



2026 NAADA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

AWARDS PROGRAM
THURSDAY, JUNE 18

2026 NAADA AWARDS

WELCOME TO 2026 NAADA Individual Awards Night

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
Cocktail Hour Reception

6:30 PM - 9:00 PM
Dinner and Individual Awards Program

Presentation of Awards

Above and Beyond Award

Corporate Partner Award

Founders Distinguished Service Award

Front Line Award

Jane Longley-Cook Volunteer Service Award

Ray A. Miller Professional Achievement Award

Ruby C. McSwain Outstanding Philanthropist Award

Up and Coming Award

Volunteer Service Award

About the NAADA Mulberry Honor Society

The Mulberry Honor Society was created to honor individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to the National Agricultural Alumni and Development Association (NAADA) and to foster their continued involvement in the organization and with institutions of higher education associated with agricultural sciences and their related programs.

The Mulberry Honor Society is named from a long-standing NAADA tradition — the president's gavel. Upon his retirement as president of NAADA in 1986, Dave Mugler, Associate Dean of Agriculture at Kansas State University made a gavel and presented it to the organization. The gavel is made of Mulberry and more specifically of a Mulberry root from a tree that stood on Dave's family farm in Kansas. It was Dave's wish that the gavel be passed from president to president and that it becomes a reminder of "NAADA's roots" (root of the Mulberry tree and root of the organization certainly intended) from which the organization was given life.

NAADA AWARDS BANQUET

The following awards are presented to NAADA members and affiliates whose contribution to Agricultural & Life Sciences, Alumni Relations & Volunteer Service is a model to our profession.

ABOVE AND BEYOND PARTNER AWARD

The Above and Beyond Partner Award will be presented to a faculty and/or staff member from a NAADA member institution who has given freely of their time, working outside the realm of their official responsibilities, to further the goals of their institution's alumni, communications, development or student services programs, and has demonstrated leadership and organizational skills to inspire others to further the success of these programs and the institution.

CORPORATE PARTNER AWARD

This award recognizes any company or private entity who has had a record of contributions and have through their gifts (financial, in-kind, and/or time) made a major contribution to research, teaching, and/or extension programs to one or more NAADA member institutions. A representative of the company or private entity is encouraged to be present at the national conference to receive the award.

FOUNDERS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The Founders Distinguished Service Award recognizes outstanding service and dedication to NAADA. This award is presented to an individual who is employed by a NAADA member institution at the time of nomination and has been actively participating in NAADA by taking a leadership role such as serving on the Board of Directors, chairing a committee, or hosting the annual conference.

FRONT LINE AWARD

This award is given to a person who is a program assistant or serves in a clerical support staff role in a NAADA member's alumni, communications, development or student services office. The award recognizes an individual's initiative, teamwork and ability to work effectively with the public, how they have advanced the programs or relationships within the college or unit, and strengthened his or her college's relationships with alumni, friends, donors and/or students.

JANE LONGLEY-COOK VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

The Jane Longley-Cook Volunteer Service Award was created in recognition of Jane's long-time support of NAADA as a volunteer and representing her alma mater, Cornell University. She volunteered her time and efforts to further the goals of NAADA on a national basis, served in leadership roles, was an officer in our organization and was an effective spokesperson for NAADA. Recipients are recognized for their service to NAADA.

RAY A. MILLER PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Ray A. Miller Professional Achievement Award is given to recognize individuals for significant career activities and accomplishments, leadership activities in professional and community organizations, and other awards and recognitions. Individuals must be employed by a NAADA member institution with responsibilities for agricultural alumni, communications, development or student services. This award is in honor of Ray Miller. Ray was a beloved member of the NAADA family, having served a term as President, Conference Host and Historian. Ray was recognized for his work at The Ohio State University and NAADA in receiving the Professional Achievement Award (1994) and the Founder's Distinguished Service Award (2003).

RUBY C. McSWAIN OUTSTANDING PHILANTHROPIST AWARD

This award recognizes an individual or individuals with a record of sustained giving to support agriculture, agricultural higher education, Cooperative Extension, and/or land grant universities. It also recognizes the individual(s) role as an advocate for agriculture and natural resources and for their philanthropy in community organizations, religious institutions, art, environment and social services.

