

108th Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference

National Association of
County Agricultural Agents

Achievement Award
Hall of Fame Award
Distinguished Service Award

August 13-17, 2023
Des Moines, IA



2023
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
85th Anniversary	5
Congratulations Honorees	6
Distinguished Service Awards	6-24
North Central Region	6
Northeast Region	10
Southern Region	12
Western Region.....	22
Hall of Fame Awards.....	25
Achievement Awards	31
Achievement Awards Breakfast Menu and Program	32
Achievement Awards Recipients	33-52
North Central Region	33
Northeast Region	38
Southern Region	39
Western Region.....	49

National Association of
County Agricultural Agents
2022 — 2023

OFFICERS

President	Phil Durst	Michigan
President-Elect	Keith Mickler	Georgia
Vice-President	Scott Jensen	Idaho
Secretary	Donna Beliech	Mississippi
Treasurer	Keith Perkins	Arkansas
Past President	Bill Burdine	Mississippi

DIRECTORS

North Central Region	Teresa Steckler	Illinois
Northeast Region	Elizabeth Claypoole	New York
Southern Region	Melody Rose	Tennessee
Southern Region	Brian Beer	South Carolina
Western Region	Linden Greenhalgh	Utah

VICE DIRECTORS

North Central Region	Scott Gabbard	Indiana
Northeast Region	Nick Polanin	New Jersey
Southern Region	Paula Burke	Georgia
Southern Region	Sherri Sanders	Arkansas
Western Region	Aaron Esser	Washington

National Association of County Agricultural Agents

Committee Chairs

2022-2023

Association Policy.....	Mike Hogan
Life Member.....	John Campbell
Program Recognition Council.....	Joni Ross Harper
Communications.....	Ron Patterson
Search For Excellence.....	Linda McClanahan
Professional Excellence.....	Nick Simmons
Public Relations. & Ag Awareness.....	Tyrone Fisher
Recognition & Awards.....	Ed Lentz
Scholarship.....	Stephen Hadcock
Extension Development Council.....	David Marrison
Agricultural Issues.....	Elena Rogers
Early Career Development.....	Heather Schlessler
Leadership & Administrative Skills	Amanda Douridas
Teaching & Educational Technologies.....	Colt Knight
Professional Improvement Council.....	Sherry Beaty-Sullivan
4-H & Youth.....	Brittany Council-Morton
Agriculture Economics and Community Development.....	Madeline Schultz
Agronomy & Pest Management.....	Ted Wiseman
Animal Science.....	Mark Nelson
Horticulture & Turfgrass.....	Cyndi Lauderdale
Natural Resources/Aquaculture/Seagrant.....	Jody Gale
Sustainable Agriculture.....	Lindy Berg

2022 - 2023

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Ed Lentz

Ohio

National Chair

NORTHEAST REGION

Samantha Gehrett, Vice Chair
Pennsylvania

State Chairs:

- Laurie Wolinski- Delaware
- Rebecca Long - Maine
- Virginia Rosenkranz - Maryland
- Carl Majewski - New Hampshire
- Nicholas Polanin- New Jersey
- Daniel Welch - New York
- Amber Yutzy - Pennsylvania
- Mark Cannella - Vermont
- Daisy Bailey - West Virginia

WESTERN REGION

Zheng Wang, Vice Chair
California

State Chairs:

- Darren Snyder - Alaska
- Ashley Wright- Arizona
- Kali Benson - Colorado
- Sharon Motomura-Wages - Hawaii
- Ronald Patterson - Idaho
- Marley Manoukian - Montana
- Lindsay Chichester- Nevada
- Patrick Kircher - New Mexico
- Brooke Edmunds- Oregon
- Matt Palmer- Utah
- Dale Whaley - Washington
- Donna Hoffman - Wyoming

SOUTHERN REGION

Jennifer Caraway, Vice Chair
Arkansas

State Chairs:

- Rikey Hudson - Alabama
- Brett Gordon - Arkansas
- Christa Kirby- Florida
- Jay Porter - Georgia
- Jessica Sayre - Kentucky
- Albert Orgeron - Louisiana
- Tracy Robertson Boone - Mississippi
- Nelson Brownlee - North Carolina
- Josh Campbell - Oklahoma
- Jeff Fellers - South Carolina
- Shannon Dewitt - Tennessee
- Callie Zoeller -Texas
- Adam Downing- Virginia

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

Cade Rensink, Vice Chair
Kansas

State Chairs:

- Bruce Black - Illinois
- Lais McCartney - Indiana
- Ron Lenth - Iowa
- Keith VanSike- Kansas
- James DeDecker- Michigan
- Nathan Winter - Minnesota
- Patrick Davis - Missouri
- Ronald Seymour- Nebraska
- Craig Askim - North Dakota
- Chris Bruynis - Ohio
- Sara Bauder - South Dakota
- Aerica Bjurstrom - Wisconsin

ANNUAL DSA BANQUET MENU

Flame Grilled Boneless Pork Chop with roasted Yukon potatoes,
green beans and mushroom ragout,
rolls with whipped butter,
salad and Chocolate Cheesecake/Fruit Cheesecake
water, coffee, hot tea

Wednesday, August 16, 2023

NACAA DSA BANQUET PROGRAM

Presiding Phil Durst, President

Invocation.....Jamie Sugg, 2024 AM/PIC Co-Chair (TX)

Introductions:
NACAA Board and Special GuestsPhil Durst, President
Past Officers and Life Members Mike Hogan, Chair,
Policy Committee

Dinner

Recognition Program:
Distinguished Services &
Hall of Fame AwardsEd Lentz, Chair,
Recognition & Awards Committee

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

Invitation to Dallas, TX.....Jo Smith & Jamie Sugg,
2024 AM/PIC Chairs

Happy Faces Video

Installation of President and Past PresidentBill Burdine,
Past President

Passing of the Gavel Phil Durst, President

AdjournKeith Mickler, President-Elect

85th ANNIVERSARY

This is the eighty-fifth 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 fifty-six distinguished colleagues are being recognized, joining a very distinguished group of 7,642 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
2023

Winners are listed below by regions and states.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - ILLINOIS

Andrew C. Holsinger, Jr. - 10 Years

Andrew Holsinger has 10 years of exceptional service to Illinois Extension. Holsinger has been dedicated and devoted to Illinois Extension programs and to the audiences both at local and statewide level. He provides horticultural education for gardeners of all ages and skill levels. Andrew offers expertise in pruning techniques, plant identification, tree fruit culture, and using technological methods for teaching.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - INDIANA

Bryan K. Overstreet - 17 Years



Bryan is the Purdue Extension Ag and Natural Resources Educator and County Director - Jasper County. Bryan has developed comprehensive field crop production programs including various workshops, and Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification Programs. He co-wrote the contingency planning tool called Code Red which has been used across the Midwest. Bryan conducts programming on Farm Stress, Annie's Project and UAV trainings. He has mentored several educators the surrounding counties.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - IOWA

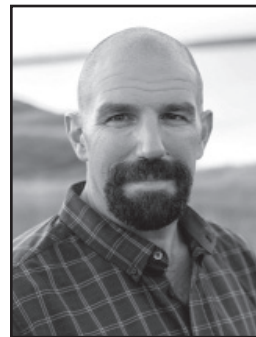
Madeline Schultz - 19 Years

As Women in Agriculture Program Manager for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Farm Management Team, Madeline Schultz led development of ten curricula and 200 Annie's Project and other courses and conferences. Schultz directed 40 grant and gift projects bringing \$3.5 M to Iowa and national Extension programming. She published five articles in the "Journal of NACAA" and served as Economics and Community Development Committee National Chair, 2023 AM-PIC Communications Committee Co-Chair, and state president.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - KANSAS

Cade B. Rensink - 12.5 Years



Cade is the Director of the Central Kansas Extension District (CKD) where he serves as the local administrative leader and delivers programming in the areas of Community Vitality and Natural Resources. He began his career with K-State Research & Extension as an Agriculture Agent in Coffey County and later transferred to CKD to be the District Livestock Production Agent before becoming District Director. Cade is currently President of the Kansas Association of County Agricultural Agents.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - MICHIGAN

Dr. Jeannine P. Schwehofer - 15 Years

As the Senior Meat Quality Educator and adjunct associate professor in the Department of Animal Science, Jeannine assists livestock producers and meat processors throughout Michigan. Her programming and applied research enhance meat quality, food safety, direct marketing, and regulatory compliance. Jeannine developed online and in-person training for meat cutters, humane animal handling and stunning, food safety, and processed meats. She currently serves as Associate Institute Director of Agriculture and Agribusiness at MSU Extension.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - MINNESOTA

