

109th Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference

National Association of
County Agricultural Agents

*Achievement Award
Hall of Fame Award
Distinguished Service Award*

July 14-18, 2024
Dallas, TX



2024

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

COMMITTEE

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National Association of County Agricultural Agents 2023 — 2024

OFFICERS

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2023-2024

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Program Recognition Council.....	Joni Ross Harper
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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.....	Colt Knight
Agricultural Issues.....	Connie Strunk
Early Career Development.....	Ashley Wright
Leadership & Administrative Skills	Amanda Douridas
Teaching & Educational Technologies.....	David Yates
Professional Improvement Council.....	Sherry Beaty-Sullivan
4-H & Youth.....	Heather Jennings
Agriculture Economics and Community Development.....	Madeline Schultz
Agronomy & Pest Management.....	Michael Rethwisch
Animal Science.....	Mark Nelson
Horticulture & Turfgrass.....	Cyndi Lauderdale
Natural Resources/Aquaculture/Seagrant.....	Jody Gale
Sustainable Agriculture.....	Heather Schlessner

2023 - 2024

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Ed Lentz

Ohio

National Chair

NORTHEAST REGION

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Pennsylvania

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- Laurie Wolinski- Delaware
- Rebecca Long - Maine
- Virginia Rosenkranz - Maryland
- Carl Majewski - New Hampshire
- Nicholas Polanin- New Jersey
- Daniel Welch - New York
- Don Seifrit- Pennsylvania
- Greg Hamons/Joshua Peplowski - West Virginia

SOUTHERN REGION

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Arkansas

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- Sherri Sanders- Arkansas
- Cindy Sanders - Florida
- Jay Porter - Georgia
- Jessica Wells - Kentucky
- Albert Orgeron - Louisiana
- Ross Overstreet - Mississippi
- Nelson Brownlee - North Carolina
- Josh Campbell - Oklahoma
- Jeff Fellers - South Carolina
- Shannon Dewitt - Tennessee
- Callie Zoeller -Texas
- Adam Downing- Virginia

WESTERN REGION

Victoria Xiong, Vice Chair
Utah

State Chairs:

- Darren Snyder - Alaska
- Ashley Wright- Arizona
- Michael Rethwisch - California
- Kali Benson - Colorado
- Ronald Patterson - Idaho
- Marley Voll - Montana
- Lindsay Chichester- Nevada
- Patrick Kircher - New Mexico
- Brooke Edmunds- Oregon
- Matt Palmer- Utah
- Dale Whaley - Washington
- Donna Hoffman - Wyoming

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

Cade Rensink, Vice Chair
Kansas

State Chairs:

- Bruce Black - Illinois
- Lais McCartney - Indiana
- Ron Lenth - Iowa
- Keith VanSkike- Kansas
- Martin Mangual/
Casey Zangaro- Michigan
- Nathan Winter - Minnesota
- Patrick Davis - Missouri
- Ronald Seymour- Nebraska
- Craig Askim/Anitha Chirumamilla
- North Dakota
- Nic Baumer - Ohio
- Adam Varenhorst/Patrick Wagner
- South Dakota
- Kaitlyn Davis - Wisconsin

ANNUAL DSA BANQUET MENU

Anatole House Salad
Cucumber, Tomato, Crouton, Buttermilk Ranch Dressing

Braised Beef Short Rib
Whipped Yukon Gold Potato, Summer Squash,
Thyme Chicken Jus

New York Cheese Cake
Seasonal Berries

Presiding Keith Mickler, President

Invocation.....Linden Greenhalgh,
Western Region Director (UT)

Introductions:
NACAA Board and Special GuestsKeith Mickler, President
Past Officers and Life MembersCynthia Gregg, Chair,
Policy Committee

Dinner

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

Special Recognition..... Cynthia Gregg, Chair,
Policy Committee

Invitation to Billings, MT.....Shelley Mills/
Patrick Mangan 2025 AM/PIC Chairs

Happy Faces Video

Installation of President and Past PresidentPhil Durst,
Past President

Passing of the Gavel Keith Mickler, President

AdjournScott Jensen, President-Elect

86th ANNIVERSARY

This is the eighty-sixth 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-seven distinguished colleagues are being recognized, joining a very distinguished group of 7,698 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
2024

Winners are listed by regions and states.

SOUTHERN REGION - ALABAMA

Ronni Rena Brasher – 15 Years

A native of Fayette County, Ronni Rena Brasher has dedicated her 15-year career to serving the citizens of Northwest Alabama. She began her journey with ACES as a 4-H Youth Development Regional Agent and now works as a County Coordinator. Her work has focused on topics such as youth, natural resources, and community development. She currently chairs the AACAAAS Scholarship Committee and has helped raise over \$15,000 to provide scholarships for the youth of association members.



SOUTHERN REGION - ALABAMA

Jeremy Pickens – 10 Years



Pickens has served as a statewide resource to nursery, floriculture, hydroponic, and Christmas tree growers. His programmatic efforts target all aspects of each field and include but are not limited to improving production practices, pest management, and reducing labor costs. He serves on the executive committees of the Alabama Nursery and Landscape Association, the Southern Christmas Tree Association, and the Southern Region of the International Plant Propagators Society.

SOUTHERN REGION - ALABAMA

Lucy Edwards – 10 Years

Serving as Chilton County Coordinator, Lucy enjoys working closely with Master Gardeners, Natural Resource Council, and Farm-City program for educational outreach. Her most recent endeavor is re-establishing Leadership Chilton for professionals serving Chilton County. Lucy began her career as a Regional Home Grounds Agent where she led educational programs. During that time, she began cross-team collaboration and continues to work with colleagues across the state for the Extension display at Sunbelt Ag Expo each fall.



SOUTHERN REGION - ARKANSAS

Kenny Simon – 22 Years



Kenny started his Extension career in 2001 as an Agriculture agent. In 2007, Kenny accepted a position as a Program Associate for forages under the supervision of Dr. John Jennings. In 2022, he was promoted to an Instructor for Forages. Kenny assists county agents in forage management through hands-on demonstrations, applied research, farm visits, and forage system evaluation, as well as shares his extensive experience with management of commonly grown forage crops throughout Arkansas.

SOUTHERN REGION - ARKANSAS

Christopher Elkins – 11 Years

Christopher Elkins - Chris started his career as an Agricultural Extension Agent in Greene County. In this role he worked with row crop producers conducting on-farm demonstrations. He also led the Master Gardener Program in Greene County. Chris now works as the Soybean and Wheat Verification Coordinator. He helps producers and agents, teaching them how to utilize research-based recommendations to maximize production practices. Chris and his wife, Amy, have 1 daughter, Gracie.



SOUTHERN REGION - ARKANSAS

Kevin Van Pelt – 21 Years



Kevin Van Pelt has served the University of Arkansas Systems Division of Agriculture for 21 years. Since 2010 he has served as County Extension Agent in Conway County with education programs in row crops, beef cattle and forage production. He conducts demonstration programs in variety selection, fertility, forage and weed management. Also working with 4-H clubs and other youth and adults with many interests including livestock and gardening.

SOUTHERN REGION - FLORIDA

Matthew Lollar – 13 Years

Matt educates farmers about fruit and vegetable production and green industry professionals about landscape installation and maintenance. He has been working for UF/IFAS Extension since 2010 and has 309 works that support his programs. Matt has been the FACAA Communications Committee Chair and the Teaching and Educational Technologies Committee Chair. He is currently the Southern Region Vice-Chair for the Sustainable Agriculture Committee and previously served in the same role for the Teaching and Educational Committee.



SOUTHERN REGION - FLORIDA

Alicia Lamborn – 14 Years



Alicia Lamborn is a County Extension Director and Environmental Horticulture Agent focusing on Florida-Friendly Landscaping, Master Gardener coordination, and office leadership. She is most recognized for developing the Baker County Arboretum for experiential learning activities, as well as a published school curriculum and field guide to teach students new skills. She has chaired or contributed to seven FACAA committees and received numerous awards for her extension work at the regional, state, and national levels.

SOUTHERN REGION - FLORIDA

Jonael Bosques-Mendez – 15 Years

Jonael Bosques has served as the County Extension Director and Agriculture Agent for UF/IFAS Extension Hardee County since 2016. He also served in Marion County and UGA. He provides education to farmers and ranchers focusing on livestock, small farms, and agriculture. He has developed 1,442 teaching tools including videos, lectures, and classes at the local, national, and international level. He served FACAA in various roles including Search for Excellence Committee and Animal Science Chair.



SOUTHERN REGION - GEORGIA

Jason Edenfield – 15 Years



Mr. Edenfield has conducted numerous field research trials over the past 15 years with the goal of improving yield, quality, and flavor aspects of Vidalia Onions through production practices. These trials have made major impacts on variety selection and disease management practices for Vidalia Onion growers, and have contributed to Vidalia Onion production being the largest vegetable industry in Georgia with a farm gate value over \$168 million.