UP AND COMING AWARD

The Up and Coming Award honors individuals with 2 to 5 years of experience in the agricultural advancement professions of alumni relations, communications, development or student services. This award seeks to recognize the accomplishments of those whose early success is promising for future leadership and contributions to the member institution and/or NAADA.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

The Volunteer Service Award is presented to an individual who has given freely of his or her time to further the goals of a NAADA member institution, and has demonstrated leadership and organizational skills that inspire and encourage others to further the success of the institution's agriculture program as it relates to alumni relations, communications, development or student services.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

ABOVE & BEYOND PARTNER AWARD

Past Recipients

- 2015: President Emeritus Robert Easter, Ph.D., University of Illinois
- 2016: Dr. Clint Rusk, Oklahoma State
- 2017: Beth Crocker, Clemson University
- 2018: Carl Hunt, University of Idaho
- 2019: Luke Laborde, Louisiana State University
- 2020: Lou Anella, Oklahoma State University
- 2021: Dr. Andy Pulte, University of Tennessee
- 2022: John Dooley, Virginia Tech
- 2023: Linda Martin, The Ohio State University
- 2024: Philip Bass, University of Idaho
- 2025: Scott Sager, University of Florida School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences

CORPORATE PARTNER AWARD

Past Recipients

- 2019: Zen-Noh Grain Corporation
- 2019: Idaho Wheat Commission
- 2020: Golden LEAF Foundation
- 2021: Northwest Farm Credit Services
- 2022: Florida Strawberry Growers Association, University of Florida
- 2022: Tyson, University of Arkansas
- 2023: North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission, North Carolina State University
- 2023: Trimble, The Ohio State University
- 2024: Florida Nursery Growers & Landscape Association North Carolina Seedsmen's Association
- 2025: Florida Farm Bureau Federation, University of Florida IFAS and College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

FOUNDERS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Past Recipients

- 1981: David Pfendler, Purdue University
- 1982: Maurice Williamson, Purdue University
- 1983: Paul Apple, University of Kentucky
- 1984: Rick Daluge, University of Wisconsin
- 1985: Bob LaPrad, Michigan State University
- 1986: Glenn MacMillen, Cornell University
- 1987: John Huftalin, University of Illinois
- 1988: David Mugler, Kansas State University
- 1989: Ashby Green, Mississippi State University
- 1990: Earl Ellington, University of Nebraska
- 1991: Mike Richey, University of Kentucky
- 1992: Marcella Davidson, Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University
- 1993: Bill Alverson, Auburn University
- 1994: John Brand, University of Connecticut
- 1995: Lynette Marshall, University of Illinois
- 1996: Betty Brose, Oregon State University
- 1997: Tom Skelton, Clemson University
- 1998: Bobby Gaffney, University of Kentucky
- 1999: Kirby Player, Clemson University
- 2000: Russ Wilson, Iowa State University

- 2001: Grace Gorrell, University of Kentucky
- 2002: Marcy Heim, University of Wisconsin
- 2003: Raymond Miller, The Ohio State University
- 2004: William Sheets, University of Kentucky
- 2005: NAADA Founders (Paul Appel, Rick Daluge, Bob LaPrad, Chuck Lindley, Mauri Williamson)
- 2006: Keith Oakley, North Carolina State University
- 2007: Milford Jenkins, Angus Foundation
- 2008: Paul Willis, University of Florida
- 2009: Jillian Stevenson, Pennsylvania State University
- 2010: Kristen Smarr, University of Missouri
- 2011: Scott Cooksey, Texas Tech University
- 2012: Mary Buschette, University of Minnesota
- 2013: Renee Keese, BASF (Clemson University)
- 2014: Tina Veal, University of Illinois
- 2015: Pat Whittington, Ph.D., the Ohio State University
- 2016: Lisa Cox, University of Kentucky
- 2017: Darrin Hubbard, Ewald Consulting and NAADA
- 2018: Keith Barber, University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture
- 2019: Lynn Wells, The Ohio State University
- 2020: Jamie Lucero, Virginia Tech
- 2021: Paula Beecher, Clemson University
- 2022: Sennah Honea, Clemson University
- 2023: Adam Cahill, The Ohio State University
- 2024: Jordan Moseley, Auburn University

FRONT LINE AWARD

Past Recipients

- 1998: Lois Wood, University of Illinois
- 1999: Donna Pearce, North Carolina State University
- 2000: Linda Forbes, University of Kentucky
- 2000: Carol Knowles, University of Arizona
- 2001: Claudia Thornton, Texas Tech University
- 2002: Sennah Honea, Clemson University
- 2003: Linda Berry, University of Kentucky
- 2004: Amy Williams, University of Georgia
- 2005: Trina Beebe, The Ohio State University
- 2006: Ronnie Jean 'RJ' McDaniel, Virginia Tech
- 2007: Lori Pineda, Texas Tech University
- 2009: Linda Norcross, University of Minnesota
- 2010: Angela Anderson, University of Georgia
- 2011: Beth Leete, Michigan State University
- 2012: Jody Bissett, Louisiana State University
- 2013: Kay Ellingson, University of Minnesota
- 2014: Kris Sticken, Angus Foundation
- 2015: Kathy DeVoe, University of Idaho
- 2016: Jane Patterson, Clemson University
- 2017: Jacqueline Honeck, The Ohio State University
- 2017: Robin Haefs, University of Tennessee
- 2018: Pamela Matchett, University of Florida
- 2019: Susie Sheller, The Ohio State University
- 2025: Jenai Collins, University of Florida IFAS and College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