Betsy Wieland - 18 Years



Betsy Wieland started with University of Minnesota Extension in 2004 as an Extension Educator in Hennepin County, MN. She grew programs in her county related to manure and pasture management for horse owners, urban agriculture, and a state-wide small farms team. Since 2013 she has had an administrative role in Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR), overseeing a wide variety of work including communications, hiring processes, a new educator cohort program and summer internship program.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - MISSOURI

Gene Schmitz - 29 Years

Gene has spent over 30 years in Extension programming in Iowa, Missouri and Colorado. In addition to managed grazing system education, he has worked with colleagues to conduct research and demonstration projects which include stockpiled tall fescue grazing and establishing and managing both cool and warm season forages. Additional programming emphasis has focused on forage quality and developing cost effective supplementation programs for beef cattle.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - NEBRASKA

Kelly Feehan - 40 Years



Kelly Feehan is a horticulture educator. She leads the Nebraska Pro-Hort program for the greenspace industry and co-writes a newsletter for 1,100 subscribers. She leads the local Master Gardener program, training over 100 volunteers who have provided 25,000 hours of service. Kelly participates with the Nebraska stormwater program that received a \$500,000 USDA-NIFA grant, has appeared for 35 years on Nebraska's Backyard Farmer show, and teaches plant and environmental education for over 1,850 people annually.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - NORTH DAKOTA

Rick Schmidt - 30 Years

Schmidt started his Extension career in 1993 as the Oliver County Extension Agent. His passion for agriculture and youth guided his mission resulting in many successful programs and competitive youth teams. He enjoys partnering with colleagues to conduct livestock and farm safety camps. His crop and livestock operation give him credibility as he implements many new technology practices that he makes available to the clientele he works with.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - OHIO

Dee Jepsen - 31 Years



Dee Jepsen, Professor and State Specialist for the Agricultural Safety and Health Program at Ohio State University, has dedicated 30 years serving the needs of agricultural communities at local, state and national levels. She utilizes surveillance data to guide Extension programs on high injury-causing agents and vulnerable populations, in addition to creating programs for farm stress and AgrAbility. She transforms applied research projects into formal/non-formal curricula to impact the quality of life of agricultural workers.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - OHIO

Samuel G. Custer - 10 Years

Sam Custer has worked for Ohio State University Extension since 2012, first as a county ANR Educator in Darke County, then assumed the role as Interim Assistant Director, Agriculture and Natural Resources, in March 2020, where he continues to serve. As a county educator Sam specialized in nutrient management and farm management and was a founding contributor to eFields. As interim AD, Custer led the creation of the Farm Financial Management and Policy Institute.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - SOUTH DAKOTA

Amanda Bachmann - 10 Years



Amanda Bachmann began her career with SDSU Extension as a Consumer Horticulture Field Specialist in 2013, but moved into Pesticide Education and Urban Entomology in 2014. She coordinates certification and recertification resources for private and commercial pesticide applicators, and helped initiate annual entomology events in the state. She is the President-Elect of AAPSE (American Association of Pesticide Safety Educators), a national organization serving pesticide educators and regulators. Dr. Bachmann served as SDAAEP President from 2017-2019.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - WISCONSIN

Tina L. Kohlman - 23 Years

Tina is a Professor of Practice with the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension. She has served as a dairy and livestock agent, and recently transitioned to a regional dairy educator covering four counties. Tina focuses her extension programming and outreach efforts in dairy replacement (calf and heifer) management; animal husbandry and welfare; and dairy production management to help dairy farmers increase business viability, environmental sustainability, and food safety while maintaining animal welfare and husbandry.



NORTHEAST REGION - MARYLAND



Doris Behnke - 10 Years

I am the Principle Agent Associate for the University of Maryland Extension Office in Cecil County. I offer a variety of programming: Agriculture, Home Horticulture and Master Gardener Coordinator's disciplines, with focus on AG Careers and Farm Stress Mental Health. I have held all the leadership roles in the Maryland Association of County Agriculture Agents; Secretary to President, and was the NACAA/AMPIC Co-Chair, Reception and Information Committee for the Virtual 2021 NACAA/AMPIC in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

NORTHEAST REGION - NEW HAMPSHIRE

Kelly McAdam - 11

Kelly has spent a significant portion of her Extension career supporting beginning farmers. Her work involves leading UNH Extension's New Farmer School. This program involves collaborative teaching and program coordination with other Extension Specialists, highlighting business and operational planning for new farm businesses in New Hampshire. Kelly has expanded efforts to include webinars, videos, and article series on business planning topics. She also leads follow-up evaluation which includes measuring long term program impacts.



NORTHEAST REGION - NEW JERSEY

Rebecca Magron - 15 Years



Graduating from Cornell University in 2001, Rebecca has worked in orchard research with Cornell University and Rutgers Cooperative Extension. Later professional experience as an environmental science consultant in Environmental Engineering, specializing in habitat restorations. Since 2007, she is the Horticultural Consultant and Research Associate for Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Hunterdon County where she coordinates the Home Horticulture and Master Gardener programs and participates on agricultural research projects with the County Agricultural Agent.

NORTHEAST REGION - NEW YORK

April Wright-Lucas - 19 Years

April Wright Lucas, Precision Feed Management Planning Specialist, has worked for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County for 19 years. She has made major contributions to the development of Precision Feed Management at the local and state level through collaboration with Cornell University faculty, USDA-NRCS staff, and the feed industry. April was instrumental in developing NRCS feed management plans that are now used for nearly 60 farms participating in the NYC Watershed Agricultural Program.



NORTHEAST REGION - PENNSYLVANIA

Laura B. Kenny - 13 Years



Laura Kenny has served in Extension roles in New Jersey and Pennsylvania since 2008. As an Equine Educator at Penn State for the past 6 years, her primary focus is improving environmental stewardship on horse farms through traditional and innovative programming. Other program areas include horse health, forage quality, and training conservationists to successfully work with horse farms. She is active in the PA Association of County Agricultural Agents, serving as Membership Secretary.

NORTHEAST REGION - WEST VIRGINIA

Alexandria Smith - 14 Years

Alexandria Smith earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Animal and Veterinary Science, a minor in Horticulture, and a Master of Science degree from West Virginia University. Agriculture and Natural Resource Extension Associate Professor in Hardy County WV, her goal is to help the people in her community increase their knowledge in agriculture which will make lives more fulfilling and profitable. Aside from being an Extension Agent she raises and manages sheep and goats.



SOUTHERN REGION - ALABAMA

Bridgette Brannon - 23 Years



Serving as a Regional Extension Agent in Food Safety, I am devoted to educating and training fruit and vegetable growers on safely managing their produce from every angle. I co-authored, A Guide to Hosting an Interactive, Hands-On Produce Safety Training for educators. I have been the Project Director on the National Farmers Union grant the past 2 years developing various educational tools including videos and fact sheets to aid growers in crop production.

SOUTHERN REGION - ALABAMA

M. Landon Marks - 10 Years

As a Regional Extension Agent in Animal Science & Forages serving Northeast Alabama, the focus has been sustainable livestock and forage systems and 4-H livestock. Landon facilitates youth and adult programs on a state, regional, and county level. Programs include Sand Mountain Elite Heifer Development, cattle reproductive management, bermudagrass pest management, establishing native warm-season perennials, livestock grazing techniques, and herbicide demonstrations. In addition, his 4-H Livestock Skillathon and Quiz Bowl teams have represented Alabama nationally.



SOUTHERN REGION - ALABAMA

Edward Sikora - 31 Years



Sikora's program has focused on developing Integrated Pest Management programs for use in commercial production systems. His crop responsibilities include corn, soybeans, fruit and vegetables. He recently served as the Agronomic Crops Team Coordinator from 2020-2022. Over the last 31 years, he has shown a commitment to serve Alabama farmers through his Extension efforts. Sikora is co-editor of four books, author or coauthor of 14 book chapters and over 800 Extension or technical publications.

SOUTHERN REGION - ARKANSAS

Amy Heck - 18 Years

Amy has been with the Cooperative Extension Service for 18 years. She began her career in White County as the 4-H Agent and then moved to Cleburne County in 2021 as the Agriculture Agent and Staff Chair. Amy works in the areas of horticulture, livestock, forages, natural resources and 4-H. Amy and her husband Joe of 24 years, have two sons Caden who is 18 and Carter who is 14.



SOUTHERN REGION - ARKANSAS

Craig S. Allen - 18 Years



Craig started his career as County Extension Agent for Agriculture in 2004 and currently serves as Staff Chair. He works with local leaders and advisory councils to develop valuable agricultural programs in Poinsett County. As county agriculture agent his priority areas are rice, soybeans, cotton, corn, grain sorghum, and livestock. His 4-H Shooting Sports team and community development responsibilities are also a top priority in his programming efforts.

