SAUK CITY, WIS - Mary Handrich of Denmark 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 June 25-29, 2023 at the Best Western Waterfront Hotel and Convention Center in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

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. Congratulations to Mary Handrich!

With over 50% of the student population enrolled in agriculture courses, Mary's philosophy centers around preparing students with knowledge and skills that will prepare them for postsecondary success in both college and careers related to agriculture.

For 17 years with the last 12 in Denmark, Mary credits one of her strongest partnerships with the FFA Alumni & Supporters. She has worked closely with the FFA Alumni to conduct a variety of events to help support the endeavors of her FFA chapter through event sponsorship and scholarship awards.
Mary prides herself over the outstanding work of her FFA chapter that plans and executes over 120 FFA activities each year. Her students play a major role in the program of activities which has resulted in multiple state officers and National Chapter Award accolades.

Mary believes that staying current in advancing the world of agriculture is one of the biggest challenges facing agriculture educators which is why she takes full advantage of professional learning opportunities locally and nationally. Mary also gives back professionally by serving on numerous boards and committees at the State and National level always willing to take on new initiatives for the good of the organization.

Congratulations Mary on being named the 2023 Outstanding Agricultural Educator of the Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators.

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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