SOUTHERN REGION - GEORGIA

Brian Hayes– 10 Years

Mr. Hayes is the County Extension Coordinator and Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent for Mitchell County. Through innovative planning and needs assessment methods, Mr. Hayes has developed a broad range of educational programs that produced results for the county, regional, state, and national clientele. He has many programmatic and professional accomplishments in Agricultural Profitability and Sustainability including Variety Selection, Peanut Fungicide Programs, Moisture Sensors, and Insect and Disease Monitoring.



SOUTHERN REGION - GEORGIA

Jessica Warren – 10 Years



Camden County Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent Jessica Warren and Northeast Area Water Agent, Martin Wunderly, created a statewide sustainable landscape program in which clients could learn from educational modules at their own pace, implement practices in their landscapes and evaluate their landscape practices for recognition. Clients can navigate the program on their own or through the leadership of their local extension agent.

SOUTHERN REGION - KENTUCKY

Vicki Shadrick – 22 Years

Webster County is a diverse agricultural county. Corn, soybeans, tobacco, wheat, grain sorghum, beef cattle, forages, poultry, produce and beekeepers can all be found through the county. I've served as their extension agent for agriculture and natural resources for nearly 23 years. I strive to work with all age groups and offer educational opportunities to meet the needs of those we serve throughout the county, area and state.



SOUTHERN REGION - KENTUCKY

Chelsey Anderson – 10 Years



Chelsey Anderson, Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent in Cumberland County, has offered a wide variety of programming, from home horticulture to livestock production, forage management, and forestry. Chelsey visits the elementary school once a month to educate Kindergarten through fifth grade children (400+) about agriculture and nutrition. It is Chelsey's goal to educate and engage local producers and the youth of the community through researched-based resources.

SOUTHERN REGION - KENTUCKY

Brandon Sears – 19 Years

Brandon has served as the Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent in Madison County, KY for 17 years. His main areas of emphasis include production, management and marketing of beef cattle and forages. Recent programming efforts include a Regional Hay Auction, Grain Bin Rescue Training for First Responders, Central KY Hay Contest, Business of Farming short course, Corn and Soybean Production Workshops and the Youth Agricultural Incentives Cost Share Program.



SOUTHERN REGION - LOUISIANA

Trey Price – 21 Years



Dr. Price started as an extension associate with the LSU AgCenter over 20 years ago in entomology, weed science, soil fertility, and agronomy. He was a research associate for 8 years in entomology and pathology. For the past decade he has worked as an agronomic crop pathologist focused on integrated disease management in corn, cotton, grain sorghum, oats, peanut, rice, soybean, and wheat. His applied research program drives his extension program for Louisiana stakeholders.

SOUTHERN REGION - MISSISSIPPI

Doug Carter – 10 Years

Doug Carter has worked for MSU-ES for 33 years. He has been in Rankin County Mississippi for 16 years. He serves as the Agriculture and Natural Resource Agent and County Coordinator. Doug has worked extensively with Livestock Producers, Forest Landowners, Forage Producers, Row Crop Producers, and Master Gardeners. Doug has conducted Hunter Education Classes for 33 years. He has conducted many Safety Camps, and worked with Youth Livestock, and Shooting Sports.



SOUTHERN REGION - MISSISSIPPI

Ross Overstreet – 11 Years



Ross has undergraduate degrees in Business Administration and Agronomy/Turfgrass Management. His programs include working with local cattlemen's and forestry associations as well as a variety of other local programs including Master Gardener's and a variety of other agriculture and natural resource programming as well as a variety of 4-H responsibilities.

SOUTHERN REGION - MISSISSIPPI

Rocky Lemus – 14 Years

Rocky Lemus is an Extension/Research Professor and Extension Forage Specialist at Mississippi State University. He serves as the leader of the Center for Forage Management and Environmental Stewardship. His research and extension activities are related to forage production, nutrient management, and livestock grazing systems. He also collaborates internationally with USAID in the Farmer-to-Farmer program and has developed international programs in Central and South America. He operates a small dairy of Nubian and LaMancha goats.



SOUTHERN REGION - NORTH CAROLINA

Richard Goforth – 16 Years



Richard Goforth, Area Specialized Agent for poultry with over 25 years of experience in the industry, joined NC Cooperative Extension in 2007. Energy usage in poultry is a focus area contributing to field trails of energy saving equipment. He completed significant training in composting mortality. Deploying as an SME to disaster and disease mortality needs across the U.S. As a PAACO certified poultry welfare auditor he conducts audits and trains others in welfare practices.

SOUTHERN REGION - NORTH CAROLINA

Andy Burlingham – 12 Years

Andy Burlingham has been serving Pitt County North Carolina as a Cooperative Extension Agent for twelve years. His areas of responsibility include livestock and forages. Andy has worked with numerous producers on topics of small ruminant production, animal waste application, and forage management. One of Andy's favorite duties is teaching and working with young people who have an interest in agriculture.



SOUTHERN REGION - NORTH CAROLINA

Tom Dyson – 19 Years

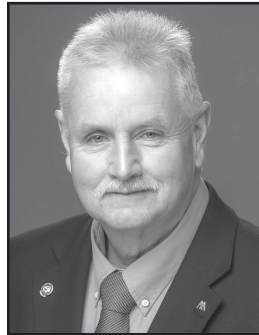


Tom's career has been marked with continuous innovative efforts. From early independent development and application of digital distance diagnostic technology in 1995, to a unique way to keep Extension office doors open throughout 2020 pandemic restrictions (recognized by NCSU), Tom always looks outside the box for solutions. Sometimes the solutions influence others on a broad scale, a local scale, or at other times they just earn strange stares. But there is always another idea brewing.

SOUTHERN REGION - NORTH CAROLINA

Tim Britton – 15 Years

Tim Britton has been a field crop agent for 15 years, specializing in row crop production. Tim focuses on troubleshooting field crop issues and providing quality educational training to the growers of Johnston County. Tim has been dedicated to developing a strong, on-farm testing and demonstration program. Tim has conducted over 200 on-farm research trials and field demonstrations and has hosted several successful field day events. Tim routinely serves as a mentor to Extension agents.



SOUTHERN REGION - OKLAHOMA

Dana Bay – 15 Years



Dana has worked for OSU Extension and been a member of OAEAA for 15 years. She has held several offices and committee chairs with OAEAA, including the first female president of the Oklahoma Association of Extension Agriculture Agents. Programming areas of special interest to her include BQA training for producers and feedlot employees, emergency preparedness and farm transitions. She worked countless hours handling donations and their distribution during the Rhea Wildfire in 2018.

SOUTHERN REGION - SOUTH CAROLINA

Zachary Snipes – 10 Years

Zack is a commercial horticulture agent who leads a fantastic group of agents serving South Carolina's fruit and vegetable producers. He focuses on creating more capacity within Extension by developing tools and resources available to small and large-scale producers and school and community gardeners. He is the developer or co-developer for SCGrower.com, the drip fertigation app, SC Weather Station Project, several online schools, and multiple books and learning modules for school and community gardens.



SOUTHERN REGION - SOUTH CAROLINA

Jaime Pohlman – 16 Years



Jaime Pohlman started with Clemson Extension in 2007 as a Greenville County 4-H Agent. She then moved to McCormick County, where she works with the Natural Resources Program Team on their statewide digital outreach programs and provides county 4-H programming. Jaime is involved with several committees working to increase agricultural and natural resource awareness throughout South Carolina. She also works closely with other organizations within her county to promote agriculture, natural resources, and healthy living.

SOUTHERN REGION - TENNESSEE

Anthony Carver – 23 Years

Carver has spent 23 years in service to UT Extension. He has conducted classes in small ruminant, beef, forages, vegetable production, food safety, worker protection, and grant writing. Anthony has been a speaker on all levels: county, regional, state and national programs. He has help bring in over \$5 million directly to farmers through grant writing. His heart is to help the farmer.



SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Justin Dudley – 18 Years



Justin Dudley has devoted the past 16 years to Panola County after starting his extension career during the fall of 2005 in Limestone County. Collaborating with program area committees, Lee coordinates impactful educational programs in Livestock & Forages, Horticulture, Natural Resources, and Earth-King Living. A career Highlight came in 2009, joining as part of the Afghanistan Agriculture Assessment Team, partnering with the Norman Borlaug Institute to assess needs and improve lives of rural Afghans.

SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Brad Roeder – 11 Years

Brad Roeder has served the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service for 11 years in Gillespie County. Brad provides educational leadership in wildlife management to hundreds of landowners, helps run spotlight surveys, and collects harvest data for wildlife within the county. Aside from his Extension responsibilities Brad is also heavily involved with a multitude of agricultural organizations.



SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Michael Berry – 19 Years



Michael Berry has been with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service since 2005 and has been the county agent in Comanche County since 2012. He coordinates with multiple local agriculture producer groups and Extension specialists to plan and implement comprehensive Extension educational efforts including research trials, demonstrations, tours, and educational programs. Comanche County is a thriving agricultural county and Michael considers it an honor and privilege to be able to work with local agriculture producers.

SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Michael Potter – 17 Years

Michael Potter is the Horticulture Agent for Montgomery County, working for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in this role since 2006. He is responsible for providing horticulture education to the public and providing leadership to the Montgomery County Master Gardener program. Michael serves as co-chair of the District Ag Products ID 4-H contest as well as serving on the State Volunteer Steering Committee. His true passions are providing turfgrass education and landscape design.



SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Neal Alexander – 22 Years



Twenty two years service with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension in San Saba County. In depth programs in Horticulture, New, Small & Absentee Landowners, Wildlife, Beef Cattle Reproduction, Beef Cattle Nutrition, Sheep & Goat Reproduction and Nutrition and Rangeland Health. Active livestock programs with 4-H youth and Shooting Sports.

SOUTHERN REGION - VIRGINIA

Amy Byington – 15 Years

During her 15-year career, Amy Gail Byington has made significant contributions to Virginia. She established programs for livestock producers, including an artificial insemination course and a regional cattle conference. Amy has diversified agricultural opportunities through small grains and vegetable production. Her leadership in Women in Agriculture programs, such as Cattle and Equipment WISE, has empowered numerous women in the field. Amy also created an Outdoor Classroom and coaches 4-H Cattle Working and Stockmen Teams.



SOUTHERN REGION - VIRGINIA

Stephanie Romelczyk – 15 Years



Stephanie Romelczyk has been working for Extension for 15 years. Stephanie's diverse ANR programming efforts focus on fruits and vegetables, grains, water quality for irrigation and youth agricultural literacy. She is co-leader of the VCE On-Farm Soybean Research program and has participated in numerous on-farm trials in grains, fruits, vegetables and ornamentals. She is committed to providing programs that enhance agriculture in the region, as well as educating the next generation of producers and consumers.

WESTERN REGION - CALIFORNIA

Oli Bachie – 13 Years

Bachie developed agronomic research and extension programs, introducing new crops and establishing the Master Gardener program for Imperial County while also generating research funding. He served as county director for Imperial and San Diego Counties with 40 combined staff. Oli initiated an extension newsletter, which earned state and regional finalist communication awards. He co-founded the SoCal AgTechnology hub. Bachie's efforts were recognized with a proclaimed "Dr. Oli Bachie Day" by the city of Escondido.



WESTERN REGION - COLORADO

Todd Hagenbuch – 12 Years



As the Agriculture Agent and County Director in Routt County, Todd has a varied program that includes work in natural resources, livestock, and range management, food systems, horticulture, and community development. He manages a vibrant and active Master Gardener program, community garden, and City of Steamboat Springs-owned ranch property, where he conducts locally relevant research. He chairs the CSU Extension Faculty Executive Committee, as well as the USDA-FSA Colorado State Committee.

WESTERN REGION - IDAHO

Jennifer Jensen – 15 Years

Jennifer Jensen is an associate professor for University of Idaho Extension where she provides horticulture and small farm education in north Idaho. Jennifer assists home gardeners and small acreage producers with gardening programs, the Idaho Master Gardener Program, and small acreage crop and forage production programs. Most recently she has worked with beginner farmers to provide advanced crop production skills training. Jennifer loves sharing her love of gardening with others through her work in extension.



WESTERN REGION - MONTANA

Megan Van Emon – 10 Years



Dr. Megan Van Emon is an Extension Beef Cattle Specialist at Montana State University. Her research focuses on supplementation strategies, cow-calf production, water quality, and bull development. Dr. Van Emon's research and extension programs focus on ruminant nutrition and improving beef cattle production in Montana and throughout the United States.

WESTERN REGION - NEW MEXICO

Bonnie Hopkins – 10 Years

Bonnie Hopkins- Byers has served San Juan County New Mexico as the Agriculture Agent for 10 years. Bonnie's program efforts have served all aspects of agriculture but extensively in Food System Development. She has done extensive grant funding with more than 1.1 million dollars for support and development of the Growing Forward Farm project. Bonnie has a lifelong relationship in the Four-Corners region and her efforts to support producers in this region are evident.



WESTERN REGION - UTAH

Andree Walker Bravo – 15 Years



Andree Walker Bravo has worked for USU Extension in multiple capacities for 15 years. Her role includes faculty duties focusing on urban homesteading and sustainability as well as statewide administrative work as the Director for County Operations. Andree specializes in beekeeping and developed a season-long beekeeping course that sells out each year and teaching/demonstration apiaries at a local farm. In addition, Andree works with Extension employees statewide offering leadership, capacity building and professional development opportunities.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - IOWA

Terry Torneten – 22 Years

Director of a four-county region Terry is the manager of programming, promoting county delivery of horticulture education, applicator recertification, beef nutrition, calving clinics and 4-H that have engaged varied agricultural audiences. He serves on state-wide professional development committees. He is a source of knowledge to many and a great mentor and supervisor to the counties he serves. He is active in the IA Ag Extension Association serving as committee chair and is past treasurer.



WESTERN REGION - WYOMING

Chance Marshall – 10 Years

Chance Marshall has been and an Agriculture and Natural Resource educator since January of 2014. He resides with his wife and two children in Lander Wyoming. He specializes in assisting University of Wyoming ag-clientele with livestock production systems. Some of his highlight programs throughout his career include the Fremont County Farm and Ranch Days, Cattle Artificial Insemination schools, 307 Livestock Show clinics, the Lander Valley Garden Expo, and the Wyoming Ranch Camp program.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - KANSAS

Stacie Edgett-Minson – 27 Years



Stacie Edgett-Minson has provided leadership in agricultural programming thru K-State Research & Extension in Northwest and West Central Kansas for 27 years. Her current role as a Watershed Specialist charges her with water quality protection and improvement thru an approved 9-Element Watershed Protection Plan. She implements the goals of the plan by collaborating with local landowners and installing Best Management Practices to reduce Total Maximum Daily Loads in local watersheds.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - ILLINOIS

Doug Gucker – 10 Years



Doug is a University of Illinois Extension educator, Local Food Systems and Small Farms team, as well as a member of the Commercial Agriculture team. His focus over the past 10 years was to show the importance of high value crops and livestock to the economic viability of Illinois farms, small and large. His focus is on: integrated pest management, farm management, forages and grazing, fruit and vegetable production, field crops and small ruminants.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - MICHIGAN

Mike Metzger – 23 Years

Mike Metzger is a Michigan State University Extension small ruminant statewide extension educator. Mike is based in the Jackson County MSU Extension Office. Mike works with sheep and goat producers to improve on farm management and farm profitability. Mike's specialty is in the commercial dairy goat industry.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - MINNESOTA

Angie Peltier – 12 Years



Angie Peltier provides education regarding soybean and corn production primarily to crop producers and ag service providers in northwest Minnesota. Key project and programming topics reflect her love of biology and include disease and pest ID, scouting and management and pesticide safety. Angie provides leadership on internal consultative committees and multiple bi-state conference planning committees. She enjoys in-person, web-based, radio and written communication of how best to manage given conditions during the growing season.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - MISSOURI

Joni Harper – 17 Years

Joni Harper joined University of Missouri Extension as an agronomy specialist in March of 2007. In 2022, she became a natural resources field specialist covering 26 counties in Missouri. The diversity in her coverage area allows her to provide educational programs addressing such topics as beekeeping, native warm season grass production, QPR (suicide prevention) and woodland management. She is an active member of Missouri Agricultural Extension Professionals Association and NACAA, serving in several leadership positions.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - NEBRASKA

Wayne Ohnesorg – 15 Years



Water and Cropping Systems educator focused on entomology. Through his work in insect identification and management, he has authored/coauthored 11 extension print publications, six mobile device apps, one 4-H manual, and edits portions of the Nebraska Extension's Weed, Disease, Insect Guide. His annual reach through workshops, meetings, and media average >3 million points of contact. Under his supervision, the local Master Gardener program has volunteered 17,950 hours, worth \$425,780 and donated monetarily an additional >\$21,000.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - NORTH DAKOTA

Chris Augustin – 15 Years

Chris started his Extension career as a nutrient management specialist where he worked with farmers' and ranchers' fertility programs. Afterwards, Chris became the soil health Extension specialist where he led outreach efforts that empowered Extension agents and producers to address various soil issues. Chris now serves as director of the NDSU - Dickinson Research Extension Center where he leads a team that focuses on research and outreach for southwest North Dakota.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - OHIO

