicide applicator training, and providing hands-on field experience for local producers.



SOUTHERN REGION - SOUTH CAROLINA

Amber Starnes - 9 Years



Amber Starnes has served as area livestock and forages agent with Clemson Extension since 2013. She covers four counties in the Pee Dee Region of South Carolina. She enjoys working with producers across multiple livestock species: beef cattle, poultry, swine, small ruminants, and equine. Her work includes field demonstrations and field days, workshops, and farm site visits to assist livestock producers in improving their operations through best management practices, environmental stewardship, and increased profitability.

SOUTHERN REGION - SOUTH CAROLINA

William J. Hardee III - 8 Years

William J. Hardee III has worked with the Clemson University Extension Service since 2013. He is the area agronomy agent for Horry, Marion, and Dillon Counties, and the county coordinator in Marion County. Approximately 175,000 acres of row-crop production keeps Hardee busy in the field helping growers with pest management and many other agronomic issues. He assists his growers by providing them with quality educational programming, and research-based information as a Certified Crop Adviser (CCA).



SOUTHERN REGION - TENNESSEE

Jenni Goodrich - 6 Years



Jenni joined TN Extension in 2015. She provides traditional agricultural programming and newly developed programming for Beginning Farmers in East Tennessee. TSU's E TN New Farmer Academy began in 2018 to provide interactive, hands-on outreach to address the specific agricultural enterprises, environmental challenges and unique marketing opportunities that are found in E TN. Jenni has also worked with the Pesticide Education, Beginning Farmer, Animal Science, 4-H Horse, Veteran Outreach and TSU Backyard Poultry teams.

SOUTHERN REGION - TENNESSEE

Sarah Orr - 5 Years

Sarah Orr has served the farmers of Coker County since 2016 by providing livestock and forage programming to both adults and youth to improve operation profitability and efficiency. The most notable programs include the Freezer Beef Institute Series, Improving Profitability Through Reproduction, Northeast Tennessee Beef Expo, and the Tennessee Master Beef Program among many others. Livestock programs have resulted in a total economic impact of \$18.9 million dollars during Sarah's tenure.



SOUTHERN REGION - TENNESSEE

Rachel Painter - 4 Years



Rachel delivers agriculture programming focusing on horticulture. Over 4 years, she has innovatively increased engagement, diversity, and retention in the Master Gardener volunteer program, resulting in an economic impact of \$889,853 for the local community. Rachel co-authored a publication, 'Gardening Guide for Tennessee's Teachers: A Practical Plan for Starting a School Garden', winning a Communication Award for TAAA&S and a NACAA Southern Regional Finalist. She served as the recent past Central Region Director for TAAA&S.

SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Stephen Brueggerhoff - 5 Years

Mr. Brueggerhoff furthers public education through homeowner consultation and green industry programming. Stephen has supported the community as a collaborative and administrative partner for over 15 years, bringing a strong wealth of knowledge in service as a 5-year Extension Agent. Stephen is a member of professional development organizations such as Texas Nursery and Landscape Association, Texas County Agricultural Agents Association, International Society for Arboriculture, and Epsilon Sigma Phi - Alpha Zeta chapter (Texas).



SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Corena Fitzgerald - 3 Years



Corena "Nikki" Fitzgerald has been with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension for three years. Nikki works as a Texas Sea Grant Coastal and Marine Resources Extension Agent for Chambers and Jefferson Counties. Nikki is no stranger to education as she has been an educator at Anahuac and Winnie High Schools for 12 years prior. Nikki graduated from Texas A&M University with a bachelor's in science and holds a master's degree in education administration from Lamar University.

SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Landen Gulick - 4 Years

Working with his Program Area Committees, Landen has hosted numerous educational programs and events across Bee County, focusing on Beef Cattle Ranching, Forage Production, Wildlife Management, and Row Crop Production. He is heavily involved in his county's 4-H program; coaching livestock judging, range evaluation, and shooting sports. Landen has also collaborated with neighboring counties to host multi-county programs, such as the Tri-County Hay Show and the Tri-County Pesticide Applicator CEU Day.



SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Justin Hale - 5 Years



Beginning his career as the Johnson County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources, Justin Hale has developed quality clientele-driven extension programs. Receiving education from B.S. & M.S. degrees from The Tarleton State University his programming targets new landowner development, livestock production, small grains, and forage production also fostering ag literacy through a strong youth development 4-H program. Working with committees and colleagues to grow and manage a

thriving extension presence in Johnson County.

SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Allen Homann - 6 Years

Years of CES Service: 6

Allen Homann started his career as a County Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources in 2016. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Sam Houston State University. Allen's programs target beef and forage production and youth livestock programs. Allen enjoys working with program area committees to aid in his program development efforts. He currently serves as the D9 TCAAA Alternate Director.



SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Whitney Ingram - 5 Years



Whitney Ingram has served as Natural Resources agent in Bell County since 2016. Her diverse programming and partnerships provide substantial educational opportunities in water and land stewardship. Her leadership and dedication to youth and volunteer development for Bell County 4-H has fostered outstanding livestock programs, competitive teams, and ag literacy programs. She served as TCAAA Director of Early Career from 2018-2021. Whitney received

a B.S. from Texas A&M University and M.S. from Tarleton State University.

SOUTHERN REGION - VIRGINIA

Jeannie Layton - Dudding - 9 Years

Serving as Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent for Giles County, Jeannie Layton-Dudding strives to provide high-quality education for producers, youth, and families. Her programming efforts have earned her accolades from her producers and co-workers. Jeannie provides leadership for the Virginia Association of Agricultural Extension Agents. She is also active in the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. These reasons and more have earned her respect and made her deserving of this Achievement Award.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - INDIANA

Sara Dzimianski - 8 Years



Sara serves as the ANR educator for Perry County, Indiana. She is actively involved in leadership and collaborative roles in Extension programming at the local, area, statewide, and multi-state levels. Locally she teaches and coordinates programs based on county needs assessments. Statewide she leads the Small Ruminant Focus Group and hosts webinars that reach an international audience. She is serves on IEEA committees and chaired the Meals Committee for the 2019 National Conference.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - INDIANA

Gina Anderson - 8 Years

Gina Anderson, has been serving Floyd County for almost 9 years. Her B.S. in Horticulture and M.S. in Agriculture Education pair well with her clientele. Many of the programs Gina does focus on home horticulture questions, pollinators, and beekeeping. When it comes to livestock questions, she is the go to person for llamas and alpacas. Gina serves on the Purdue Extension Master Gardener Advisory Committee as well as the Indiana Master Naturalist Advisory Council.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - IOWA

Samuel Genson - 2 Years



Samuel is the county director for Clinton County, Iowa. As the county director, agriculture and natural resources are among his top programming priorities. A few successes include developing a large community donation garden, assisting in statewide leadership on mental health programming for farm families, and strategic planning to help grow his county's Master Gardener program! He attended Western Michigan University for his undergrad and is now working on his master's degree through Iowa State University.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - KANSAS

James Coover - 6 Years

Coover began his extension career in Dickinson County, Kansas, where he served as a general agricultural agent for two years. He then moved to the Wildcat District to serve as a specialized agent in cropping systems and soil fertility. James's educational programming includes crop diseases, pests and fertility, farm financials, agricultural law, environmental conservation, and youth education. James lives with his wife and one-year-old son on their farm in southeast Kansas.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - MICHIGAN

Heidi Lindberg - 8 Years



Heidi Lindberg is a greenhouse and nursery extension educator based in Ottawa County. She has served greenhouses and ornamental plant nurseries in western Michigan for 8 years. Specific areas of outreach include introductory online courses on greenhouse production, lighting for efficient production of greenhouse crops, energy conservation, and biological control of greenhouse crops. She currently serves as President of MAEA and is an exemplary modern Extension educator, delivering innovative and engaging learning opportunities for clients.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - MINNESOTA

Nathan Hulinsky - 6 Years

Nathan joined the University of Minnesota Extension as a regional educator on the Agricultural Business Management team in early 2016. Nathan has worked to provide education to lower risks and increase profits for Minnesota farmers. Through educational programs on financial management, land rent, labor management, agricultural tax, and farm transfer farmers and managers are better prepared to make business decisions. He currently serves as the past president for the Minnesota Association of Extension Agricultural Professionals.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - MISSOURI

Jennifer Lutes - 5 Years



Jennifer Lutes, Agriculture Business Specialist, joined the University of Missouri Extension in 2016. Her passion projects include: small ruminant economic outlooks and farm profitability; value-added meats team – working with producers and processors; Annie's project and inspired programs; agriculture business counseling; and farm business management. In addition to these projects, Jennifer also coordinates a Master Gardener chapter, sits on two soil and water boards, and is a board member of University of Missouri Extension Association.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - NEBRASKA

Erin Laborie - 6 Years

Collaborated with multi-disciplinary specialists and local beef producers to secure over \$110,000 in grants to support on-farm research and programming efforts. Coordinated stocker/yearling focused programming across the state and developed Tailgate Talks biweekly video series. Provides teaching for Husker Mobile Beef Lab and ration formulation support for beef producers. Serves as Lead Educator, co-editor of the BeefWatch newsletter, co-manager of the UNL beef website and social media, and coordinator of the GrazeNebraska weekly radio segment.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - NORTH DAKOTA