JANE LONGLEY-COOK VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

Past Recipients

2001: Lynn Wells, The Ohio State University
2002: Bobby Gaffney, University of Kentucky
2003: Robert L. Bickford, University of Vermont
2004: Judy Mellor, University of Arizona
2005: Renee Keese, Clemson University
2006: Kevin Huesman, University of Florida
2007: Mary Buschette, University of Minnesota
2008: Mollie Pulver, Cornell University
2011: Jacob Schales, Louisiana State University
2012: Bill McCloskey, University of Kentucky
2016: Tara Anderson, University of Illinois
2018: Peter Pamkowski, Cornell University
2023: Pam & Russ Hyatt, University of Florida
2024: Roni Crain

RAY A MILLER PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Past Recipients

1992: Clancy Beguiler, The Ohio State University
1992: John Sterling, Cornell University
1993: Bill Sheets, Purdue University
1994: Raymond Miller, The Ohio State University
1995: William Bennett, Texas Tech University
1995: Grace Gorrell, University of Kentucky
1996: Marcy Schultz Heim, University of Wisconsin
1997: Bartley Cardon, University of Arizona
1997: Keith Oakley, North Carolina State University
1998: Mike Campbell, University of California, Davis
1999: Dick Church, Cornell University
1999: Mark Fleming, North Carolina State University
2000: Paul Willis, University of Florida
2000: Julia Wetstein, Southern Illinois University
2001: Sharon Ramsey, North Carolina State University
2002: Melissa Lockard Lester, University of Arkansas
2003: Richard Daluge, University of Wisconsin
2004: Scott W. Cooksey, Texas Tech University
2004: Louann Waldner, Oklahoma State University
2005: Lawrence H. Erpelding, Kansas State University
2006: O. Richard Bundy, III, Iowa State University
2007: Kim Erwin, Clemson University
2008: Keith Barber, Clemson University
2009: Darcy Wells, University of Missouri
2010: Brice Nelson, University of Georgia
2011: Chris Wessel, North Carolina State University
2012: Paula Beecher, Clemson University
2013: Arlette Rodrigue, Louisiana State University
2014: Juli Fields, University of Georgia
2014: Marianne Fivek, Penn State University
2015: Donya Lester, University of Purdue
2016: Kim O'Neill, University of Idaho
2016: Kirby Player, Clemson University
2017: Kathryn Reed, Michigan State University
2018: Milford Jenkins, Angus Foundation

2019: Jen Root, University of Idaho
2020: Amanda Martin, Louisiana State University
2021: Katie Black, Clemson University
2022: Elaine Turner, University of Florida
2023: Emily Wickham, The Ohio State University
2023: Heidi Williams, Oklahoma State University
2024: Danica Kirkpatrick, Purdue University