Gary Y. Gao – 29 Years



Dr. Gao is a professor and small fruit specialist with OSU. He also served as a horticulture extension educator in Ohio. He has secured many extension, research or training grants totaling around \$2 million. He was the editor and a co-author of the award winning "Midwest Home Fruit Production Guide" and a co-author of "Midwest Blueberry Production Guide." His scholarly works have reached tens of thousands of growers and gardeners.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - OHIO

Amanda Douridas – 15 Years

Amanda Douridas is the Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator Madison County. She works with a variety of clientele conducting on-farm research in agronomy, developing local food policy, and working with Master Gardener Volunteers to address horticultural needs. She has conducted over 20 research projects since 2020 and serves as a co-leader of the OSU Extension Agronomy Team. She is also a co-host of the Agronomy and Farm Management Podcast which has around 800 followers.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - SOUTH DAKOTA

Dr. Bob Thaler – 35 Years



Bob Thaler has been the SD State Swine Extension Specialist for 35+ years. Bob has served as Animal Science department head, Extension Ag Program Leader, and is currently the SDSU Swine Extension Specialist. Bob has spearheaded several projects during his tenure including: hosting area 'swine days', leading CAFO trainings, and recently working on an interdisciplinary swine manure project with the National Pork Board. Bob believes NACAA develops the teamwork that is essential in Extension programming.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - WISCONSIN

Sandra M. Stuttgen – 11.5 Years

Sandy Stuttgen is an associate professor with UW Division of Extension and serves as the agriculture educator for Taylor County. Her focus areas include cattle well-being and quality assurance programming, farm financial risk management, and farm succession. She joined Extension following a career as a large animal, predominately dairy veterinarian. Sandy earned a Bachelor of Science in bacteriology from UW-Madison and her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the UW-School of Veterinary Medicine.



NORTHEAST REGION - MARYLAND

Paul Goeringer – 12 Years



Paul Goeringer is an Extension Legal Specialist at the University of Maryland, focusing on agricultural leases, energy leases, landowner liability, production contracts, agricultural nuisance issues, environmental law, and estate planning issues impacting agricultural producers in Maryland. He is a past board member of the American Agricultural Law Association, active member of Agriculture Law Section of the Maryland State Bar Association, a member of the Southern Agricultural Economics Association and the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association.

NORTHEAST REGION - NEW JERSEY

Sal Mangiafico – 15 Years

Sal Mangiafico joined Rutgers in 2009, was promoted with tenure in 2015, and awarded the NACAA Achievement Award in 2019. He serves as County Extension Department Head for Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Cumberland County, and Undergraduate Program Director for the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. His original undergraduate courses and public teaching, extension practice, and service all focus on water pollution prevention, water conservation, environmentally-friendly horticulture, stormwater management, and local water quality issues.



NORTHEAST REGION - PENNSYLVANIA

Leon Ressler – 36 Years



Leon began his career as an educator focused on Ag and the Environment with programs on Nutrient Management, Composting, and Water Quality in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. In 2001 he was appointed County Extension Director in Lancaster County. In 2012 he was appointed District Director for Lancaster, Lebanon, and Chester Counties. In 2017 Leon transitioned back to an agronomy educator position focused on crop production, pesticide education, plain sect outreach, and water quality programs.

NORTHEAST REGION - WEST VIRGINIA

Greg Hamons – 15 Years

Greg Hamons is a Agriculture Agent with West Virginia University Extension Service. Beginning in 2009 Agent Hamons has had a broad array of programs focusing on livestock marketing, quality assurance, forages, livestock grazing, pesticide application, certification, meat science, processing, horticulture, forestry, youth agriculture, and 4-H. Greg and his wife, Dwan, live with their 2 children, Sienna and RileyAnn, on their farm in Pocahontas County where they keep 100 head of cattle, horses, and sheep.



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



**2024
Southern Region
Hall of Fame Award
Kenneth White
Texas
33 Years - Retired**



Being from a farming family in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, Kenneth White knew he wanted to be involved in Agriculture. After graduation from Edcouch-Elsa High School he attended Southwest Texas Junior College in Uvalde, Texas achieving an associate degree. He had always wanted to go to Texas A&M and become a County Extension Agent.

In 1974 after graduation from Texas A&M with a degree in Agricultural Education he was offered several positions as Assistant County Agricultural Agent. Being from the Rio Grande Valley of Texas he accepted the position in Liberty, a county with rice and soybeans of which he said he knew nothing about but was willing to learn. His parents, trainer agents and professors had always told him to work hard and do a good job and you'll never have to look for work. They were all correct. He had the privilege of working in Liberty, Goliad, Collin, and Uvalde Counties during his thirty-three-year career. Dr. Seaman Knapp's famous quote, "What a man hears he may doubt, what he sees he may possibly doubt but what he himself does he cannot doubt." That quote stuck with him throughout his career and has been his focus in educating producers with the use of result demonstrations.

In 1994 he accepted the County Extension Agent job in Uvalde, Texas. Uvalde is in what is known as the Winter Garden Region of Texas due to the mild winters where several winter vegetables are grown. As with many minor commodities there is a lack of funding at the national or university level to address the problems of insects, diseases or weed control. In 1995 working with the growers in the area they were able to pass the first vegetable



commodity check off program in the state. The Wintergarden Spinach Producers Board was organized in October 1995 and to date has funded over \$760,000.00 in research projects to address issues facing the industry.

Kenneth retired in 2007 and many people said you will be bored, you're too young or you'll go crazy sitting at the house doing nothing. He continues to serve as the Executive Director of the Wintergarden Spinach Producers Board and has served fifteen years as a Director on Medina Electric Cooperative Board which serves seventeen counties in South Texas serving as President the past five years. Medina Electric elected White as a Director on San Miguel Electric Cooperative an area Generation and Transmission Cooperative serving nine distribution cooperatives and has served twelve years and Board President the past four years. White also serves as the Fire Chief of Reagan Wells Volunteer Fire Department and a Deacon at Reagan Wells Baptist Church.

White has been actively involved in both the state and national associations, holding various positions throughout his career and attending twenty-five consecutive AM/PIC's. One of Kenneth's most enjoyable activities is getting together with fellow NACAA members he has met throughout the nation for the Annual NACAA Hunt at the Flying H Ranch in Llano.

Years of CES Service: 33

2024
Western Region
Hall of Fame Award
Charles Cheyney
Idaho
31 Years - Retired



Chad Cheyney was truly an outstanding county Extension educator. His commitment and dedication to his county, stakeholders, community, and colleagues serves as a stellar example for Extension professionals as a model for a successful, impactful Extension career. His use of participatory and experiential teaching methods helped increase the adoption of best management practices in agricultural practices among farmers and livestock producers. This stakeholder group continues to practice the methods Chad demonstrated and taught to improve their operations. During his 31-year Extension career, Chad conducted numerous demonstration and applied research trials in biocontrol of leafy spurge, alfalfa fertilization, effective herbicide use in alfalfa, cereal grain and cereal forage varieties, livestock grazing methods, nitrogen fertilizer materials in pasture, nitrogen application and loss-inhibiting factors in soft white wheat, and others. Chad was a prolific writer and authored and/or co-authored two book chapters, several journal articles, and numerous Extension publications over the course of his career. He presented the results of his work at local, state, regional, and national meetings. He led the development of the Lost Rivers Grazing Academy which is an applied science grazing

course focused on management-intensive grazing of irrigated pastures. This program has continued after 23 successful years, reaching attendees from over twelve different states and three countries. The program was recognized in 2006 as the national winner of the NACAA SFE award in livestock production. Chad continues to co-organize and teach this program seven full years after his retirement.

Association involvement

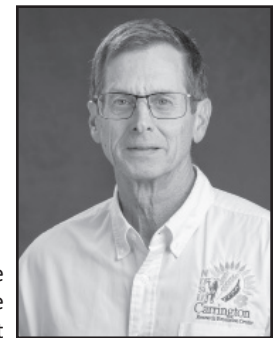
Chad has been active in NACAA and IACAA since 1986. He served as IACAA Junior Director (1998-99); IACAA Senior Director (2000-2001) and IACAA President (1992-93). He chaired the national Program Development Committee (1997-1999). He was a member of the awards committee (1992-1995) and co-chaired the awards committee (1997-99). In 2011-12, Chad was a planning committee member for the Western Region NACAA PIC. During his Extension career, Chad attended the majority of IACAA annual meetings and summer tours, and conferences. He helped organize and host several of the IACAA summer meetings and tours. He attended several NACAA AM/PICs throughout his career. Chad received the NACAA Distinguished Service Award for Idaho (2003).