Angie Johnson - 7 Years



Angie served as the ANR Extension agent in Steele County, North Dakota. As an Extension agent, she provided programming on beef and sheep production; soybean cyst nematode sampling; co-created a nationally recognized biosecurity in agronomic equipment curriculum; and implemented a 4-H shooting sports program. She now serves as the Extension Farm & Ranch Safety Program Coordinator; providing trainings, updating resources, conducting needs assessments, and program development for

Extension agents and producers across the state.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - OHIO

Mark Badertscher - 8 Years

Mark Badertscher has been the Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Educator in Hardin County since June 2013. Over the past eight years, he has served as state chair of the JCEP Membership and Retention Committee and NACAA Agricultural Issues Committee. He serves as president of the Conservation Tillage Conference in Ohio. NACAA team awards include national winner in NACAA Search for Excellence Sustainable Agriculture, national finalist in Bound Book, and regional finalist in Video Recordings.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - OHIO

Sarah Noggle - 8 Years



Sarah Noggle has served as Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator for Paulding County, Ohio for the past eight years. She is responsible for developing educational programming that meets county clientele' needs. With a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Education and a minor in Production Agriculture from and a master's degree in General Education and Curriculum Development, Noggle has a well-versed background to address a range of issues that face county residents in Agriculture and Natural Resources.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - WISCONSIN

Kaitlyn Davis - 4 Years

Kaitlyn is Agriculture educator for UW Extension LaCrosse County. Her primary focus is Farm Management and Horticulture. She co-Leads the state Farm Succession workgroup, is a certified Farm Succession coordinator, with current projects of Cultivating Your Farm's Future Workbook development, Building the Bridge of Trust in Farm Succession, and guiding farmers through succession planning. Before joining Extension she worked as an agriculture teacher and graduated from UW-River Falls with a bachelor's degree in Agriculture Education.



WESTERN REGION - ARIZONA

Blase Evancho- 4 Years



Blase serves field crop growers in Pinal and Pima counties and conducts statewide research in guayule production and herbicide resistant Palmer amaranth monitoring. His research/educational programming focuses on controlling herbicide resistant weeds, understanding cotton heat stress physiology, and novel low water use cropping systems. His seminars and field days ensure timely dissemination of crop production information and technology. He distributes a grower newsletter with agronomic updates, crop water use and any urgent agricultural information.

WESTERN REGION - CALIFORNIA

Daniela Bruno - 3 Years

Dr. Bruno is the Dairy Advisor for Fresno, Madera and Kings Counties, specializing in animal production, on-farm food safety and dairy sustainability. She provides on-farm training and has helped dairies (averaging 1,250 cows) troubleshoot production issues. She is an editor of the "Dairy Tech News" and contributes to the "Golden State Dairy Newsletter", which feature cutting edge research, new technologies and opportunities. They are distributed statewide, each with 4 issues/year, directly reaching over 500 clientele.



WESTERN REGION - COLORADO

Jenny Beiermann - 5 Years



Jenny successfully planned, promoted, implemented, and evaluated the 2021 PIC for the western region of NACAA. It was hosted in Grand Junction on October 4 - 6, 2021 with an educational day session and a day of tours. Tours were separated into a horticulture track and a livestock/range track. Planning a conference post COVID was not as easy feat, but Jenny was able to safely, yet successfully pull off a wonderful program.

WESTERN REGION - IDAHO

Carmen Willmore - 6 Years

In her six years of service to the University of Idaho Extension Carmen has led three major programs in livestock and forage education. Her work is primarily in producer education of cattle and goat best management practices. She also has researched and presented on forage management and utilization, specifically on annual cereal forages and their utilization for grazing.



WESTERN REGION - MONTANA

Katie Hatlelid - 8 Years



Katie graduated in 2004 from MSU Bozeman with an Agricultural Education Extension degree. She has been with Montana State University Extension in Judith Basin County since January of 2015.

WESTERN REGION - NEW MEXICO

Donald, Don Martinez - 9 Years

Donald Martinez is currently the agricultural agent and county program director for Rio Arriba County CES. He is a lifelong resident of Rio Arriba County and an alumni of the Rio Arriba County 4-H program. Donald grew up on a farm and ranch along with his two siblings raising cattle and sheep. Facilitating programs such as the Annual Fruit Grower's Workshop, Beef Quality Assurance (BQA), Ranchers Roundtables and Noxious Weed programs to name a few.



