

**2021 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
CONFERENCE**

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATORS



# COMING TO YOU LIVE

*...from La Crosse*

[WISCONSINAGED.ORG/WAAE](http://WISCONSINAGED.ORG/WAAE)



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SAUK CITY, WIS - Tari Costello, agricultural educator at Waupun High School, has been awarded the Outstanding Agricultural Education Teacher Award from the Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators (WAAE). This prestigious award was presented at the WAAE Professional Development Conference held in La Crosse, WI June 27-29, 2021.

The Outstanding Educator Award recognizes teachers who conduct the highest quality agricultural education programs. These individuals provide excellent classroom experiences, community and professional service and are lifelong learners.

With over 450 ag students and FFA members in the Waupun TEAM program she says she is “blessed” to be able to teach with Ryan Seichter, Kris Beaver, Ryan Christian, Sheri Hicken and Mackenzie Chitko. For over 31 years with the last 24 in Waupun, Tari has gained amazing community support that has invested millions of dollars in new and updated facilities to include 2 greenhouses, an animal lab, aquaponics lab, ag mechanics shop and so much more.

This chapter has been recognized as a National Chapter Program each year plus more than 100 State FFA Degrees, Star Farmer Finalists, Star in Agribusiness Finalists and winner, State Proficiency winners, to name a few.

Ms. Costello was a Kohl Fellowship recipient, Wisconsin High School Teacher of the Year and Agri-Science Teacher of the Year. Her program has been featured in Outdoor Wisconsin, the WAAE promotional videos, World Dairy Expo's featured Chapter video, Culver's Thank A Farmer program video and in the FFA New Horizon's magazine.

In the Waupun Agriculture Education Department some of their major FFA programs include 10 weeks of Ag Product Giveaways totaling more than \$80,000, implementing and maintaining a Clothes Closet for the school, being the largest contributor to the community Holiday Help program, and providing thousands of pounds of food to the community food pantry each year.

But Tari doesn't stop there. While she loves being an agriculture education instructor with an amazing team of instructors, in a community who supports our program that includes the best students in our school, she goes on to say "my biggest pride and joy is being a mom to my two amazing sons, I'm truly not sure how I got so lucky to be their mom!"

*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](http://www.waae.com).*

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