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OSU Extension Friend of Extension Award 2019 Recipients

Columbus, OHIO – In December 2019, OSU Extension held its annual conference in Columbus, Ohio. The conference recognized several individuals for their dedication to statewide Extension programming through the Ohio Joint Council of Extension Professionals’ Friend of Extension Award. The following recipients were nominated by county, regional, or state Extension staff for their outstanding service to OSU Extension.

Recipient Jerry Krebs started his relationship with Extension as a child as a member of the Goshen Boosters 4-H Club. After graduating and serving his country in the Air Force, Krebs returned to give back to the program he loves. This year, he completed his 50th year of service as an active Clermont County 4-H volunteer. Krebs’ involvement in the county 4-H program includes being the head advisor of his childhood 4-H club, the Goshen Boosters, as well as the coordinator for the local 4-H CARTEENS program and a member of his county 4-H advisory committee. He also supports OSU Extension through his service as an Extension Advisory Committee member, Assuring Quality Care for Animals Committee member, Safe Communities Coalition member, and junior fair consultant.

Throughout his time as a volunteer with Extension, Krebs has interacted with tens of thousands of youth, whether in the poultry barn at the fair, at a CARTEENS session, or at a club meeting. He has left a profound impact on many youth and adults alike, who view him as a role model, mentor, and most importantly, a friend.

Recipient Ron Rockhold credits OSU Extension with his success as a farmer. Rockhold is a valuable advocate for OSU Extension with the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation and Ohio Corn and Wheat Growers Association, as well as many local and state committees. He has helped with research projects and has served as chairman of the Fayette County Marketing Club, Agronomy Club, Ag Hall of Fame, and Extension Advisory Board. Larry Lotz, a retired OSU Extension agriculture and natural educator, believes that Rockhold was involved in the first Fayette County Field Day in the early 1990s. Rockhold encouraged both the Agronomy Club and Corn and Wheat Growers Association to work alongside OSU Extension in promoting, sponsoring, and facilitating the field day. He has also helped OSU Extension provide research, outreach, and interesting programming to farmers in the area through the county field days. In addition, Rockhold has worked with the local ANR educator to plan, plant, and harvest the field plots for many years. He even wrote a grant to provide more advertising for the field day, which resulted in increased attendance. Ohio Senator Bob Peterson wrote, “The research plots and programming OSU Extension does with Southwest Ohio corn growers in Fayette County is in large part due to Ron's vision and commitment.”
The final 2019 recipient of this award is **Quest Federal Credit Union**, a dynamic financial institution that has served Hardin County since 1969. Quest has supported the Hardin County office of OSU Extension both financially and as a program partner. Through participation in and support of the county levy committee, Quest advocated for the importance of Extension and demonstrated the value of OSU Extension’s programming. Quest’s support was instrumental in passing three levies over a span of 15 years, to keep the Hardin County office of OSU Extension fully funded with three program areas. Quest has also assisted financially by donating to the Helen D. Terrill 4-H Endowment Fund and 4-H camp facility improvements; sponsoring all 4-H award ribbons; being a top 10 junior fair livestock auction contributor; sponsoring the Conservation Tillage Club breakfast program; and sponsoring youth trips to Citizenship Washington Focus, Leadership Washington Focus, Ohio Sea Camp, and Ohio Leadership Camp. Quest also paid for upgrades to the Hardin County Fairgrounds internet services. During the fair, this donation allowed for more effective Extension and Senior Fair Board work through public Wi-Fi. In addition, Quest supports OSU Extension programs and junior fair livestock sales in Wyandot and Logan counties, and has an employee serving on the Wyandot County 4-H Endowment Committee. Quest Federal Credit Union will be Ohio’s nomination for the National Friend of Extension Award.

For more information about this award or these recipients, contact Emily Marrison, OSU Extension educator in Coshocton County, at marrison.12@osu.edu.

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