RUBY C. McSWAIN OUTSTANDING NAADA PHILANTHROPIST AWARD

Past Recipients

2001: Ruby C. McSwain, North Carolina State University
2002: Edward & Howard Kruse, Texas A & M University
2003: (declined recognition)
2004: Bob & Hazel Spitze, University of Arkansas
2005: Gerald A. & Karen Kolschowsky, Iowa State University
2006: Robert E. & Maxine H. Burton, University of Georgia
2006: William C. & Elizabeth H. Latham, Virginia Tech
2007: Fritz Friday, University of Wisconsin-Madison
2007: Bob Bickford, University of Vermont
2007: Joe & Ginger Taylor, North Carolina State University
2008: Alvin (Al) & Mary Agnes McQuinn, University of Missouri
2008: David Murdock, North Carolina State University
2009: Helen Price, University of Kentucky
2009: Dr. William Hueg, University of Minnesota
2010: Joel & Shirley Wahlberg, University of Florida
2011: Edward & Dinah Gore, North Carolina State University
2012: Dale Bone, North Carolina State University
2013: Goz and Pat Segars, Clemson University
2013: Jim and Janet Johnson, Virginia Tech
2013: Waymon Hickman, University of Tennessee
2014: William D. and Bonnie Lou Wampler, Virginia Tech
2014: Bill and Marsha Prestage and Family,
North Carolina State University
2015: Dennis White, PH.D., Oklahoma State University
2015: Donnie and Terry Smith, University of Tennessee
2016: Bill Collins, NC State
2016: Gary SeEVERS, Michigan State
2016: Sonny Beck, Purdue and The Ohio State University
2017: Wayne Smith, University of Florida
2017: Patricia Brundige, The Ohio State University
2018: Gordon Davis, Washington State University
2018: Glen & Emma Atchley, University of Idaho
2019: Jim and Judy Herbert, University of Tennessee
2020: Joe and Debbie Gordon, NC State University
2020: Noel and Sandra Stuckman, Michigan State University
2021: Dr. Damona Doye, Oklahoma State University
2022: Fryar Family, University of Arkansas
2023: Tony Avent, North Carolina State University
2023: Micky Scott, Clemson University
2024: Bill and Barbara Huffman, Texas A&M University
2025: Bailey Family, University of Minnesota
2025: The Hand Foundation, University of Florida IFAS and
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

UP AND COMING AWARD

Past Recipients

2017: Carly Schoepflin, University of Idaho
2018: Evan Beech, University of Tennessee
Institute of Agriculture
2019: Taylor Hart, University of Nebraska
2020: Brandon Guillory, Louisiana State University
2020: Will Staggers, Mississippi State University
2021: Faith Brooks-Mason, Michigan State University
2022: Caitlin Conrad, The Ohio State University
2022: Jessica Fife, University of Georgia
2023: Zachary Brown, Purdue University
2024: Heather James

VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

Past Recipients

1992: Jim Mahan, University of Kentucky
1992: JoAnne Huftalin, University of Illinois
1992: John Huftalin, University of Illinois
1992: Patty Clark, Kansas State University
1993: John Rundquist, University of Illinois
1993: William Latham, Virginia Polytechnic
Institute & State University
1993: Jane Longley-Cook, Cornell University
1994: John Spence, Auburn University
1994: Richard Ward, Purdue University
1995: John Oakley, Michigan State University
1995: Robert Bickford, Cornell University, University of Vermont
& North Carolina State University
1995: Orville and Erna Thompson, University of California: Davis
1996: Bobby Gaffney, University of Kentucky
1996: Fred Hoppin, University of Illinois
1996: Donald Villwock, Purdue University
1997: Chuck Banks, Kansas State University
1997: Roy Dye, Texas A&M University
1997: Helen Goetz, University of Arizona
1997: E. Douglas Rigney, Auburn University
1998: Esther Schiff Bondareff, Cornell University
1998: Bruce Christmas, Sr., University of Florida
1998: Larry Fisher, University of Illinois
1998: William (Bob) Jenkins, North Carolina State University
1998: Laura Meadows, University of Georgia
1999: Robert Bitz, Cornell University
1999: Laurie Lawson, Clemson University
1999: Ron Schuler, University of California, Davis
1999: David Tetor, Cornell University
2000: Will Carpenter, Mississippi State University
2000: Robert McLandress, University of California
2000: Julia Mellor, University of Arizona
2000: Henry (Jack) Perkins, University of Georgia
2000: George Pickhardt, University of Florida
2001: Lance Mullock, Louisiana State University
2001: Jimmy Ropolo, Texas A & M University
2001: William Smith, University of Kentucky
2001: Larry Wooten, North Carolina State University
2002: Polly Elson, University of Arizona

2002: Kevin Huesman, University of Florida
2002: Neva Foster Nolen, Louisiana State University
2002: Richard Smith, North Carolina State University
2003: Lois G. Britt, North Carolina State University
2003: Morris Burger, University of Missouri
2004: M. K. "Curly" Cook, University of Georgia
2004: Scott Emerson, University of Florida
2005: S. Lawrence Davenport, North Carolina State University
2005: Ray Hilburn, Auburn University
2005: Cynthia Tidwell:Shelton, University of Arizona
2006: Charles Hall, University of Georgia
2006: Roger Scarborough, University of Florida
2007: John J. Hansen, University of Wisconsin: Madison
2007: Jim and Nancy Smith, North Carolina State University
2008: Daniel Taylor, Texas Tech University
2008: Bobby Wilder, North Carolina State University
2009: Dan Kennedy, University of Minnesota
2010: Charles "Chip" Hinton III, University of Florida
2011: Nick Hamon, North Carolina State University
2012: Chip Blalock, University of Georgia
2012: James Clark, Jr., North Carolina State University
2012: Nelson Loftus, Penn State University
2013: Terry Crofoot, Texas Tech University
and Colorado State University
2013: Kathy Grace, Michigan State University
2013: Kendall Hill, North Carolina State University
2014: Timothy D. Beard, III, Michigan State University
2014: Dr. William K. Collins, North Carolina State University
2015: Val Aarsvold, University of Minnesota
2015: Dan Weathington, North Carolina State University
2016: John C. "Jack" Fisher, The Ohio State University
2017: E. Allen James, North Carolina State University
2018: Charles "Buddy" Gaither,
North Carolina State University
2019: Mark Wilson, University of Tennessee
2019: Judi and Frank Grainger, NC State University
2020: Ben Carter, Purdue University
2021: Morris Steen, University of Florida
2022: Darlene Millard, University of Arkansas
2023: Pam & Russ Hyatt, University of Florida
2024: Paula Woodall
2025: Beth Pugh Farrell, North Carolina State University