WESTERN REGION - OREGON

Andony Melathopoulos - 5 Years



Andony Melathopoulos is an Assistant Professor in Pollinator Health Extension in the Department of Horticulture at Oregon State University. He also sits on the Steering Committee of the Oregon Bee Project, which coordinates pollinator health work across state agencies, leads the Oregon Bee Atlas and hosts a weekly podcast called PolliNation. In 2018, Andony was recognized with the national Pollinator Advocate award by the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign.

WESTERN REGION - UTAH

Reagan Wytsalucy - 3 Years

Reagan Wytsalucy, Agriculture and 4-H Assistant Professor, works in Utah State Extension in San Juan County. She services the largest county in Utah, which is 48% Anglo and 51% Native American. Ms. Wytsalucy's expertise is predominately in Horticulture and traditional cropping systems. A majority of her Extension programming focuses in local sustainability by assisting incubator farms to become successful through CSA or Farmer's Market operations interested in supporting their local or surrounding communities.



WESTERN REGION - WYOMING

Chance Marshall - 8 Years



Chance has worked with the University of Wyoming Extension since January 2014. His Focus is in Agriculture and Horticulture education and he is based in Fremont County Wyoming. His specialty is in livestock production and coordinates educational programming across Wyoming. He lives in Lander Wyoming with his family and raises beef cattle.

NORTHEAST REGION - MAINE

Jason Lilley - 5 Years

Jason Lilley works for UMaine Cooperative Extension as Sustainable Agriculture Professional in Cumberland County. His primary programs include tractor safety, beginning farmer business training, and supporting fruit and vegetable producers on enhancing climate smart farming practices. Jason's research is focused on reduced tillage practices for vegetable production and enhancing cover crop adoption. He is a member of the Northeast Ag Safety Coalition, the Northeast Cover Crop Council, and is a Certified Crop Advisor.



NORTHEAST REGION - MARYLAND

Emily Zobel - 6 Years



Emily focused on sustainable vegetable production, pesticide safety, and integrated pest management, conducting research on parthenocarpic cucumbers, industrial hemp. A part of the UME Farm Stress Management team, helped create the UME “Observe, Engage, Share!” Curriculum. Internationally taught Ag education in Ghana, teaching organic vegetable production in Ukraine and pesticide safety in Senegal. She is 1/3 of the Garden Thyme Podcast, a monthly podcast helping people learn to get down and dirty in their gardens.

NORTHEAST REGION - NEW HAMPSHIRE

Jonathan Ebba - 3 Years

Jonathan brings his experience in the greenhouse industry and in higher education to benefit the growers of New Hampshire by helping them to become more profitable and sustainable. In addition to consultation and creating educational events and materials for the green industries, he spends time in workforce development by teaching workshops at local schools and in the state prison.



NORTHEAST REGION - NEW JERSEY

Douglas Zemeckis - 5 Years



Dr. Douglas Zemeckis (County Agent III) serves Ocean, Atlantic, and Monmouth Counties to meet clientele needs related to fisheries, aquaculture, and marine resource management. His principal Extension programming has included the development and delivery of the Introductory Fisheries Science for Stakeholders, Coastal Stewardship, and Marine Extension Program Seminar Series curricula. Recent and ongoing research projects are addressing clientele needs related to responsible fishing practices, fisheries management, offshore wind energy, climate change resiliency, and seafood marketing.

NORTHEAST REGION - NEW YORK

Mary Kate MacKenzie (Wheeler) - 4 Years

Mary Kate MacKenzie is a regional farm business management extension specialist with Cornell Cooperative Extension serving a six-county region in Central New York. In her four years as a regional specialist, she has developed a strong program on farm business record keeping and analysis. She builds on the foundation of record keeping helping farmers with effective succession planning and labor management. Her program contributes to viable farms in the region for the next generation.



NORTHEAST REGION - PENNSYLVANIA

Cassie Yost - 5 Years



Cassie is a Dairy Educator based in Franklin County, Pennsylvania. Prior to joining Extension, Cassie spent 12 years employed on a large custom heifer operation in Central Pennsylvania. As an Extension Educator, she helps producers with calf and heifer production issues, as well as conducting cash flow analyses with the Dairy Business Team. Cassie is currently involved in a multi-year NIFA grant focusing on calf and heifer management practices on Organic and Conventional dairies.

NORTHEAST REGION - WEST VIRGINIA

Emily Morrow - 5 Years

Emily serves as the agent in Jefferson County, which is very diverse in agriculture production. Her work within the county focuses on beginning farmer education, as well as horticulture, nutrient management, and youth agriculture programs. A major accomplishment has been building a local Farm to School program that educates both teachers and students. On a state level, she is involved with the Women in Agriculture Team and the Food Safety Team.



Notes