SOUTHERN REGION - FLORIDA

Kevin Camm - 15 Years

Kevin Camm has taken multiple lead roles, reaching traditional and urban clientele in urban agriculture. Innovation and creativity drive his passion to educate leaders and support Agents on urban agricultural sustainability. He is a dedicated County Extension Director and champion of UF/IFAS Extension in Orange counties since 2020 and before with Virginia Cooperative Extension since 2007 and made significant contributions to the organization through his passion and experience enabling all participants can learn.



SOUTHERN REGION - FLORIDA

Frank S. Dowdle - 12 Years



Frank has been active in preparing his clientele for federal requirements for their duties as pesticide applicators. He was an early adopter of electronic pesticide exams in Florida. He has 106 works that support his program. His service to schools utilized the Progressive Agriculture Safety Day and reached over 5,000 individuals. He has nine years of service to the Florida Association of County Agricultural Agents.

SOUTHERN REGION - FLORIDA

Grantly Ricketts - 14 Years

Grantly Ricketts is the UF/IFAS Extension St. Lucie County Commercial Horticulture Agent. Known for his turfgrass expertise, Grantly operates a turfgrass demonstration site visited by over 200 people annually and answers over 150 turfgrass-related questions annually. He also shares his expertise in the Caribbean region. Grantly chaired the FACA Horticulture/Turfgrass Committee 2016 to 2018; served as member of 2022 NACAA AM/PIC planning committee, assisted with poster display, and served as a horticulture tour guide.



SOUTHERN REGION - GEORGIA

Mark A. McCann - 36 Years



Mark McCann is the Assistant Dean for Extension and Agriculture and Natural Resource Program Leader, a role he has held since 2015. He began his career at the University of Georgia as a Beef Cattle specialist in 1986 and developed an integrated extension/research program focused on grazing nutrition and forages. Dr. McCann also worked at Virginia Tech from 2001-2015 as Department Head of Animal and Poultry Sciences, Director of Extension and Extension Beef Cattle specialist.

SOUTHERN REGION - GEORGIA

Chris Tyson - 15 Years

Chris Tyson is the Superintendent and Area Onion Extension Agent at the University of Georgia Vidalia Onion and Vegetable Research Center. Chris works closely with local county extension agents and Vidalia Onion growers to provide extension programming and support for the industry. He manages the 142 acre research center, overseeing all Vidalia Onion research, including variety evaluation and disease management trials. The center is also home to citrus, pecan, and timber research plots.



SOUTHERN REGION - GEORGIA

Clark MacAllister - 11 Years



Clark MacAllister is the County Extension Coordinator and Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent for Dawson and Lumpkin Counties in north Georgia. He is recognized for his outstanding leadership and professional accomplishments in the areas of viticulture, natural resources conservation, arboriculture, and farmers market management. Key efforts included conducting 22 wine grape research trials, co-authoring multiple grape publications, extensive support with arborist education, and co-managing a burgeoning farmers market facility.

SOUTHERN REGION - KENTUCKY

Lindie Huffman - 10 Years

Pendleton County Extension Agent, Lindie Huffman, has developed educational programming as diverse as the county she serves. Entrepreneurial development, agricultural diversification, and community development are intertwined throughout her programs. From aquaculture to beef cattle; added-value product development to tobacco production. Supporting the restructuring and growth of the local farmers market to fill voids in the local food economy and provide farmers and artisans with a market for local goods, is one of her flourishing achievements.



SOUTHERN REGION - KENTUCKY

Philip Konopka - 18 Years



I have served as the Lewis County ANR agent since March 2005. During that time, I have built relationships with farmers and community members by offering programs in beef, goat, grain, vegetable, and forestry production. I enjoy working with specialists on research projects to help bring the University to the farm. I am a Certified Crop Advisor and have earned my drone pilot license so that I continue to assist farmers as technology advances.

SOUTHERN REGION - LOUISIANA

Jeremy P. Hebert - 11 Years

Jeremy Hebert serves as an ANR Agent with the LSU AgCenter with primary responsibilities in rice and soybeans. Through program efforts, Jeremy has assisted homeowners and farmers in various aspects of agriculture through outreach programs such as rice and soybean field days, soybean core block variety trials, rice verification programs, horticulture demonstration plots, pesticide trainings, and more. Jeremy also serves in leadership roles with livestock shows on a parish, district and state level.



SOUTHERN REGION - MISSISSIPPI

Trent Barnett - 25 Years



Trent Barnett has served as extension agent for 25 years with 24 of those years in Calhoun County. Trent provides programming in 4-H, forestry, beef cattle production, horticulture, row crop, wildlife management and sweet potato production. He was awarded the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation Award for Agricultural Extension Education in 2020. Trent holds a B.S. degree in Biology, a M.S. in Ag & Extension Education with a Minor in Human & Family Development from MSU.

SOUTHERN REGION - MISSISSIPPI

Brady Self - 11 Years

Brady Self has served as Forestry Specialist for 10.5 years in Northwest Mississippi. He is charged with programmatic responsibilities to forestry clientele including youth, general public, as well as forest landowner and professionals. His work ranges from one-on-one technical aid with landowners to group presentations across the state and region for hardwood management and forest herbicide use. He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in Forest Management and a PhD in Forestry from Mississippi State University.



SOUTHERN REGION - NORTH CAROLINA

Jenny Carleo - 19 Years



Jenny began her career at Rutgers Cooperative Extension in 2003, transitioning to North Carolina State University in 2019. She strives to keep the farmers' needs at the core of her work by developing personal connections as well as using new technologies in her Extension program to reach the widest audience possible. Throughout her career Jenny has won 38 awards and is now pursuing a Ph. D. in crop science to better serve her clients.

SOUTHERN REGION - NORTH CAROLINA

Steve Duckett - 30 Years

Steve Duckett's program has focused on enhancing farm income for livestock producers in Buncombe County and Western North Carolina. Duckett was tasked with organizing a beef program team for the 22 county West District. In consultation with livestock agents and their advisory committees, Duckett led the design of an educational program for cattle producers in Western North Carolina. Over 250 producers are trained each year in topics ranging from marketing cattle to forage production.



SOUTHERN REGION - NORTH CAROLINA

Dan Wells - 14 Years



Dan Wells has been a livestock agent for 14 years in a role that includes overseeing the largest single-county youth livestock program in the state. He has installed multiple forage variety and herbicide demonstrations and he has also secured grant funding for portable cattle equipment. Dan's livestock judging teams have marked multiple state wins and he has twice served as assistant coach for North Carolina's state team at the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest.

SOUTHERN REGION - OKLAHOMA

Chad Webb - 17 Years

Chad has been the Noble County OSU Extension Agriculture Educator since 2006 and a member of OAEAA since 2007. He has held roles as OAEAA District Director and several committee chairs. Pivotal programming has included numerous fertility programs in all areas of crop production; he led the Spring and Fall Cimarron Ag Conferences where 1200+ hours of ODAFF CEUs were obtained; Master Cattleman programs, BQA trainings, Livestock Emergency programs training law enforcement entities.



SOUTHERN REGION - SOUTH CAROLINA

Rick Willey - 24 Years



Rick has served as the Extension 4-H Shooting Sports and Natural Resources specialist in SC for 24 years. Rick has recently served as president of the Extension Senate. Most recently he led the SC 4-H delegation to a 4-H national championship in shotgun. He takes pride in mentoring his student interns in public service and leadership, many of which have gone on to work in Extension in both SC and other states.

SOUTHERN REGION - SOUTH CAROLINA

David B. DeWitt - 11 Years

David is an Area Agronomy Row Crops Agent based in Lee County, South Carolina. He has worked for Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service since 2012. Since 2018 David has led the statewide Extension Hemp team, as well as continuing his efforts with government advocacy and outreach. He has special interest working with tobacco growers and USDA programs and crop insurance. He serves as pesticide coordinator for three counties and County Coordinator for his home county.



SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Dena Floyd - 12 Years



Dena is the Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent for Winkler and Loving Counties. She has been employed by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension for 12 years. Her programming efforts have focused on beef Cattle as it is the only ag commodity active in both counties. She revitalized the Sandhills Beef Cattle Conference in 2019 and hosts one every other year. Being the only agent there, she splits her time between Ag Programming and all 4-H Projects.

SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Tommy Phillips - 26 Years

Tommy Phillips has worked for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service for over 26 years in Ag/Natural resources and youth development serving in Wood, Van Zandt and Kaufman counties. His programming efforts have focused on beef cattle, forage production, wildlife management and horticulture. He is committed to the Extension programming model and hands on approach to improving the lives of the citizens he works with. Phillips is currently serving as the Vice President of the TCAAA.



SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Ricky Thompson - 28 Years



Ricky Thompson has served Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Services for 28 years, he has worked in Rusk, Jasper, Jefferson, Fort Bend and Nacogdoches Counties. He has produced educational programs and outreach in livestock, forages, horticulture, rice, row crops and timber. He has and continues to work on state level committees providing experienced advice for the agency. Ricky is known for being effective with 4-H livestock projects and actively involved with the Texas Animals Industry Committee.

SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Scott Willey - 15 Years

Scott has been fortunate to call Fayette County home for the past 15 years. Scott's primary programming efforts include; a large annual cow/calf clinic, educational components for the county fair commercial heifer show and sale, a highly successful new landowners series and the county's resource for feral hog abatement efforts. Scott additionally serves as a Director for the Fayette County Fair. He is married to Kayla Willey, and they have two daughters Caroline and Malynn.



SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Wes Utley - 18 Years



Utley had been an Ag and Natural Resources Agent for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension for 18 years, serving in Haskell and Hockley Counties. His primary areas of focus have been cotton production, stocker cattle management & production, as well as cow/calf management and production,

SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Tyler Fitzgerald - 15 Years

Tyler has shown a passion for his beef producers, rice producers, 4-Hers, homeowners, and is well prepared to tackle many different natural disasters with emergency management. He has assisted in the Hurricane Harvey, Tropical Storm Imelda, and served as a strike team member. He takes pride in programs teaching people where their food comes from in Path to the Plate and Grilling 101 programs, where he focuses on beef cattle, crawfish, and rice production.



SOUTHERN REGION - VIRGINIA

Scott Jerrell - 21 Years



Over the past 21 years working with Virginia Cooperative Extension, Scott Jerrell has led a diverse agricultural program with various commodities. He promotes marketing options through state programs for feeder calves and premium assured heifers and programming to support hair sheep producers in the areas of production and marketing. Commercial vegetable production is supported through Good Agricultural Practices consultation and agronomic practice recommendations. Homeowners have also benefited from the Master Gardener program Scott oversees.

SOUTHERN REGION - VIRGINIA

Neil Clark - 16 Years

Neil Clark has served as a District Forestry Agent since 2006, and Unit Coordinator for Southampton County, a significant peanut/cotton, row crop area, for the past 13 years. Neil has a big heart to serve others and is always ready to help for the good of the cause. He has regularly filled programming vacancies in agricultural and 4-H for clientele who rely on Extension programming in production agriculture as well as positive youth development.



WESTERN REGION - CALIFORNIA

Betsy Karle - 14 years



Betsy is the dairy advisor for five counties and also serves as the Glenn County Director. Her programs focus on sustainable dairy systems, environmental stewardship, calf management, antimicrobial stewardship, and climate smart agriculture. Her work to develop a bovine respiratory disease risk assessment tool, outreach for water quality regulatory compliance, and evaluating the impacts of wildfire ash on forages are some of her many distinguished programs. She has authored/co-authored 30+ journal articles.

WESTERN REGION - COLORADO

Brian Kailey - 12 Years

Brian Kailey is a fifth generation Coloradan. He and his wife Maree Kailey enjoy family time with their five kids (Braya, Brenlyn, Ellys, Matthias, and Aislynn). Over the past 12 years Brian has worked on many projects focusing on 4-H, natural resources, and horticulture. As the Logan County Extension Director, his daily activities in the office include plant ID, windbreak design, youth leadership guidance and planning sessions with one of the best Extension teams around.



WESTERN REGION - IDAHO

Rebecca Mills - 18 Years



In 2004, Rebecca Mills began her Extension career as a 4-H agent in Oregon. She then continued in Utah with 4-H and Family & Consumer Science responsibilities. In her current role in Idaho, she assists small acreage landowners with livestock and land management and supervises the county 4-H program. Rebecca loves sharing her passion for agriculture with youth and adults who are new to agriculture and help them find a spark to keep learning.

WESTERN REGION - MONTANA

Shelley Mills - 13 Years

Shelley Mills is an Agricultural Extension Agent for MSU in Valley County. She provides outreach and education in crop and livestock production, horticulture, and youth development. Her areas of expertise are crop production, invasive weed management, horticulture, pesticides, beekeeping, pollinator protection, and pest and plant identification. Her research interests include weed management, viticulture, honeybees, and tree fruit production. She serves as the co-chair for AMPIC 2025.



WESTERN REGION - NEW MEXICO

Jack Blandford - 15 Years



Jack Blandford has served Luna County, New Mexico since 2008 as the County Agriculture and 4-H Agent. He has been instrumental in overseeing the Cooperative Weed Management Committee which has secured over \$250,000 in funding to control African Rue and other invasive weeds in Luna County. Jack also serves an active and competitive county 4-H program. He has received multiple awards for his involvement with the New Mexico Youth Ranch Management Camp.

WESTERN REGION - OREGON

Melissa Fery - 17 Years

Melissa Fery is an Associate Professor for the Oregon State University Extension Service where she works with diversified small-scale farms in Oregon's Willamette Valley. She supports agriculture producers in the areas of soil quality, small-scale livestock and pasture production, and practices related to whole farm stewardship. Most recently she has been working with farmers and ranchers to explore agricultural tourism and on-farm marketing to diversify income and aid in farm succession.



WESTERN REGION - UTAH

Joshua J. Dallin - 10 Years



Josh Dallin is an Extension Associate Professor and Director of the new Utah State University Bastian Agricultural Center. Josh specializes in livestock, range, and agricultural 4-H applied research and education programs. In 2022 Josh helped to secure over \$1.3 million in grants to be able to forward innovative and cutting-edge programming throughout the State. Josh is committed to continued innovation and research in livestock production, agricultural mental health, and farm/ranch succession.

WESTERN REGION - WASHINGTON

Steve Norberg - 27 Years

Steve Norberg is a Professor at Washington State University and has served as the Extension Regional Forage Specialist for 11 years and a total of 27 years in extension including other states. Steve serves the irrigated portion of the Columbia Basin working on forage programs including alfalfa variety trials, identification of alfalfa molecular markers, optimum fertility levels and other cropping systems. Steve is married to Leann, and they have three children, Dustin, Ashley, and Ariana.



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



2023

North Central Region Hall of Fame Award

Larry Howard
Nebraska
37 Years - Retired



Larry Howard has been a valuable asset for Nebraska Agriculture during his 35-year Extension career, providing education programs and community leadership as a single Agricultural Agent/Educator in Cuming County, Nebraska's top agriculture and top livestock county. Larry continues to provide leadership in his community and to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) in his role as an Emeritus Professor.

Larry's Extension education program focused on beef, swine, and dairy production for adults and youth. His efforts helped the people of Cuming County become the first and only Nebraska county to garner over \$1 billion in market value of agricultural products. The county leads the state and has been in the top 30 nationally in all agriculture products and is in the top five nationally in beef production. In the last five years of his career, his livestock program was expanded to cover ten northeast Nebraska counties. Larry's programs were innovative, cutting edge and were often the first to address local needs. In addition to educating local clients, Larry helped US military members with livestock management issues and hosted out of state and international visitors on numerous occasions. Larry has received 13-National, 14-Regional, and 35-State NACAA awards including the Search for Excellence award as a national winner two times and as a national finalist five times. He has been recognized by UNL for outstanding team programming six times and received service awards from the Nebraska Pork Producers and the Nebraska Beef Council. Innovative and award-winning programs and his desire to make a difference in people's lives are the hallmarks of Larry's work.

Involvement in professional associations has been a mainstay throughout Larry's career in Extension and continues into retirement. He joined NACAA in 1985 and has been involved at all levels of NACAA, the Nebraska Chapter of NACAA, JCEP, ESP and Nebraska Cooperative Extension Association. He has served in leadership roles during four JCEP workshops, four NACAA AM/PIC's, served as NACAA Director on the Board, served as NC Vice Chair for three different NACAA committees and has attended 30 AM/PIC's. He was recognized very early in his career by receiving numerous service awards including the NACAA AA and DSA. He also received the ESP DSA and the Mid-career award.

Humanitarian activities have always been very important to Larry throughout his life. He has worked with volunteers during his entire career and knows the value of giving back to his community and region. He has been involved in numerous volunteer activities beyond his job assignment and has served in leadership roles in many organizations at the community, county, state, and regional levels. He has received award recognition several times for his volunteer work including being inducted into the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement, received the prestigious AKSARBEN Good Neighbor award, and his local Chamber of Commerce Agribusiness Recognition award.

Larry Howard has made a career of education, leadership, and service with a long record of achievement. The Nebraska Chapter of NACAA is proud to nominate him for the 2023 Hall of Fame Award.