REGIONAL AWARDS

Past Recipients

2005: Marvin J. Walter, Iowa State University
2005: Harris A. Smith, Clemson University
2006: Margaret H. Lloyd, Clemson University
2006: Joseph O. Taylor, Jr. & Virginia R. Taylor,
North Carolina State University

2026 PUBLICATIONS & PROJECTS WINNERS

Congratulations to our winners in the NAADA Publications & Projects Competition!

EVENTS – STUDENTS

- 1st | University of Florida
Brunch, Bonds, and Breakout Boxes
- 2nd | The Ohio State University
Planting Professionals Etiquette Dinner

EVENTS – ALUMNI

- 1st | NC State
CALs Wolfpack Harvest
- 2nd | Purdue University
2025 Ag Day Tailgate

EVENTS – DEVELOPMENT

- 1st | The Ohio State University
2025 Dean's Spring Dinner: A Celebration of Time & Change

CAMPAIGNS – STUDENTS

- 1st | Oklahoma State University
Welcome, Friends
- 2nd | Michigan State University
Welcome Future Spartans! Recruitment Campaigns for the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

CAMPAIGNS – ALUMNI

- 1st | Texas Tech University
Davis College 30 Under 30
- 2nd | University of Florida
New Year, New Dean

CAMPAIGNS – DEVELOPMENT

- 1st | University of Florida
Name a Bat Campaign

MIXED MEDIA – ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTERS

- 1st | University of Florida
Individualizing the CALS Connection
- 2nd | University of Arkansas
Arkansas Agricultural Research Report

MIXED MEDIA – SHORT FORM VIDEO

- 1st | University of Florida
It All Starts Here
- 2nd | Montana State University
Celebrate Ag Game Day Spot

MIXED MEDIA – LONG FORM VIDEO

- 1st | Oregon State University
Whale Entanglement Project
- 2nd | University of Illinois
Illinois 4-H Memorial Camp 75th Anniversary, Camp Directors Legacy

MIXED MEDIA – PODCAST

- 1st | University of Florida
Two Bees in a Podcast

MIXED MEDIA – WEBSITE

- 1st | University of Georgia
State of Solutions: An Annual Report from CAES
- 2nd | Rutgers University
Rutgers Cooperative Extension Website

PRINT MEDIA – ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT MATERIALS

- 1st | University of Minnesota
CFANS Impact
- 2nd | University of Florida
W.W. Glenn Teaching Building ABE Alumni Campaign

PRINT MEDIA – STUDENT ENGAGEMENT MATERIALS

- 1st | Michigan State University
Academic Program Guide:
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.
- 2nd | The Ohio State University
See Where a CFAES Degree Can Take You:
Data-Driven Recruitment Mailer.

PRINT MEDIA – ARTICLE

- 1st | Michigan State University
How the 'Chemo Cowboy' found peace and healing at MSU farm
- 2nd | Iowa State University
Soil Machine Dynamics Lab Article

PRINT MEDIA – DONOR ENGAGEMENT MATERIALS

- 1st | Texas A&M
Texas A&M University Holiday Gift
- 2nd | The Ohio State University
CFAES 2025 Holiday Donor Gift - Jigsaw Puzzle.

PRINT MEDIA – MAGAZINE

- produced by a college/outside agency*
- 1st | Oregon State University
Progress 2025
- 2nd | University of Georgia
2025 Almanac, Vol. 4

PRINT MEDIA – MAGAZINE

- produced by students*
- 1st | Kansas State University
Kansas State Agriculturist, Fall 2025 issue
- 2nd | Texas Tech University
Texas Tech Davis College, The Agriculturist Magazine

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