

2021 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
CONFERENCE

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATORS



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Date: July 8, 2021

Contact: **Kathy Hartmann- Breunig, Executive Director**
Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators (WAAE)
PO Box 87, Sauk City, WI 53583
(608)354-6450 (voice or text)

SAUK CITY; WIS. – This year the 2021 WAAE State Special Citation Award was presented to Dr. Richard Bockhop of UW-Platteville. The award was presented at the 2021 WAAE Professional Development Conference held in La Crosse, WI June 27-29, 2021.

Growing up in Belmont, WI this boy would travel to his grandparents farm and help out wherever possible. His passion for agriculture grew like the young stock on the farm. When older, this recipient was a well known milk hauler in the Belmont area.

After graduating from high school, he attended college and chose to major in Agricultural Education. Upon graduation, he took the position at Wonewoc Union Center for two years and then moved on to teach at Cambridge for twelve years. In 2002 with his degree in hand, he accepted a position at the University of Wisconsin - Platteville. He was hired as one of the Agricultural Education and AET instructors and made a HUGE impact on many going into Agricultural Education by matching student teachers with those current instructors who would enhance the experience for the upcoming teacher.

Rick always organized a winterum course for U.W.P students to travel to Mississippi to help educate them on diversity. One young lady who is teaching second grade at Platteville went on this trip and she still talks about the positive impact that it had on her. This course and trip provided a hands-on approach to learning about diversity, there are many people who could learn from an experience like this and expand their impact on every individual they encounter.

If you don't know Rick personally, we will tell you - there is never a dull moment when he is around; his quick wit and humorous take on what is happening is admirable. Rick has been known to entertain everyone during many FFA adventures/trips.

Throughout all of these previous accolades and antics, he had assistance from his wonderful, supporting spouse of 42 years, his wife Cheryl. They raised their children and enjoyed all their accomplishments. During their time, they also bought a farm on the highway north of Mineral Point. Many life lessons were learned on that farm and many pleasant memories were made.

The greatest professional achievement of this individual was earning his doctorate degree from Ames. His greatest personal achievements were finding his partner in life, his wife Cheryl and having a family. His enjoyment in the Agricultural Education profession is supporting, listening, and joking with his fellow peers. The agricultural education professionals are another family willing to support one's dreams, be the needed encouragement, and the listening ear one may need. Bockhop lead WAVAI in 2000-2001 and is, and continues to be, an inspiration to many of the professionals in agricultural education.

WAAE is the professional association for agricultural educators in Wisconsin. Members include 410 middle school, high school, technical college and university educators. The focus of the association is to provide professional development, legislative support and educational resources for teachers to enhance their local agriculture education programs.

For more information about your local agriculture education program and to find out how you can support agriculture in your community, please contact your local agriculture education instructor or visit www.waae.com.

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