DSA awarded in 1996

**2023
Northeast Region
Hall of Fame Award
Lee Stivers
New York
26 Years - Retired**



I have had the good fortune of being involved in food and farming for most of my life, specifically with agricultural research and extension, for thirty-five years. It has been a tremendously interesting, rich, and often challenging professional road. The road carried me through three highly acclaimed land-grant universities: the University of California at Davis, Cornell University, and Penn State University. It allowed me to work with an astonishing variety of horticultural producers: farmers growing hundreds of acres of lettuce in the Salinas Valley of California, farmers managing thousands of acres of processing vegetables in western New York, smaller direct marketing operations in New York and Pennsylvania, organic growers big and small, urban farmers, greenhouse growers both high- and low-tech and even tiny backyard farmers in coastal Guyana. Reflecting on this time, I find common threads woven through these experiences.

Sustainable Agriculture-It's More Complicated Than I Thought. In 1985 I headed off to UC Davis for graduate school, convinced that organic farming was the only thing that could address the problems of modern agriculture. I had been working in New England in food cooperatives, local farms and in developing organic certification standards. My eyes were opened by the scale and complexity of California agriculture and the rigorous agricultural science training UC Davis provided. The concept of "sustainable agriculture" was just gaining traction at that time. It seemed to me more functional, nuanced, and scientifically based. I carried that concept of sustainable agriculture with me throughout my research and extension work in New York and Pennsylvania.

Science is Our Foundation. I am eternally grateful for the opportunity to study at UC Davis because that is where I learned to think like a scientist and to do science in the field. I am similarly thankful to Cornell and the Penn State faculty with whom I collaborated. They supported me in doing applied research and publishing it as part of my extension work. Agricultural extension and research go hand in hand, strengthening each other to serve our clientele best.

You Can't Do It Alone. The most productive, impactful, and satisfying experiences I have had in my career have all been collaborative efforts. Examples of these experiences include:

Working as one of three area specialists covering a six-county, 70,000-acre vegetable production base in western New York.

Leading a partnership between Cornell University and New York vegetable producers to establish a research farm in western New York.

Being an integral part of Pennsylvania's statewide team of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) trainers.

Collaborating with twelve states' greenhouse specialists to publish a weekly e-newsletter titled "eGRO."

Teaming up with Pennsylvania co-workers on multiple statewide multi-year variety evaluation trials.

Being a member of a group of faculty, extension educators, and farmers working together on an award-winning beginning farmer project.

My involvement with PACAA and NACAA has been one of the true highlights of my extension career. I sincerely regret not joining earlier when I was with Cornell Cooperative Extension.

DSA awarded in 2009.

**2023
Southern Region
Hall of Fame Award
Paul Wigley
Georgia
35 Years - Retired**



JPaul Wigley has devoted his life to the agronomic and economic success of farmers in Southwest Georgia and beyond. His work and volunteer contributions impact the agricultural industry and rural communities across the country and globally.

Paul's career as a University of Georgia Extension agent spanned 1978-2013, including a two- year post-retirement encore contract. After retirement, he served as a crop consultant to some of the top-producing peanut farmers in the United States. In both career roles, Paul conducted local trials for determining the products and practices that help Southwest Georgia peanut farmers deliver the highest crop performance under insect, nematode and disease pressure. In more than 40 replicated trials, Paul evaluated more than 40 products in 80-plus combinations and systems to make recommendations on controlling nematodes and disease in peanuts. More than 800 visitors from across the United States and nine foreign countries have viewed his research plots and replicated trials. His data provides a cornerstone for control recommendations in every U.S. peanut producing state, particularly regarding Rhizoctonia limb, pod, and peg rot. In just one decade – between 2000 and 2010, the application of his research findings led to more than \$14 million in additional farm income in Calhoun County.

Paul's work is peer-reviewed and highly lauded. The Georgia Peanut Education for Excellence program recognized Paul three times as the extension agent with the best overall educational program for peanut production in Georgia. The American Peanut Research and Education Society has repeatedly invited him to present to an international audience. He was nominated for the prestigious Bailey Award four times and was honored with the 2009 D.W. Brooks Award for Excellence in Public Service Extension.

In addition to career accomplishments, Paul also lent his time and expertise to help advance our industry and raise the next generation of agricultural leaders. He served as president and treasurer for the Georgia Association of the County Agricultural Agents and the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. He is recognized as a premier livestock judge, serving more than 400 county, regional, district and state livestock shows in three states. He also led showmanship clinics, where he taught children about life as well as showmanship. Paul also is credited with four state champions, six reserve state champions, and more than 25 division champions at the state swine show.

His passion for people and his personal ministry is evident in his church leadership, which includes teaching Sunday School, chairing a successful \$250,000 capital campaign, and in his musical pursuits. The regionally acclaimed Pachitla Creek Pickers perform bluegrass and gospel music at churches and other venues across the southeast.

Paul's impact over four decades has helped farmers succeed agronomically and economically. He's contributed to the cultural well-being of rural communities and agricultural leadership by helping dozens of young people develop the ethics and character needed to lead on farm and in the agricultural industry. Ultimately, his life's passion and commitment helped create strong farms and a robust agricultural community that thrives generationally.

DSA awarded in 1995.

**2023
Western Region
Hall of Fame Award
Janet Schmidt
Washington
38 Years - Retired**



"Making the Best Better"

When establishing a working title for embodying the work of Janet L. Schmidt one quickly aligns Janet's work with the motto of 4-H, "Making the Best Better." Janet L. Schmidt is a WSU alumna who received a BS in Animal Sciences in 1979 and a MS in Adult and Continuing Education in 1981. Caring and compassionate, the WSU Extension faculty member is a long-time advocate of 4-H youth and livestock producers in the state of Washington.

Schmidt began her career with WSU Extension in 1984, serving Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, and Clark Counties in positions including: 4-H Agent, Area Livestock Agent, and County Chair. In 1995, she moved to Whitman County and was a 4-H Youth Educator until 2004 when she added County Director and a mentorship with administration of the WSU Extension Program in Whitman County before retiring in 2021.

To support the vision and mission of 4-H youth development and Extension, Schmidt routinely solicits and secures funding for innovative education programs such as 4-H and FFA Youth livestock field days, 4-H youth robotics camps and other STEM programs, and the Pacific Northwest Sheep & Goat Judges School and Show Management Conference. Schmidt's techniques and examinations of the successes of such programs have been published in peer-reviewed journals and Extension publications and presented internationally, nationally, and locally at conferences, forums, and other events. Her expertise in pasture management has been called upon every semester since 2014 as she disseminates her knowledge to students in the Animal Sciences Equine Management course.

Schmidt's devotion to supporting 4-H youth and educating livestock producers in Washington have not gone unnoticed. Her contributions as an individual and as a member of a team resulted in numerous honors and awards from the National Association of 4-H Agents and the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. In addition, she was named Faculty of the Year in 2015 by the WSU College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences.

Janet has continued to exemplify what it means to be a leader and a mentor through her work with the Washington Extension Agents and Specialist Association (WEASA) and the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA). At the state level, she has been a constant presence as an officer and as state chair for many committees throughout the years. Perhaps most importantly, she 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 Regional level, Janet has served as the Western Region Vice Director and Director.

In the community, Janet has invested herself heavily in serving her stakeholders well beyond her job responsibilities. She chooses to spend her personal time volunteering on Palouse Empire Fair Board, doing market sales, carcass contests, 4-H leaders, fund raising as well as donating blood. Janet leads by example and because of this Washington State and NACAA are a better place. Thank you for your years of service and for "Making the Best Better!"

DSA Awarded in 1995.

