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SAUK CITY; WIS. – Mr. Paul Larson, an agricultural educator with over 30 years at Freedom High School, has been honored with the Honored Secondary Educator award from the Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators (WAAE). Larson was presented this honor at the WAAE Professional Development Conference held June 27-29, 2021 in La Crosse, WI.

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. possesses the abilities of patience, stability, friendliness, and the willingness to keep improving.

Paul is a dedicated agriculture educator and a highly respected member of Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators (WAAE), Wisconsin Association for Career and Technical Education (WACTE), Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) and National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) organizations.

Paul Larson is known to be a professional who is continually looking for ways to improve his community, his agriculture program, his school as a whole, and our professional organizations. Paul speaks of how his experiences with WAAE, NAAE, WACTE, and ACTE has rejuvenated him and increased his excitement about education throughout his teaching career, even as a veteran. Time and time again throughout his career, Paul has sought to improve WAAE's professional organization through leadership opportunities. What is most impressive about

Paul is that time and time again he uses his experiences to help and encourage others in his school, community, and the profession. We, in the state of Wisconsin, are lucky to have individuals like Paul Larson to continue to improve the agriculture education profession and CTE for all and promote our higher education opportunities like UW-River Falls, UW-Platteville, and the Wisconsin Technical College System. He is an encouraging and sharing individual who always shares his great ideas. His goal is to always improve the profession and community as a whole, as well as give his students the best possible learning experiences and his community the best possible benefits of an active and well-respected agricultural education program and FFA. Freedom FFA members and students are encouraged to be driven by intrinsic rewards rather than being blinded by winning. The Freedom Agriculture Department has developed true ties to the community during Paul's 30 year tenure.

Paul serves on the Wisconsin Agricultural Education and Workforce Development Council. Paul's vast network of individuals throughout the state and nation serve as an example for his students and an asset to his school and community.

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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