Humanitarian/leadership

Chad had has a remarkable community service record. He is a member of the Arco Lions Club (1988-current). He volunteered on the Lost River Ambulance as an emergency medical technician for 7 years. He has volunteered on the ski patrol at both Grand Targhee and Blizzard Mountain ski resorts since 1993. Chad has served in various capacities at the Epiphany Episcopal Church. He and his wife Terri have managed the community food bank since 2010. Chad continues to volunteer at numerous events in his community and Idaho. Additionally, Chad mentored numerous faculty members and graduate students. He was dedicated to teaching all new faculty and was always available to assist them in any manner with their career and their achievement of success. He continues to serve his community, colleagues, friends, family, and country as a true role model and public servant.

Years of CES Service: 31

2024
North Central Region
Hall of Fame Award
Gregory Endres
North Dakota
40 Years



Greg has served NDSU Extension for 40 years, including the past 33 years as Cropping Systems Specialist, based at the Carrington Research Extension Center (CREC). In his current position, the priority audience is crop advisers, and specifically Extension county ag agents. He serves North Dakota agents with a focused in-service

program including annual spring agronomy updates, in-season crop Zoom calls, individual and group field days, individual consultation, presentations during winter meetings and summer tours, and including their involvement in field research and surveys.

Examples of Greg's programming for crop advisers and farmers include the CREC Crop Management Field School, Advanced Crop Advisers Workshop (ACAW), and Getting-it-Right (GIR) in Crop Production. He is co-chair of the ACAW (since 1993) conducted by NDSU and University of Minnesota Extension serving 150 to 175 persons per workshop (over 5000 during past 30 years) through in-depth training of selected crop production issues. Greg serves as co-chair of the GIR program initiated for soybean over a decade ago to provide NDSU production research updates and recommendations. Since 2020, the program expanded to dry bean, canola, flax, sunflower and corn, primarily delivered virtually (Zoom). The GIR program directly reaching over 2000 persons is another example of successful Extension programming through Greg's work in program planning, moderating, presenting and evaluation.

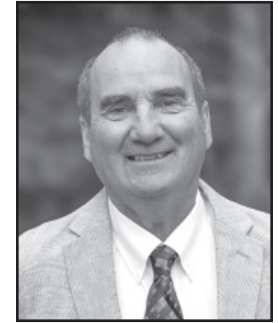
Greg's agronomy focus for educational programs and research during the past two decades has been row crops, primarily soybean and dry bean. His research and educational efforts corresponded with the growth of soybean acres in North Dakota starting in the mid-1990's (less than 500,000 acres) and reaching the status of highest acreage crop (greater than 5 million acres) in the state in 2016. Greg has annually devoted about 20% of his time to research. Taking a research idea from a stakeholder; planning and implementing field research; analyzing data; presenting to clientele during educational events; and publishing in research and Extension documents has been routinely achieved.

Greg has had a high and consistent productivity throughout his career. For example, between 2014 and 2022, he has delivered over 400 presentations to nearly 25,000 agricultural clients, delivered over 200 media outreach programs, published 28 Extension publications (14 as main author) and over 130 research reports, and directly consulted with an estimated 23,000 individuals. His work has been widely recognized with awards and honors that recognize excellence from NDSU and including NACAA.

Greg has been a member of the North Dakota Association of Agricultural Extension Agents (NDAAEA) since 1983. Has served NDAAEA in numerous leadership positions including as president, secretary and committee chairs. He has participated in numerous NACAA AM/PICs including poster and oral presentations, and received numerous communication awards. In addition to his Extension career, Greg has been an active community volunteer, primarily in youth (e.g. 4-H and FFA) and faith programs.

Years of CES Service: 40

**2024
Northeast Region
Hall of Fame Award
Richard Brzozowski
Maine
35 Years - Retired**



Dr. Brzozowski's exceptional commitment to the mission of Extension is evident in the substantial impact he has made through his extensive volume of educational programs, contributions to statewide leadership, and his remarkable success in securing over \$1.9 million in grant funds for diverse research and educational initiatives. His influence spans from county-based educational programs supporting sustainable agriculture and home horticulture to statewide responsibilities as a small ruminant & poultry specialist, illustrating his dedication to collaborative efforts with a variety of agricultural producers. Dr. Brzozowski's leadership in farm safety, particularly through the Maine AgrAbility program, highlights his commitment to addressing the unique and underserved needs of his audience. Highlighted achievements in his educational programs since 2011 underscore his effectiveness. Notable examples include the Farm Tractor Safety course, resulting in job placements and increased safety consciousness among participants. His outreach to Maine Goat and Sheep producers has positively impacted income through the adoption of new guidelines and practices. Additionally, his leadership in applied poultry science projects and the Maine AgrAbility program emphasizes his commitment to enhancing the well-being of farmers, forest workers, and fishermen with disabilities. Brzozowski was instrumental in bringing the Maine Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV) program out of dormancy in 1988. The MGV program is now one of the most popular educational programs of UMaine Extension with over 1,200 MGV across the state.

Dr. Brzozowski's multifaceted approach is further showcased through his involvement in applied research, national conference presentations, and the integration of research findings into educational programs. Serving as the Nat. Chair for the Program Recognition Council and the Nat. Chair for the Search for Excellence at the NACAA attests to his leadership on a national level.

Transitioning into a Program Administrator(PA) role in 2015 until his retirement in 2022, Dr. Brzozowski served as the State Program Leader for the Maine Food System. In this capacity, he provided administrative support for three counties, supervised 32 faculty and staff, and served as the Director for the Maine Food and Agriculture Center. His engagement in professional development, participation in the Supervisory Development Institute, and enrollment in relevant courses reflected his commitment to enhancing his skills as a PA.

Demonstrating a forward-thinking approach, Dr. Brzozowski identified challenges and opportunities facing UMaine Extension, setting strategic goals and implementing creative

strategies to address them. His proactive engagement within the Maine Food System community solidified his reputation as an excellent ambassador for UMaine Extension.

Dr. Brzozowski has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to service starting in his days as a US Navy Seabee in the Construction Battalion from 1973 to 1977. He later became a Vocational Agriculture Instructor teaching learning disabled high school students on a school farm in the early 1980s. From there, he became a staff member of Christian Campus House in Columbia, MO where he directed outreach to the international population (students and refugees) as part of a Christian friendship program where he helped meet spiritual, physical and social needs of people from other cultures and taught others to do the same.

Years of CES Service: 35

2024

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 2024. 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-one recipients join 2,557 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, July 16, 2024

MENU

Scrambled Eggs, Corn Tortilla, Peppers, Onions, Pepper Jack, Salsa

PROGRAM

Welcome Ed Lentz
Chair, NACAA Recognition & Awards Committee

Thought of the Day.....Victoria Xiong
Western 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 Keith Mickler)



SOUTHERN REGION - ALABAMA

Elizabeth Yates – 9 Years



As 4-H Youth Development Coordinator for Marengo County, she has developed and delivered educational programs for nine years. For 7 years, she served as mentor to other 4-H agents in a ten-county region. Her county has a strong poultry program and has had two teams represent Alabama 4-H at the national level. Her primary career goal is to help youth develop life skills through 4-H projects that will prepare them to be thriving adults.

SOUTHERN REGION - ALABAMA

David Russell – 5 Years

Dr. David Russell is an Assistant Research and Extension Professor for Auburn University and Alabama Extension where he has been employed since 2019. He has undergraduate degrees in Landscape Architecture and Landscape Contracting, M.S. degree in Agronomy and PhD in Weed Science from Mississippi State University. David has statewide responsibilities in row crops, forages, and non-crop. He has authored or co-authored 5 peer-reviewed papers, 21 Extension publications, 48 meeting abstracts, and is advising multiple students.



SOUTHERN REGION - ALABAMA

Dylan L. Gilbert – 2 Years



Dylan's representation of extension in various subject areas has been outstanding. Specifically, his work with the Northwest AL animal projects, school based aeroponic systems and pioneering the first bottle calf project in Alabama. His willingness to assist others succeed in their endeavors is unmatched. His service is a testament of success not only within the confines of the county he serves, but also the success of surrounding counties, extension, AL 4-H and Auburn University.

SOUTHERN REGION - ARKANSAS

Bob Powell – 7 Years

Bob Powell has served Yell County as the county agent since April 2016. He is the Staff Chair, Agriculture Agent, and provides support for the 4-H program. His primary focus areas are livestock, forages, row crops, home horticulture, and the 4-H livestock projects. He has developed programming to serve cattle producers and row crop farmers and works closely with his producers to help them become successful.



SOUTHERN REGION - ARKANSAS

Tyler Caston – 8 Years



Tyler has served as a County Extension Agent since 2015. He is the Agriculture Agent and Staff Chair for Stone County. He provides education in livestock, forages, commercial and home horticulture. He works with 4-H youth to teach life and leadership skills, as well as educate them in agriculture, STEM, and outdoor skills. He also works closely with volunteer community members and elected officials to provide community economic development programs to improve Stone County.

