SAUK CITY; WIS. – Ms. Sandra Dykes of Weyauwega-Fremont High Schol has been honored with the Honored Educator Award from the Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators (WAAE). Ms. Dykes was presented with this honor at the WAAE Professional Development Conference held June 25-29, 2023 in downtown Oshkosh at the Best Western Waterfront Hotel and Convention Center.

The WAAE Honored Educator Award recognizes members who provide key leadership and input at the local and state level. Members who have at least 20 years of teaching experience are considered for this award.

Sandy Dykes has taught for 35 years as an agricultural education instructor and FFA advisor, two years in the state of Minnesota and 33 years at Weyauwega-Fremont Wisconsin. Throughout her career she has been bestowed upon many honors, which include: Wisconsin High School Teacher of the Year, Wisconsin Agriscience Teacher of the Year, and National Agriscience Teacher of the year.

Throughout her 35-year tenure, the Weyauwega-Fremont Agricultural Education program has been very successful with over 175 State Degrees and 100 plus American Degrees earned. Fifty plus State winning proficiency winners, 20 plus National proficiency finalists, and 7 National proficiency winners. Under her leadership, the Weyauwega-Fremont program has also been recognized as a National Chapter winner and a leading program in the state for several years and also a model of innovation winner.

Sandy is looked upon as a leader and mentor for many area FFA advisors, she provides support and guidance for all who ask. Throughout her career she has mentored 5 student teachers and has 12 former students become agricultural education instructors themselves, in fact, one of her former students will be filling in her large shoes that she will be leaving upon retirement.
Away from the classroom Sandy has also been an active member of WAAE, where she served on the Wisconsin Association of Ag Educators Board of Directors, served on the WI FFA Center Board of Directors, and has presented many workshops at WAAE professional development conferences and an active member of NAAE.

A quote from one of Sandy’s former students best wraps up her biography: “If you ever think that you didn’t have an impact, you did. Not everyone that you did have an impact on will always tell you that you did, but just know that you have touched many lives. You provided a safe, positive and welcoming environment for students who needed it the most.”

Sandy is looking forward to working with her husband Lorn on their cow calf operation now that she has retired and spending quality time with her three daughters, and two grandchildren.

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

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

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