

2021 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
CONFERENCE
WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATORS



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SAUK CITY; WIS. – Mr. Ralph Johnson, an agricultural educator with over 35 years in the industry has been honored with the Honored Educator award from the Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators (WAAE). Johnson 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. Over 35 years ago, Ralph Johnson started his career in Iowa teaching at Cascade High School. After nine amazing years there, he moved to Wisconsin to educate the students in Juda.

Mr. Johnson worked tirelessly to increase class sizes, create lifelong learners, and bring innovation into all his classroom techniques. Being a motivator, he was able to build up the FFA membership to consistently be 125 members. Due to his tremendous dedication of continuously improving his curriculum, he was able to bring back many new and inquisitive lessons for his young, influential students to learn from and modify for their SAE's and then demonstrating confidence and satisfaction with their projects.

Currently, Ralph is serving as an adjunct instructor at Blackhawk Technical College in Monroe with their Agriculture Department. This is his second year teaching there. He teaches a Livestock Nutrition class during the fall semester and during

the Spring semester he teaches a Livestock Management class and an Introduction to Animal Science class.

Besides his amazing classroom accomplishments, Ralph has been an impactful and influential person of our professional association at all levels! In 2007-2008, Ralph served the Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators as State President. He is not afraid to step in and take the lead and encourage others to find their talents. If you need someone to listen, Ralph is always willing and will give sound advice.

This snippet from Ralph's application says how respected and humbled he is when he is recognized for his achievements: "The award that means the most to me is the Crystal Apple Award. This is an award that the NBC affiliate from Madison gives out to five area teachers a year from southern Wisconsin. It is based on students and staff from your own school filling out the application. Just being nominated is an honor, but when I was one of the five chosen in 2011, I was very humbled that students and staff would take the time to complete an application and submit it because of what they thought of me as a person and as a teacher."

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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