SOUTHERN REGION - ARKANSAS

Courteney Sisk – 6 Years

Courteney has been in Lawrence County for almost six years. Her responsibilities include educating producers in Corn, Soybeans, Wheat, Livestock, and Forage, emphasizing Rice, Soybeans, and Horticulture. She works closely with the county's Five Rivers Master Gardeners. She works with the area 4-H youth and co-leads a yearly 4-H summer camp. As an additional way to reach youth in the county, she takes agriculture programs into the area schools on Embryology, Horticulture, and Row Crops.



SOUTHERN REGION - FLORIDA

Tatiana Sanchez-Jones – 7 Years

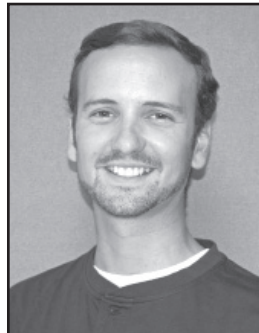


Tatiana Sanchez-Jones, Commercial Horticulture Agent, and has excelled at developing and implementing creative programs for watermelons, beekeeping, ag entrepreneurship, greenhouse hydroponics, pesticide safety, and environmental stewardship. Her work has been recognized with 1 national, 2 national finalists and 2 regional awards. Her service to her profession is extensive serving on one national and several state committees, playing key roles when Florida hosted the 2022 AM/PIC, and presenting 4 oral and 2 poster presentations at NACAA.

SOUTHERN REGION - FLORIDA

Ethan Carter – 7 Years

Ethan Carter is the NW District Crop RSA based in Jackson County. His focus is row crops and pesticide education. Recognized by peers at state and national levels, he has developed high-quality deliverables and sought monetary and in-kind contributions to support his Extension program. In FACAA, Ethan has served on six committees, as District I Junior & Senior Director. His programs have earned three Search for Excellence Awards, the Dallas Townsend & Art Hornsby Awards.



SOUTHERN REGION - FLORIDA

Alicia Halbritter – 6 Years



In her 6-year career, Alicia has taught over 120 group teaching events and developed over 475 creative works, receiving 24 awards for these creative works and overall program excellence. She has presented work at 14 FACAA/NACAA conferences, has attended every NACAA AM/PIC since being hired, and helped facilitate virtual AM/PICs for 2 years. Alicia is an integral member of FACAA and has served as District Director, co-chaired multiple committees, and is active in special projects.

SOUTHERN REGION - GEORGIA

Savannah Tanner – 7 Years

Tanner works diligently with producers across a variety of sectors within agriculture. Focusing mainly on row crops, Vidalia Onions, and livestock and forages, the agent works with local producers to promote and encourage sustainable, economical, and practical farming practices within their operations. The agent focuses her research efforts on water conservation, integrated pest management, and other farming practices that achieves those sustainable, economical, and practical goals the agricultural industry has.



SOUTHERN REGION - GEORGIA

Greg Huber – 8 Years



Huber administers the Georgia Certified Landscape and Plant Professional programs for the Georgia Center for Urban Agriculture, providing a trusted benchmark for green industry education, promoting best practices, and creating professional development opportunities that result in higher wages and career advancement among industry workers. His collaborative outreach efforts with UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant, the UGA Small Business Development Center, Extension Agents, and Specialists have earned state, regional, and national recognition.

SOUTHERN REGION - GEORGIA

Holly Anderson – 8 Years

Mrs. Anderson has been the Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent for Ben Hill for over eight years. Through innovative planning and needs assessment methods, Mrs. Anderson has developed a broad range of educational programs that produced results for the county, regional, state, and national clientele. She has many programmatic and professional accomplishments in Agricultural Profitability and Sustainability including peanut variety selection and management, cotton varieties selection, and forage management.



SOUTHERN REGION - KENTUCKY

Kendal Bowman – 5 Years



Kendal has served 5 years as Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources. Prior, he served multiple counties in an at-large position. He has helped to rebuild the local cattlemen's association, partnered with livestock markets to develop two monthly livestock educational series, taught AI sessions for the region and 4 states. Led a national effort aiding Nebraska farmers during devastating floods. Took lead in collecting over \$20,000 of materials to help producers after devastating tornado's.

SOUTHERN REGION - KENTUCKY

April Wilhoit – 7 Years

Since 2017, April has worked to provide diverse educational programming for the farmers, homeowners, businesses, and horticulturalists in Fleming County. Over the past seven years April has brought back educational field days and hands-on programming to the county, as well as incorporate virtual educational opportunities for learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. April works closely with producers in the community by listening to their needs and providing educational programming and educational topics in the monthly Newsletter.



SOUTHERN REGION - KENTUCKY

Adam Huber – 6 Years



In his six years of service, Adam has provided the stakeholders in Allen County with numerous educational opportunities. Adam's programming is diverse, he has offered programs such as: wildlife habitat management, home and commercial horticulture, livestock production & management and farm business management. Adam collaborates regularly with FCS, 4-H, Agriculture Specialist and other ANR agents in his area to provide learning opportunities for all extension clientele.

SOUTHERN REGION - LOUISIANA

Ashley Edwards – 4 Years

Ashley Edwards serves as the Extension Beef Cattle Specialist for the LSU AgCenter. She coordinates and develops state-wide beef cattle extension programs, has research focused on beef cattle production, and assists with 4-H livestock programs. She completed a B.S. in Animal Science and Ph.D. in Physiology of Reproduction at Texas A&M University. Prior to working with the LSU AgCenter, she was an Assistant Professor of Animal Science at Louisiana Tech University.



SOUTHERN REGION - MISSISSIPPI

Keri Jones – 6 Years



Keri Jones is the Soil Testing Laboratory Coordinator at Mississippi State University. She provides oversight for the laboratory and works to promote soil testing in the state.

SOUTHERN REGION - MISSISSIPPI

Kelby King – 5 Years

Kelby King, Extension Agent, serves as the Agriculture and Natural Resources and 4-H projects in Jasper County, MS. He is a graduate of Mississippi State University and has served with Mississippi State University Extension Service for eight years. Kelby serves his clientele through programs such as the Poultry Hatch-out, Farm Safety Day, Beef Tours, Cattle Marketing, 4-H Livestock, 4-H Shooting Sports, and 4-H Horse.



SOUTHERN REGION - MISSISSIPPI

Hunter Null – 4 Years



Hunter Null has served the Mississippi State University Extension Service for four years as an Agriculture/ Natural Resource/4-H Extension Agent, first in Benton County and currently in Alcorn County. He received a bachelor's degree in Agriculture Science and a master's degree in Agribusiness Management from Mississippi State University. As a member of the Mississippi Association of County Agricultural Agents, Hunter has served as the Membership Chair, Junior Director, and currently Senior Director for the Northeast District.

SOUTHERN REGION - NORTH CAROLINA

Austin Brown – 8 Years

Austin Brown began his career with N.C. Cooperative Extension as the Camden County Agriculture Agent in 2016. Austin consistently strives to tailor local program offerings to address emerging issues in the agricultural community. He has collaborated with neighboring County Agents to implement 113 on-farm corn, soybean, & wheat demonstration trials and host 13 regional field days, established research and monitoring efforts to address local topics, taught pesticide safety trainings, and supported 4-H agriculture programs.



SOUTHERN REGION - NORTH CAROLINA

Leslie Rose – 7 Years



Leslie Rose has served as a Horticulture Agent at North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Forsyth County Center, since June 2016. In this role, Leslie provides horticulture education for community members of all ages, manages the Forsyth County Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program, and serves as Director of the Arboretum at Tanglewood Park. Leslie works to ensure that community members appreciate plants and have the skills they need to grow healthy gardens and landscapes.

SOUTHERN REGION - NORTH CAROLINA

Joe Deal – 8 Years

Joe Deal has served as the livestock agent in Macon County for eight years. He has helped to grow the agriculture industry in the county by being a trusted resource for producers. Growing up on a farm in Macon County, Joe has a lifetime of experience and passion for agriculture. Producers can count on Joe to be a resource when making production decisions, diagnosing disease problems or recommending best management practices on their farm.



SOUTHERN REGION - NORTH CAROLINA

Liz Joseph – 9 Years



Since the day she was hired as our livestock agent, she has brought life to the livestock program in Cumberland and Hoke Counties. Liz is extremely knowledgeable and provides our clientele with excellent technical assistance and recommendations. She has a strong work ethic and often goes beyond the call of duty to make sure our office is well represented.