2023

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 2023. 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 fifty-seven recipients join 2,495 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

BREAKFAST AND PROGRAM SPONSOR



P.O. Box 50158

Indianapolis, IN 46250

(317) 849-5545 | (800) 849-4820

**ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS RECOGNITION
BREAKFAST**

Tuesday, August 15, 2023

MENU

Fluffy Biscuits topped with Country Gravy,
served with scrambled eggs, and roasted yukon potatoes,
water, orange juice, coffee, hot tea, bakery basket and butter

PROGRAM

Welcome Ed Lentz
Chair, NACAA Recognition & Awards Committee

Thought of the Day.....Samantha Gehrett
Northeast Region Committee Vice Chair

Introductions Ed Lentz

Remarks..... Erin Bain, American Income Life Insurance Company

Presentation of Awards Ed Lentz

(Assisted by Vice Chairs; President Phil Durst

**County Agents Receiving the
Achievement Award
From The National Association of
County Agricultural Agents
2023**

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

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - ILLINOIS

Nathan Johanning - 8 Years

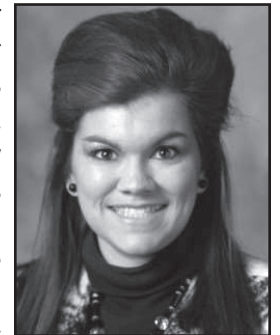


Nathan Johanning has championed education and outreach in many areas of agriculture while serving as an Extension educator over the last 8 years. Three main areas of focus have included pumpkins, cover crops and no-till crop production. Johanning has taken his personal on-farm experiences to help relate to cropping system issues at hand for farmers across Illinois and the Midwest.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - INDIANA

Molley Hasenour - 6 Years

Molley serves as the ANR and 4-H Youth Educator for Purdue Extension- Crawford County. Her projects include: AI School, Southern IN Cattleman's Tour, Beef Basics, Livestock Evaluation, soil & water conservation and school gardening. Molley also coordinates Master Gardeners, Cattleman's Association and is a board member for Indiana Farm Bureau. Molley was the 2019 recipient of the Purdue University College of Ag Bravo award and is a member of IEEA, Epsilon Sigma Phi & NAE4-HYDP



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - INDIANA

James Wolff - 8 Years



James Wolff has been the Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator in Allen County since 2014. He specializes in diversified farming and food systems with leadership roles at the Indiana Small Farm Conference and Purdue Extension Farmers Market program. He also works with soil health and beginning farmers. James partners with the City of Fort Wayne to operate Johnnie Mae farm, a place that provides a safe space, education, and affordable produce in the community.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - IOWA

Josh Michel - 6 Years

For excellence and service in the education, consultation, and assistance to Iowans in the areas of crop production, crop protection, and integrated crop management. In recognition of the guidance, mentorship and leadership provided to Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, and Iowa State University Research and Demonstration Farms. For your continued service provided on several committees benefiting the NACAA, Iowa State University, and many other academic and industry partners.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - KANSAS

Travis Carmichael - 9 Years



Travis joined K-State Research and Extension – Lyon County as a Horticulture and Community Development Extension Agent in May of 2013. Over the last nine years, Travis has worked with local organization, residents, and Extension Master Gardeners to bring Horticulture programming to Lyon County. Travis graduated from Northwest Missouri State University with a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture and holds a Master of Science in Production Horticulture from Kansas State University.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - MICHIGAN

Monica Atkin Jean - 6 Years

Monica serves central lower Michigan with an emphasis on the Saginaw Bay watershed region. Her position covers a large variety of crop production including corn, soybean, edible dry beans, potato and integrated crop and livestock systems. Monica is involved in cover crop, soil health, nutrient management and cropping system research projects. She enjoys conducting practical, on-farm research and working with farmers to improve the sustainability of their farms. Monica is a licensed UAV operator.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - MINNESOTA

Claire LaCanne - 5 Years



Claire joined University of Minnesota Extension in Rice and Steele Counties in 2017 in the Center for Ag, Food, and Natural Resources. Claire provides programming that brings value to farmers, gardeners, and homeowners through educational workshops, field days, audio segments, news articles, newsletters, and technical assistance. She prioritizes making scientific information understandable for the end user. Claire currently serves as President of the Minnesota Association of Extension Ag Professionals.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - MISSOURI

Tamra Reall - 5 Years

Tamra Reall joined MU Extension 2018 and she serves as a horticulture specialist in the Kansas City area. She coordinates one of the largest Master Gardeners chapters in the state with over 400 volunteers. She works to bring communities together by offering horticultural programming which includes horticulture presentations and training, children's programming, news column "Kids Ask Dr. Bug, community gardens, YouTube channel video creation, consulting for urban farms and consulting on renovation of public spaces.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - NEBRASKA

Sarah A. Sivits - 7 Years



Sarah educated 12,855 ag professionals and youth on pest management, disease diagnostics, and groundwater issues since 2016. Co-authored 23 peer-reviewed publications and 23 social media videos. Conducted 69 on-farm research trials with producers valued at \$201,700 with one study resulting in \$1,078,000 crop input savings for 80 white corn growers. Assisted with securing \$1,784,874 in grants, donations, and programming fees. Currently the NCEA Ag Section Early Career Chair and on the Awards & Recognition Committee.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - NORTH DAKOTA

Anitha Chirumamilla - 7 Years

Anitha currently works as Extension Cropping Systems Specialist at the NDSU Langdon Research Extension Center. She is an Entomologist by education with expertise in field crop entomology but provides educational programming on a wide range of agriculture production issues ranging from weeds, crop production and fertility, disease management and youth programs. She leads the IPM survey project in the NE district of ND surveying for important insects and disease in major field crops.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - OHIO

Erika Lyon - 6 Years



Erika Lyon serves as the Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator for Jefferson and Harrison Counties in Ohio. Since starting with Ohio State in 2016, she prioritizes county needs to develop educational programs offered in a variety of formats, including in-person, online, and hybrid classes. She also provides assistance with the state's onboarding program for new ANR staff and serves on the ANREP board. Erika frequently teaches on topics related to plant pathology and natural resources.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - OHIO

Garth Ruff - 5 Years

Since 2017 Garth Ruff has focused on serving livestock producers in Ohio. As Beef Cattle Field Specialist he co-leads the OSU Extension Beef Team, coordinating team programs and outputs. He has taught programs and conducted research in the areas of livestock management and marketing, meat quality, forages, and youth livestock production. In 2022, he led the OSU eBarns project, translating OSU livestock research and putting the results into the hands of farmers.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - SOUTH DAKOTA

Jaelyn Whaley - 2 Years



Jaelyn serves South Dakota as the Sheep Field Specialist in Rapid City. Her primary focus is commercial, range sheep production and multi-species grazing with cattle and sheep. Jaelyn also delivers youth and adult programming on wool evaluation and quality and organizes a national collegiate/youth wool judging contest. She also collaborates with North Dakota State University to put on one of the two remaining centralized ram performance tests in the nation.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - WISCONSIN

Carolyn Ihde - 2 Years

Carolyn is an Agriculture Educator for the UW-Madison Division of Extension in the Livestock Program Area, serving Crawford and Richland Counties. She specializes in Small Ruminant production and is the workgroup lead. Carolyn is currently the President-Elect of WACCA. Before joining Extension, she was an Agriculture teacher and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture and a Master of Science degree in Agriculture Education from Iowa State University.



NORTHEAST REGION - MAINE

Glenda Pereira - 2 Years



Dr. Glenda Pereira serves as the state dairy specialist for the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, as well as, an Assistant Professor of Animal Science for the School of Food and Agriculture at the University of Maine College of Agriculture. She works directly with Dairy Farmers delivering educational programming across the state of Maine and Greater New England. Glenda has a strong applied research program integrating Precision Dairy Management Technologies and researching polyfluoroalkyl substances.

NORTHEAST REGION - MARYLAND

Kelly Nichols - 9 Years

Kelly Nichols is the Agriculture Agent in Montgomery County in Central Maryland. Her programming focuses on agronomy, produce safety, and most recently, turf weed control, and submits articles for the weekly TPM/IPM Report. Kelly is a part of the Beginning Farmer Success Team, providing education to aspiring farmers statewide. She is also a team leader in Montgomery County's Close Encounters with Agriculture Program, which provides agriculture education to more than 2,500 fourth graders every fall.



NORTHEAST REGION - NEW JERSEY

William Errickson - 3 Years



William Errickson (County Agent III) serves Monmouth County with a focus on sustainable nursery production, turfgrass, and agricultural innovation. His Extension programs and research projects support the New Jersey green industries in their efforts to improve profitability while enhancing biodiversity and conserving natural resources. Current initiatives also help to prepare the next generation of growers through a state-wide beginner farmer training program. Developing strong partnerships with stakeholder groups has ensured that programs reach diverse audiences.

NORTHEAST REGION - NEW YORK

Katelyn Walley-Stoll - 9 Years

Katelyn Walley-Stoll began her extension career in 2014 with CCE-Chautauqua as a Farm Business Management Educator. She was instrumental in development of the LEAF (Learn, Empower, Achieve, Farm) agricultural workshop series. In 2019, Katelyn started as a regional Farm Business Management Specialist and Team Leader for a five-county region in Southwest New York. She publishes and compiles Dairy Market Watch, a state-wide newsletter that keeps farmers informed of changing market factors in the dairy industry.



NORTHEAST REGION - PENNSYLVANIA

Anna Hodgson - 5 Years



Anna is a Field and Forage Crops Educator with Penn State Extension based in Union County, Pennsylvania. She helps local crop farmers with production issues, conducts on-farm research, and provides statewide programming for pesticide education, integrated pest management, and organic agronomy topics. Anna currently leads a project funded by the PA Department of Agriculture to expand her organic programs that foster farmer to farmer learning.

