

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FORESTRY

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Dr. Clint Roush is the 2016 recipient of the Governor's Outstanding Achievement Award in Agriculture

Dr. Clint Roush of Arapaho watched recently as an easy March breeze rolled across the lush Gallagher wheat that spreads a vibrantly green carpet between East and West Barnitz Creeks in western Oklahoma's Custer County.

That same gentle wind made the short hair dance on the back of an Angus feeder steer in the lot nearby.

Today during Ag Day at the state Capitol, Roush was recognized as the 2016 recipient of the Governor's Outstanding Achievement Award in Agriculture.

Roush's life has been an example of diversified stewardship. The fourth generation farmer and rancher is a steward of the land but he's also served as a steward of farm and ag finance students and as a steward of the ag industry itself, serving as a champion of cooperatives for many years. Just days ago, as Roush stood up on that ridge near Arapaho, he explained he's not only a steward but that their family – the generations before and those to come – are partners with the land.

"I've often heard that generations of farmers come and go, and it seems like they come and go rather rapidly, but the land endures," Roush said. "Each generation has to make improvements, increase the productivity and maintain the environment so that the next generation can continue to farm."

In addition to the Governor's Outstanding Achievement Award in Agriculture, for the second year the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry presented the three additional awards to leaders in the state's agricultural industry. Today, Randy Davis received the Agriculture Environmental Stewardship Award, Quintus Herron, the Outstanding Legacy in Agriculture Award, given posthumously, and Dr. Brett Carver, the Outstanding Public Service in Agriculture Award. The awards were presented on the second floor rotunda of the state Capitol.

Recently, as Roush, 69, looked out across the wheat, past the steers and over to a field of alfalfa, he talked not only about a treasured heritage but also of great opportunities. Roush grew up around his great grandparents and grandparents and was raised right here by his parents. Now, Roush and wife Pam Steiner Roush, the fourth generation of a farm family that came from Switzerland, have three children: daughter Cortney (Roush) and husband Jamie Oakes; daughter Sara (Roush) and husband Josh Brown and son Rusty and wife Chandra Roush. Clint and Pam also have 14 grandchildren and one on the way.

“The thing I like to think about in a multi-generation farm is the transfer of knowledge and the sharing of experiences from one generation to the next,” Roush said. “They (great grandparents, grandparents and parents) shared their wisdom, they shared their experience. So each generation adds on additional information, additional knowledge and additional technology as the generations go through.

“I look forward to the time when future generations of our farming operation deal with the amount of information that’s available, the new technology like precision farming and the use of drones.”

In terms of leadership, Roush credits his parents Harold and Essie Roush, as well as those such as Tuffy Howell, his FFA advisor and vocational ag instructor, Dr. John Goodwin, his first advisor at Oklahoma State University, and Dr. James Plaxico, who was Head of the Agricultural Economics Department.

“(Dr. Plaxico) took a chance on me and got me involved in teaching Farm Financial Management, Agricultural Finance, and doing Extension work with farmers and ranchers and agricultural lenders,” Roush said. “This again was a tremendous advantage, getting to know all the people that we work with across the state of Oklahoma in the farm finance and agriculture finance area.”

Roush carried what he learned from those individuals and others into his own classrooms. His commitment to agriculture includes a combined 14 years of teaching and consulting experience in agriculture finance, farm financial planning, business management and strategic farm planning at Oklahoma State University and Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

He has also been a steward of the ag 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 the 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.

“I give the credit to God’s providence in our lives that puts us in the right places, at the right times, to meet the right people,” Roush said.

Roush has consistently demonstrated his focus on rural Oklahoma and America.

A life-long commitment to the agricultural industry has translated into many hours studying the issues at hand and traveling to board meetings and other events. He has become an expert on board procedures, human capital policies, strategic planning and reviewing data that compliments his fully developed leadership skills.

His commitment ties right back to stewardship, and that’s about much more than just good business.

“(Stewardship) has been a way of life in our family,” Roush said.

**Dr. Brett Carver receives Governor’s Outstanding
Public Service in Agriculture Award**

Dr. Carver received 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 receives the Governor's Agriculture Environmental Stewardship Award

Davis received 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.

Governor's Outstanding Legacy in Agriculture Award presented posthumously to Quintus Herron

The Governor's Outstanding Legacy in Agriculture Award was presented posthumously to 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."

Winners of the Governor's Outstanding Achievement Award in Agriculture

S.F. "Pamp" Howe - 1998
Alvin "Buck" Clements - 1999
George W. Stone - 2000
Erwin R. Duerksen - 2001
Henry Jo Von Tungeln - 2002
Paul Jackson - 2003
Ralph Chain - 2004
Tom Gilliam - 2005
Murray Williams - 2006
L. E. Castle - 2007
Paul Hitch - 2008
Elmore Bathurst - 2009
Lew Meibergen - 2010
Wayne Krehbiel - 2011
Jack Givens - 2012
John Hughes - 2013
Rodd Moesel - 2014
Joe Mayer - 2015
Clint Roush - 2016

Recipients of the Agriculture Environmental Stewardship Award

Mike Thralls - 2015
Randy Davis - 2016

Recipients of the Outstanding Legacy in Agriculture Award

Dr. Bob Totusek - 2015
Quintus Herron - 2016

Recipients of the Outstanding Public Service in Agriculture Award

Leland Walker - 2015
Brett Carver - 2016

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Dr. Clint Roush photo caption: Chris Meyers, CEO of Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives, from left, and Rep. Harold Wright were on hand to congratulate Dr. Clint Roush who received the Governor's Outstanding Achievement Award in Agriculture from Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture Jim Reese in a special Ag Day ceremony March 30 at the state capitol.