SOUTHERN REGION - NORTH CAROLINA

Marshall Warren – 8 Years

Marshall Warren is recognized for his outstanding achievements serving as the Commercial and Consumer Horticulture Agent in Johnston County NC for the past eight years. He is viewed as an expert by commercial horticultural businesses and residents of Johnston County. Marshall has established a large and vibrant Master Gardener program that expands the reach of cooperative extension and provides educational programs emphasizing best management practices to meet the many challenges green industry professionals face.



SOUTHERN REGION - OKLAHOMA

Bradley Secraw – 9 Years



Brad serves Cleveland County with programming including pasture fertility and weed control, beef cattle nutrition, backyard poultry, and meat rabbits. He has partnered with neighboring county educators; district and state specialists; and community cooperators for programs such as Poultry Conference and Cattle Conferences, Prescribed Fire Field Day, Master Cattlemen, Forage Foundations, Cow/Calf Boot Camp, and Meat Goat Boot Camp. He has served in multiple roles in the OAEAA state association, including most recently as Treasurer.

SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Matthew March – 6 Years

Matthew March has served as Polk County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources since 2018. March diverse programming efforts have focused on beef cattle and forage production, timber management, habitat restoration, and produce production. March has overseen the development of the Polk County animal shelter plan for disasters. March provides leadership as the advisor for the local Master Naturalist chapter and senior citizen community garden and currently serves as the D5 TCAAA Alternate Director.



SOUTHERN REGION - SOUTH CAROLINA

Sarah Scott – 9 Years

Sarah Scott serves as an area commercial fruit and vegetable agent with Clemson Extension. She covers multiple counties in, what is known as, “The Ridge” area of the state. Her focus is on commercial peach production. She enjoys working one-on-one with growers in the field as well as lending a hand to specialists and researchers through trial work and educational programming. Sarah also has enjoyed serving the SCACAA as the communications award chair since 2019.



SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Michael Bowman – 9 Years



After completing his education at West Texas A&M University, Michael Bowman returned to his hometown of Crowell where he has been the Ag/Natural Resources Extension Agent for the past nine years. Being the sole agent in Foard County, his programming includes everything from cow/calf clinics, to small grain wheat tours, to 4-H and youth programming. Bowman is a part of the yearly multi-state Red River Crops Conference and the multi-county Sheep and Goat University programs.

SOUTHERN REGION - SOUTH CAROLINA

Mallory Maher – 8 Years



Mallory Maher is a Natural Resources Extension Associate with Clemson Extension. She first started her career in 2016 as a 4-H Agent. She recently switched to a statewide role specializing in online and hybrid natural resources programs. In addition, Mallory is a Certified Wildlife Biologist, South Carolina Statewide Master Naturalist, and serves on the National Wildlife Habitat Education Program Committee.

SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Megan Carter – 4 Years

Megan Carter began her career as County Extension Agent in 2019 in Chambers County. She currently oversees the Agriculture Program Committee that focuses on rice and beef production. She also works alongside emergency management officials throughout the region to coordinate for natural disasters within the area. Since starting the job, she has obtained the 4-H Coordinator role and works heavily with 4-H members livestock projects, livestock judging teams and shooting sports teams.



SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Megan Eikner – 6 Years



Eikner has also built a strong 4-H veterinary science certificate program serving multiple counties in District 1. Her program provides students with 100 lessons in veterinary medicine. The program also includes laboratory and clinical study opportunities that prepare and qualify students for the Vet Assistant Certificate from Texas A&M and gains students the required clinical hours to qualify to take the Certified Veterinary Assistant exam with Texas Veterinary Medical Association.

SOUTHERN REGION - VIRGINIA

Sarah Sharpe – 8 Years

Sarah Sharpe is the Ag Agent in Greene County, with a programmatic emphasis on commercial horticulture and local foods. Since 2016, Sarah has focused on creating regional programs for beginning farmers, women in agriculture and produce safety. She also delivers local programming for beef cattle producers. Sarah is the VAAEA Early Career Development Chair, and has co-lead an effort to develop a new ANR Agent onboarding. Sarah also served VAAEA as the 2023 president.



SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Michelle Moss – 5 Years

Michelle Moss joined extension in 2018. As a single agent Michelle works closely with Master Gardeners, Adult Leaders, Volunteers and committees to provide a wide variety of programs for youth and adults. Additionally she works closely with other counties to provide programs including a successful Youth Track to the Annual SE Texas Beef Symposium. She currently serves as a D9 Animal Industry Representative, the D9 TAE4-HYDP treasurer and the D9 TCAAA Alternate Director.



WESTERN REGION - ARIZONA

Ethan Orr – 4 Years



Over the past two years Ethan has worked with the legislature to increase Extension/Agriculture funding by over \$116 million, including a 102% increase for Extension. In 2023, he started a new program that has educated over 2000 farmers, conserved over 36,400waf, attracted over \$17 million in private sector investment and led to the creation of a new irrigation patent. Additionally, in 2022 he created an agriculture apprentice program that currently works with over 100 farms.

SOUTHERN REGION - TEXAS

Andrew Lewis – 5 Years

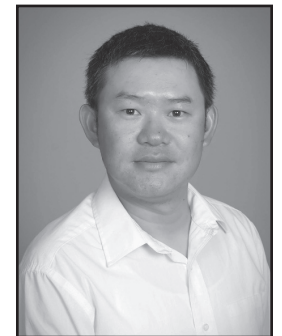


Andrew Lewis has served as the Agricultural & Natural Resources agent in Navarro County since 2020. His programming efforts and partnerships provide substantial educational opportunities in new and small landowner & resource management. His commitment to volunteer development for Navarro County has furthered an increase in enrollment, livestock programs, and competitive teams. Andrew received a B.S. from Tarleton State University and is finishing his M.S. from Tarleton State University in the Spring of 2025.

WESTERN REGION - CALIFORNIA

Zheng Wang – 6 Years

Dr. Wang serves as the Vegetable Crops and Irrigation Farm Advisor for the northern San Joaquin Valley. His extension and research program focuses on implementing innovative production practices to enhance vegetable productivity, water use efficiency, and crop health through multi-disciplinary collaborations with growers, industry, and commodity organizations. He leads the university's vegetable grafting team, which has generated tremendous horticultural benefits and an added economic value of 20 million dollars for California vegetable industry and beyond.



WESTERN REGION - COLORADO

Kimberly Peters – 9 Years



Kim Peters has served Las Animas County, Colorado as the Extension Specialist for 4-H and agriculture since 2018, after an extension career in Texas. With community partners, Kim brings her residents programming on small acreage, range, and farm/ranch management. Additionally, Kim facilitates STEM in-school programming. She now manages the annual Trinidad Water Festival, where 1,500 students from two states learn how water affects our lives. Kim thrives working with others to create rich programming experiences.

WESTERN REGION - IDAHO

Meranda Small – 8 Years

Meranda began her Extension career with the University of Idaho in May 2014. Her program efforts focus on beef cattle production and operational management education for producers, preparing the next generation of cattle producers through the Young Cattle Producer’s Conference, and offering animal science education for youth in 4-H. Additionally, she serves as one of the Beef Quality Assurance State Coordinators in partnership with the Idaho Beef Council. Go Vandals!



WESTERN REGION - MONTANA

Mat Walter – 9 Years



Mat Walter is in his ninth year as a Montana State University Extension Agent. Mat is a tenured member of the MSU Faculty and specializes in pesticide education as the Agriculture and Natural Resource Agent for Lewis and Clark County in Helena, Montana.

WESTERN REGION - NEW MEXICO

Talisha LaRae Valdez – 6 Years

Talisha Valdez has worked for Union County Extension for 6 years as the County Agent serving all program areas: Agriculture, Family and Consumer Science, 4-H, and Community and Economic Development. A third generation Extension Agent, she is extremely engaged with all areas of her program and strives to improve the lives of county clientele with meaningful Extension work. Talisha is highly motivated and looked to by her Extension peers as a “go-to” Extension professional.



WESTERN REGION - OREGON

Jenifer Cruickshank – 8 Years



Jenifer is the state Dairy Extension Specialist. She initially joined OSU in 2016, as field faculty in dairy management, serving the Willamette Valley. Jenifer’s work with producers has an overarching theme of reducing stress for cattle and people on dairy operations. Her particular interests include genetics and genomics, calf health, heat stress, vertebrate pest management, and disaster planning. Jenifer also regularly engages with human nutrition professionals and others, providing fact-based information on the dairy industry.

WESTERN REGION - UTAH

Jacob Hadfield – 4 Years

Jacob “Jake” Hadfield joined USU Extension in 2019 as the Ag/NR Faculty for Juab and Utah Counties, emphasizing Agricultural Economics. Under his leadership, he revived programs like Livestock Education Nights and County Crop Schools, and manages the Utah County Farm Field Days, benefiting 4,000+ second graders annually. Additionally, Jake champions mental health support for Utah’s agriculture producers, securing over \$200,000 for mental health services and facilitating 1,000+ therapy sessions statewide.