SOUTHERN REGION - ALABAMA

Gavin Mauldin - 9 Years

A focus on community development through gardening at the county office. I assist a community garden in Elba, AL. named "The Giving Garden". This 22 raised bed and tunnel house garden located in downtown Elba provides fresh produce for food bank recipients weekly during the summer months. Since 2020, I have led Spring educational workshops at the garden teaching participants gardening skills in addition to raised garden bed construction and maintenance.



SOUTHERN REGION - ALABAMA

Darrue Sharpe - 7 Years



She has been employed with Alabama Cooperative Extension System since 2016, serving as County Extension Coordinator in Autauga County. Her passion is serving her beloved community and promoting lifelong learning opportunities through Extension's many programs and youth events. She is known in her county as a major collaborator, forming vital partnerships with county leadership and organizations within the community to promote Extension's mission of extending knowledge and improving lives.

SOUTHERN REGION - ALABAMA

Geni Payne - 9 Years

She is currently serving as 4-H Agent for Russell County, Alabama 4-H Horse Project Manager, District Director for AACAA, and Treasurer for ALAE4-HA. Accomplishments include publishing a 4-H life skills curriculum, creating a 4-H equine education database, having over 1400 enrolled members in Russell 4-H clubs, and creating and administering a state-wide 4-H trail riding club. She also serves as Alabama's representative on the Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championship and E-Extension's Horse committees.



SOUTHERN REGION - ARKANSAS

Colin Massey - 9 Years



Colin has served Washington County Extension clientele since 2013. After five years as an Agent for Water Quality, he accepted the position as Extension Agent for Horticulture in 2019. Colin works closely with small fruit and vegetable producers, home gardeners, and University faculty, assisting with invasive species management, producer workshops, demonstrations, and home and farm site visits. Colin supports over 280 Master Gardeners and was awarded Master Gardener Agent of the Year in 2021.

SOUTHERN REGION - ARKANSAS

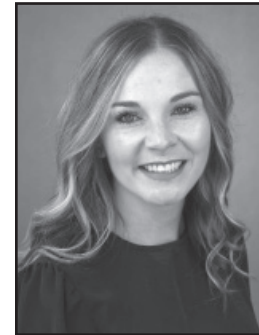
Phil Horton - 6 Years

Phil has served as a County Extension Agent since October of 2016 in Arkansas County. His agriculture responsibilities include education in rice, corn, soybeans, wheat, horticulture, and livestock. He conducts field demonstrations to help educate producers. Phil also works with 4-H youth, teaching life skills to help them become productive leaders.



SOUTHERN REGION - FLORIDA

Danielle S. Williams - 5 Years



Danielle is the Commercial Horticulture Agent in Gadsden County. Prior to this, she served as the Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent in Jefferson County for 4.5 years. Her Extension programming focuses on cold hardy citrus production. She is recognized by her peers at state and national levels, as well as by the clientele she serves. Danielle has developed a variety of high-quality deliverables and has sought monetary and in-kind contributions to support her Extension program.

SOUTHERN REGION - FLORIDA

Daniel Leonard - 7 Years

The nominee, Daniel Leonard not only serves as his county extension director, annually provides over 30 educational opportunities to clients, but also serves both the state and national association at a high level. Daniel started as a junior district director in 2018 and is now FACAA president-elect. He currently serves as the Southern Region Communications Committee Vice Chair for NACAA. He has served as a member on the National Communication Committee since 2018.



SOUTHERN REGION - FLORIDA

Kevin Athearn - 6 Years



As a Regional Agent - Agribusiness, Kevin developed 4 on-line courses, 7 educational videos, 11 EDIS documents, and presented at 12 ISTs and 8 professional meetings. He was PI or Co-PI on 18 grants, co-leader of the Farm Economics Priority Work Group, mentored 6 students at UF, and was co-winner of 2 NACAA regional and 1 national award. He served the association as Budget & Finance Committee Co-Chair for AMPIC 2022.

SOUTHERN REGION - GEORGIA

Alicia Holloway - 6 Years

The Barrow County Farmers Market was initiated in response to a local needs assessment by Barrow County Agriculture and Natural Resources agent, Alicia Holloway. The market is a vibrant event serving as an incubator for small business development and providing a conduit for farmers to bring fresh produce to the local community. The market celebrated its 95th day this season with an estimated economic impact of \$846,585.



SOUTHERN REGION - GEORGIA

Aubrey Shirley - 6 Years



Aubrey Shirley has served UGA extension as an Agriculture and Natural Resource Agent for Tattnall County since August of 2016. He has been recognized regionally for his work with Vidalia Onions and citrus. Aubrey has served as the GACAA oral presentations chair since 2020.
Years of CES Service: 6

SOUTHERN REGION - GEORGIA

Brian Hayes - 9 Years

Brian Hayes is the County Extension Coordinator and Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent for Mitchell County. His outstanding leadership and professional accomplishments in Production Agriculture reach beyond Georgia. Key projects include his work in Peanut Fungicides, Variety Testing, Water Conservation and Management, and Youth Livestock. Along with educational efforts that include the Southeastern Crop Scouting School and Using Pesticides Wisely.



SOUTHERN REGION - KENTUCKY

Jessica Barnes - 8 Years



Jessica Barnes started her Extension career in 2014 as the first Horticulture Agent for Harrison County. Since, she has transferred into the role as Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources Education where she works diligently to bring research from the UK College of Agriculture, Food & Environment to the producers of Harrison County. Throughout her career she has provided education in the areas of vegetable production, horticulture, tobacco, grain, forage, hemp and beef production.

SOUTHERN REGION - KENTUCKY

Nikki Rhein - 9 Years

In the last nine years, Nikki has reinvented what it means to be the ANR Agent in Marshall County. The community is thankful for her selfless dedication to the job, monthly newsletter, and willingness to offer an abundance of agriculture, horticulture, and youth programs in a wide variety of subjects. The diversity of her programming ensures the needs of all the residents in the county are fulfilled. No acreage is too small for her deliberation.



SOUTHERN REGION - LOUISIANA

Heather Kirk-Ballard - 4 Years



Heather Kirk-Ballard is a state extension specialist of at the LSU AgCenter. She is the host of the Get It Growing™ extension program focusing on home gardening and is disseminated to news stations and newspapers across the state. She has both a research and teaching appointment. Her research interests include sustainable landscaping, medicinal plants and home gardening. She uses her experience in public outreach and marketing to help consumers to be more successful gardeners.

SOUTHERN REGION - MISSISSIPPI

Drew Gholson - 4 Years

During his 4 years at Mississippi State University, his research and outreach include conceiving, developing, and promoting the adoption of profitable irrigation management strategies that conserve water, maintain soil resources, and improve water quality. His focus is to produce and communicate research directed at the conservation and sustainability of water resources for agriculture. He earned his Ph.D. in Soil Science and M.S. in Water Management and Hydrological Sciences, both from Texas A&M University.



SOUTHERN REGION - MISSISSIPPI

Kyle Lewis - 9 Years



Kyle has served as County Extension Agent in Hinds County for 9 years and currently serving Claiborne County. In his role he assists farmers with improving pastureland, crop fields, farm pond management and agritourism. He is responsible for programmatic efforts, training clientele in better production practices of their farmland. Kyle also serves on Mississippi State University's Disaster Response Strike Team, traveling across the state to help catalog ag damage during floods or hurricanes.

SOUTHERN REGION - NORTH CAROLINA

Daryl Anderson - 5 Years

Daryl is being recognized for his outstanding achievement in Extension Agriculture programming. His clientele recognizes him as being very knowledgeable. Daryl provides programs based on relevant information to the changing needs of his clientele. Daryl is considered an invaluable employee; the area that really sets him apart is his willingness to share with others. His enthusiasm and work ethic are evident, thus distinguishing him as an invaluable member of North Carolina Cooperative Extension.



SOUTHERN REGION - NORTH CAROLINA

Blake Szilvay - 4 Years



Blake Szilvay is the Field Crops agent in Randolph County. He takes pride in his work and is committed to making a positive impact on his clientele's operation. Whether through expanding on-farm trials in the county or by providing meaningful educational opportunities, his goal is to serve his farmer's needs the best he can.

SOUTHERN REGION - NORTH CAROLINA

Dylan Lilley - 6 Years

Dylan Lilley began his Extension career in 2016 as the Perquimans Field Crops Agent. While there he collaborated with neighboring County Agents to implement on-farm corn, soybean, and wheat research, hosted 3 multi-county field days, held pesticide recertification training, and assisted with agricultural 4-H programs. Dylan now serves as the Hertford County Extension Director and Agriculture Agent where he will continue his work in field crops in addition to consumer horticulture and community gardening.



