

**2021 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
CONFERENCE**

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATORS



COMING TO YOU LIVE

...from La Crosse

WISCONSINAGED.ORG/WAAE



Date: July 8, 2021

Contact: Kathy Hartmann-Breunig, **Executive Director**
Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators (WAAE)
PO Box 87, Sauk City, WI 53583
608-354-6450 (voice or text)

SAUK CITY; WIS. – Rebecca (“Becky”) Wirkus, Stratford High School, has been honored with the Teacher Mentor Award from the Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators (WAAE). Wirkus was presented this honor at the WAAE Professional Development Conference held June 27-29, 2021 in LaCrosse. This award is sponsored by Wisconsin Farmers Union. The Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators believe in and encourage each other and their dedication to mentoring is one of the most unique aspects of being an ag teacher.

Ask our Outstanding Teacher Mentor for curriculum about water quality, and you will get a flash drive with water quality curriculum, as well as their curriculum for every class they have ever taught since the beginning of time. Every person in this room has benefited from the mentorship of the 2021 Outstanding Teacher Mentor Award winner, from Stratford, Ms. Rebecca Wirkus.

Becky has hosted many student observers, 5 student teachers and served on the New Teacher Mentoring committee for 10 years. She has also mentored 12 beginning agriculture teachers in her area. She helped create and implement the Sunday night beginning ag teachers training at WAAE, WAAE Huddle Night at Half Time Conference, digitalized the WAAE expert list, and created and shared virtual

lesson plans last spring when schools closed. She is a strong advocate for professional development, representing our state at Region III and NAAE. She teaches workshops, and shares with everyone what works for her classroom and FFA chapter. I think we all can agree that Becky is a true friend and mentor, that has the genuine best interest of all agriculture teachers in mind.

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.

###