WESTERN REGION - WYOMING

Jaycie Arndt – 4 Years



Jaycie is a statewide extension educator and coordinator for UW IMAGINE (Institute for Managing Annual Grasses Invading Natural Ecosystems). Her program focuses on range management and weed science with a concentration on invasive annual grasses. She conducts research, develops outreach material, and holds workshops and field days to educate private landowners and agencies on invasive annual grass identification, management strategies, and programmatic decision-making.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - ILLINOIS

Sarah Farley – 6 Years

Sarah Farley employs a comprehensive approach to issue identification & program development as a Local Food Systems & Small Farms Educator. Conducting needs assessments, Farley ensures a nuanced understanding of emerging trends and issues in the community. Developing a strategic approach to address local needs with state priorities. Farley is current Vice President of IEAA and is President-Elect in 2024. Her progression demonstrates her leadership skills, commitment and her contributions to the IEAA & NACAA.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - INDIANA

Abigail Heidenreich – 5 Years



Abigail Heidenreich is the Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator for Purdue Extension - Gibson County. Abby has been with Purdue Extension for 5 years and served in Orange and Gibson Counties in Indiana. Through those 5 years, she has developed numerous local programs, regional and statewide initiatives to promote agricultural awareness and education. She is passionately involved in the Purdue Extension Farm Stress Team advocating for mental health awareness among members of the agricultural community.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - IOWA

Sarah DeBour – 4 Years

Sarah DeBour joined Cerro Gordo County ISU Extension & Outreach as County Director & Agriculture and Natural Resources Program Coordinator in October of 2019. DeBour led the charge in transforming and championing agricultural education. Under her leadership, the number of programs offered has doubled with significantly increased participation. Results include Women in agriculture programs focused on Annie's Project and Agronomy in the Field, great partnerships, and education on emerging agricultural issues.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - MICHIGAN

Jeremy Jubenville – 5 Years



Jeremy is the floriculture and greenhouse extension educator for southwest Michigan. He has a B.S. in Biology from Western Michigan University, where he focused on plant biology and chemistry, and an M.S. in Entomology from Michigan State University that emphasized spatial ecology, molecular entomology, and biological control. He brings professional crop scouting and advising experience to this Extension role with interests that include: diagnostics & troubleshooting, biological control, water quality, and greenhouse technology.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - MINNESOTA

Colleen Carlson – 8 Years

Colleen serves as the Ag Production Systems Extension educator in Scott and Carver counties for University of Minnesota Extension. She engages with industry and community partners to meet urban and rural community needs. Colleen provides programming and educational resources for small farms, crops, small ruminants, livestock and poultry. In her role, she provides leadership for the Carver County Dairy and Beef Expo, Farmer to Farmer Dairy tour and is a Co-Coordinator for Minnesota's Annie's Project.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - MISSOURI

Rusty Lee – 7 Years



Rusty joined the University of Missouri Extension in April of 2016 as a regional agronomy specialist. He currently serves 10 counties in east central Missouri. Areas of concentration include private/commercial pesticide applicator training, soil fertility recommendations, utilizing cover crops for soil health as well as grazing, drip irrigation applications to row-crops, implementing integrated pest management strategies, comprehensive grazing system design and alternative winter-feeding strategies for cattle.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - NEBRASKA

Katja Koehler-Cole – 2 Years

My program focuses on agroecosystem management using biological interactions between crops and other living organisms to support healthy soils. I led and co-led ten soil health educational events reaching 658 people.

I received \$425,000 in federal funding to start an Extension organic crop program with an inaugural conference attended by 50 people.

I am the Nebraska SARE co-coordinator, awarding 12 grants for sustainable agriculture education events in Nebraska and 15 travel grants for educators.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - NORTH DAKOTA

Breana Kiser – 10 Years



Breana has been with North Dakota State University Extension-Dickey County Agent since 2014. She is passionate about livestock agriculture and youth. She is active on the animal science youth programs team, especially with the horse program. She shares her passion for horses with 4-H youth to help them achieve their goals and succeed. She enjoys working with producers to improve their operations and teaching the future of agriculture how to be successful.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - OHIO

Haley Shoemaker – 7 Years

Haley Shoemaker has worked for Ohio State University Extension since 2017, starting with the Ohio Farm Business Analysis program, then transitioned to a county-based role as the Columbiana and Mahoning County ANR Educator. She specializes in livestock production and applied on-farm financial research and serves as a state lead in livestock emergency management and crisis response. Haley also prioritizes community involvement and recently implemented a county-wide Ag Career Expo to introduce youth to agricultural careers.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - OHIO

Aaron Wilson – 6 Years



Aaron Wilson has worked for Ohio State University Extension since 2017, first as a part-time climate specialist and now serving as an Assistant Professor and Field Specialist. He also serves as the Ohio lead investigator with the North Central Climate Collaborative and is the State Climatologist of Ohio. In all his roles, Aaron focuses on the intersection of weather, climate, climate change, and variability as it relates to agricultural production and natural resources.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION - SOUTH DAKOTA

Madalyn Shires – 1.5 Years

Madalyn has served as the SDSU Extension Plant Pathology Specialist for two years, working in both row and horticultural crops. She works to raise awareness about correct identification of plant diseases for proper management strategies and fungicide use. As the Director of the Plant Diagnostic Clinic, she has interacted with over 7,500 South Dakota citizens about various plant diseases. She is an active member of NACAA, regularly attending meetings and serving on state committees.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - WISCONSIN

Natasha Paris – 1 Year



The central region of Wisconsin is home to a diversity of soils ranging from prairie to sands which are prized for their ability to grow processing vegetables. In her first two years with UW-Madison Extension, Natasha Paris has developed a program that addresses the grower needs of professional development in pest management as well as on-farm research in vegetable fertility management. She has also completed the coursework for a Master's degree in Agronomy. Northeast Region -

NORTHEAST REGION - MAINE

Bee Khim Chim – 4 Years

Dr. Bee Khim Chim, Assistant Extension Professor at the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, specializes in addressing critical production issues for agronomic crops, including potatoes, grains, and rotation crops. Bee's expertise are nutrient management, precision agriculture, weed control, and alternative crops. She collaborates directly with potato growers, implementing the latest technology and management practices in her applied research and educational programs across the state and New England.



NORTHEAST REGION - MARYLAND

Sarah M. Hirsh – 6 Years



Sarah Hirsh has been with the University of Maryland since 2018. She works in agricultural research and Extension, in areas of soil, water, and crop management. She is currently leading an Extension program to help farmers advance cover cropping and design strategic cover crops. She also has ongoing programs to help educate historically underserved farmers about conservation practices and programs, and to investigate the production of giant miscanthus as an alternative crop on marginal land.

NORTHEAST REGION - NEW JERSEY

Timothy Waller – 4 Years

Dr. Timothy Waller is the Cumberland County Agricultural Agent focused on commercial ornamental nursery crop production, including Christmas trees, in southern New Jersey. His expertise are plant pathology, insect management, and horticultural sanitation-based approaches. Tim has developed a variety of extension materials for the diverse needs of the ornamental green industries including seminars, videos, blog posts, pest scouting guides, and pathogen management resources while cooperating with state, regional, and national associations, institutions, or government groups.



NORTHEAST REGION - NEW YORK

Margaret Quaassdorff – 5 Years



Margaret Quaassdorff began her career in August 2018 with Cornell Cooperative Extension's NWN Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team as a regional Dairy Management Specialist. Margaret creates technical trainings and resources for dairy farmers and farmworkers on production and nutrition management, cow health and welfare, calf care, and precision technology. Margaret received NACAA recognition for her 2022 Calving Workshop series which was translated into Spanish and served as a template for 2023 statewide workshops.

NORTHEAST REGION - PENNSYLVANIA

Samantha Gehrett – 7 Years

Samantha Gehrett has been a Dairy Business Educator with Penn State Extension since 2017. She provides programming in Business Management. Samantha focuses on cash flow analysis, record keeping, taxation, succession/transition planning, and business planning. Her close working relationship with producers has led to building focused programming to fit their needs. Her leadership experience includes being co-leader of the dairy team, obtaining grant funding, mentoring, search committees, and several chair positions within various professional organizations.



NORTHEAST REGION - WEST VIRGINIA

Lisa Jones – 9 Years



With over a decade of experience, Lisa's passion for the education and consumption of local foods is evident. During her nine years with Extension, she has secured over \$20 million in grant funding for agricultural projects in West Virginia. She engages in food safety research, leading to eight peer-reviewed publications. Lisa also organizes the annual West Virginia Small Farm Conference, which is the largest agricultural education-focused event in West Virginia welcoming 500 attendees on average.