SOUTHERN REGION - OKLAHOMA

Olivia Toothman - 8 Years



Olivia Toothman has been an agricultural educator in Creek County for 8 years. Each year she assesses the agricultural needs in her county and formats programming to meet those needs. While Creek County's major agricultural enterprise is traditional cow-calf operations there has been an influx of beginning farmers and ranchers starting homesteads. People want to be self-sustaining. Programs such as Master Cattlemen, Master Gardeners and beekeeping workshops have had success meeting those needs.

SOUTHERN REGION - SOUTH CAROLINA

Andrew H. Jeffers - 6 Years

I provide pesticide education and training to commercial applicators and consumers. I also lead the South Carolina Certified Landscape Professional Online Course. I also create educational videos and hold other classes on home and commercial horticulture topics.



SOUTHERN REGION - SOUTH CAROLINA

Janet W. Steele - 4 Years



Steele serves 6 counties as a forestry and wildlife agent. In addition to landowner outreach through one-on-one visits and group programming, she recently received Clemson Extension Innovation Grants to provide bus tours of forest management practices and forest products manufacturing facilities and to continue chainsaw safety and handling training. She is co-founder of SC Women Owning Woodlands, which has reached 100 in-person and over 400 virtual participants from 14 states since its inception in 2019.

SOUTHERN REGION - TENNESSEE

Lester Humpal - 7 Years

Les serves as an Extension Specialist providing programming and trainings in the area of beginning farming, specialty crop budgeting, master beef, horse and small ruminant courses. Along with webinars on value-added business development, budgeting and record keeping. Producers attending have increased their knowledge and ability in farm and financial management. Business plans and feasibility studies were also developed for producers to add value to their farms resulting in over \$550,000 in grant funding.



SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Jesus Franco Rodriguez - 5 Years



Jesus "Jesse" Rodriguez has served as County Extension Agent for Ag and Natural Resources and 4-H and Youth Development in Zapata County for 5 years. Rodriguez works closely to develop educational programs in livestock, forages, home horticulture, wildlife, and 4-H & Youth Development Program for the needs of clientele. In 2020 in response to increased security issues along the US/Mexico border he began a ranch security outreach program to address property damage and livestock theft.

SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Sierra Stephens - 4 Years

Stephens has been an Ag/Natural Resources Agent since January of 2019, serving Yoakum County for 3 and a half years until moving to Lynn County in September of 2022. Her primary focus has been Beef/Range Management and Cotton, while most recently completing a brush and weed control result demonstration. She also has a strong legacy of 4-H success and is looking forward to positive growth of the 4-H program and the youth in Lynn County.



SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

David Oates - 7 Years



During my tenure as horticulture agent in Jefferson County I have grown the volunteer base and retention rate of Master Gardeners. This has been accomplished through multiple new programs which focus on a diverse population. These programs include community garden collaborations with Meals on Wheels, local church gardens, and Lamar University. I continue a monthly interactive radio program with an over 20,000-person reach.

SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Josh Kouns - 8 Years

Josh Kouns has spent the last eight years serving as an agriculture agent in Baylor County, Texas. Josh's major programming efforts have been focused on small grains, livestock production and wildlife management. Working closely with Extension Specialists, program area committees and industry leaders, Josh provides cutting edge producer educational programs, result demonstration plots and small grain variety trials. Josh also provides youth programming through the local school system and 4-H Clubs.



SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Andy Holloway - 9 Years



Andy Holloway is the ANR County Extension Agent in Hemphill County. He is credited for an award-winning beef cattle program mainly for cow/calf producers featuring an annual Beef Cattle Conference with 600-800 participants from 12 States. Andy is also credited for conducting the Hemphill County Texas A&M AgriLife Grass Grazing School for ranchers and stakeholders. This program was developed as a result of the beef cattle conference and is now in its 6th year.

SOUTHERN REGION - VIRGINIA

Laura Maxey-Nay - 9 Years

Laura Maxey-Nay is the crops and soil, agricultural extension agent in Hanover county. She provides leadership for a diverse list of agricultural programs including 5-County and 4-River's Crops Conferences, Richmond Area Vegetable Conference, Eastern Virginia Forage Conference, Precision Ag Conference, trainings for 1A, 60, 3A and 3B Commercial Pesticide Applicators and Healthy Pastures for Healthy Horses. She also oversees 115 Master Gardeners and provides the well water clinic yearly.



SOUTHERN REGION - VIRGINIA

Roy D. Flanagan III - 9 Years



Roy Flanagan is Virginia's "Strawberry Man", also Virginia's turkey farmer, sweet potato "go-to guy", and is also knowledgeable on hemp, hops, syrup production, food preservation, vegetable, grains, spraying, and you-name-it related to farming on both small and large scales. A practitioner on one of the few production farms in Virginia's most populous city, Roy has the proven ability to help clients and grow farms by sharing his understanding of production, costs, markets, and prices.

WESTERN REGION - ARIZONA

Juan Arias - 7 Years

Juan Arias (FRTEP Agent) has produced award-winning programs for San Carlos Apache youth, adults, and ranchers/farmers in youth development, agriculture, equine/livestock, and food sovereignty. He and a colleague created a Resource Guide (some in Apache language) to help ranchers incorporate biosecurity principles and proactively manage their animals' health. He introduced youth and adults to growing traditional Apache crops and the use of drones, engaging the Apache community in their historical culture and 21st century technologies.



WESTERN REGION - CALIFORNIA

Brooke Latack - 5 Years



Brooke is the Livestock Advisor for Imperial, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties specializing in livestock management from small-acreage operations to large (100,000+ head) feedlots. Her program focuses on production efficiency, heat adaptation/abatement, the livestock-produce food safety interface, and forage production. She is one of the editors and creators of the CattleCal Newsletter and Podcast that focus on disseminating research and answers to questions submitted by readers/listeners, with listeners in 43 countries and 119 newsletter subscribers.

WESTERN REGION - COLORADO

Scott C. Stinnett - 8 Years

Scott Stinnett has been with CSU Extension since 2015. He serves at a local, area and state level: main coordinator for the youth education programs AgFest and Colorado 4-H Meat Quality Assurance. Additionally, Scott is a state 4-H horse show superintendent, co-authored the Colorado 4-H Metalworking project and active on several state work teams and advisory committees. Scott produces a youth livestock blog, writes livestock articles, and helped initiate the Pasture to Profit beef program.



WESTERN REGION - IDAHO

Jason Thomas - 5 Years



Thomas is a passionate extension educator who enjoys innovating educational programs about pest management. He is the primary designer of Pest Friends, an educational board game about pest management being implemented in multiple states. He developed the Idaho Insect Identification Website, a tool used statewide to help clientele identify potential pests. He also has produced over 100 instructional videos hosted on his YouTube channel the Insect Hunter which has over 63,500 subscribers and 9,000,000 views.

WESTERN REGION - MONTANA

Patrick Mangan - 6 Years

Patrick Mangan serves as the Montana State University Missoula County Extension Horticulture Agent. He teaches Master Gardener classes, horticulture interest workshops, urban farming topics, and garden supports for backyard gardening enthusiasts, market gardeners, and Tribal gardeners. He owns and operates the small family farm he grew up on just outside of Missoula, Montana.



WESTERN REGION - NEW MEXICO

Sara Kathleen Marta - 4 Years

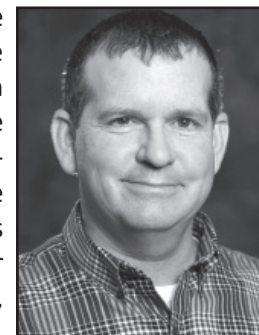


Sara Marta has been the Sierra County Agriculture and 4-H Agent since 2018 and in that short time has been extremely active as an advocate for agriculture and its producers. She has hosted, coordinated, and collaborated on multiple programs for livestock production, range management, financial assessment, and urban horticulture. Sara has also addressed the needs of the family with diabetic cooking schools. She also oversees a large and active 4-H program.

WESTERN REGION - OREGON

Scott J. Duggan - 8 Years

Scott Duggan serves Central Oregon as the Extension Livestock Field Faculty for Oregon State University. Scott's extension work is focused on horse and livestock health and production, pasture management, and advising producers on direct-to-consumer meat sales. Scott teaches interactive presentations interlaced with real-world examples to engage his audience. Scott is an active member in the Crook County Stockgrowers, Farm Bureau, and Oregon Cattlemen's Association.



WESTERN REGION - UTAH

Benjamin Scow - 5 Years



Benjamin Scow is an Extension Assistant Professor for Utah State University where he specializes in orchard management, crop production, backyard farming, and youth education programs in Washington County, Utah. Ben has developed classes and workshops to teach new and seasoned agricultural producers about improving their operation practices and is currently working on a video series to better reach the populations he serves. Ben obtained his master's degree in Agriculture Extension Education from Utah State University.

