

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FORESTRY

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Governor's Agriculture Awards to be presented at state capitol March 30

The Governor's Agriculture Awards will be presented during a special ceremony hosted by the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry at 2 p.m. March 30 in Senate Assembly Room 535 in the state capitol. The public is invited to attend.

Dr. Clint Roush will be honored with the Governor's Outstanding Achievement Award in Agriculture. Roush carried what he learned about farming and ranching into education and then to board service. His experience includes 14 years of teaching and consulting in agriculture finance, farm financial planning, business management and strategic planning at Oklahoma State University and Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

He has also been a steward of the agriculture industry through various forms of service. Roush has held positions on the board of directors for nationally recognized institutions such as CoBank (2012 to present) and U.S. Ag Bank (2010-2011) and advisory council positions on the Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank (1998-2003), Oklahoma State University Bill Fitzwater Endowment Cooperative Chair (2000 to present) and the Noble Foundation Agricultural Council (1998-2003).

Regionally, Roush has served as director for Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma (1988-2009), Clinton Oklahoma Farmers Cooperative (1995 to present), Custer County Rural Water District (2013 to present), Custer County Cattlemen's Association (since 2000), and is a lifetime member of the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association.

Dr. Brett Carver will receive the Governor's Outstanding Public Service in Agriculture Award. He is the Wheat Genetics Chair in Agriculture at Oklahoma State University. He was nominated by the Oklahoma Wheat Commission for the work he has conducted as a wheat breeder and leader of the Wheat Improvement Team at OSU.

Carver began his career as an assistant professor in the OSU Department of Plant and Soil Sciences focusing on quantitative genetics and increasing yield in dual-purpose wheat. His work led to new varieties such as "Duster" and "Endurance" that were adapted to grazing and now dominate the Oklahoma wheat and stocker cattle industries.

In 2002, Carver was named a Regents professor in Wheat Breeding and Genetics. Being a Regents professor is the highest academic achievement recognition at OSU. He credits everyone on the Wheat Improvement Team, and is always active in educating the public

or explaining his work to visiting foreign delegations. His expertise creates public awareness of the importance of world wheat production and the value of science and modern agricultural practices.

Randy Davis will receive the Governor's Agriculture Environmental Stewardship Award. He is President and CEO of Greenleaf Nursery Company with locations in Oklahoma, Texas and North Carolina. Greenleaf is one of the largest wholesale container nurseries in the U.S.

Davis started at Greenleaf as a high school student and spent almost 40 years with the company in a variety of roles including propagation supervisor and production vice president. He currently serves as a board member of the Western Nursery and Landscape Association and co-chairman of the Governmental Advocacy Committee for the American Horticulture Association. In 2015, the Oklahoma Nursery and Landscape Association named him Green Industry Professional of the Year.

Keeping in line with his high standards of stewardship and leadership, Davis is an annual sponsor of the Cherokee County Horticulture awards for 4-H and FFA students. He also continues the tradition of awarding local students Greenleaf Nursery scholarships, the same scholarship that sent him to college.

The Governor's Outstanding Legacy in Agriculture Award will be presented posthumously to Quintus Herron of Idabel. He was a professional forester, successful businessman and generous philanthropist who dedicated his 70-year career to transforming the timber industry in southeastern Oklahoma, sharing what he learned with other landowners and giving back to the community in the form of education, cultural heritage and environmental improvements. His family business, Herron Industries, was innovative in the area for growing trees as a crop.

Herron helped lead the way in applying modern forestry practices on private lands. He followed best management practices to protect water quality and assure rapid reforestation after harvest. As a result, Herron forests have generated income for nearly sixty years.

Local communities continue to benefit from the McCurtain Community Fund and the Herron Foundation which provides matching funds for community improvement projects. Herron's vision helped create the Oklahoma Forest Heritage Center and the Museum of the Red River. Both entities help people learn about Oklahoma's history and other cultures.

Herron was well-known for saying, "If you want to get something done, just get started and you are half way there."

(MORE)

Photo caption: Dr. Clint Roush has been named as the 2016 recipient of the Governor's Outstanding Achievement Award in Agriculture. Roush will receive the award during ceremonies at 2 p.m. March 30 in Senate Assembly Room 535 at the state Capitol.