

Ohio News Watch

Ag Hall of Fame gains four more

By TIM WHITE

A SELECT group" is what Gov. Ted Strickland called the newest inductees into the Ohio Agricultural Hall of Fame as he spoke to a gathering of some 200 Ohio ag leaders at the Ohio State Fair last month.

"They represent agriculture — a vital part of our economy, our heritage and our future," Strickland said as he stood before the portraits of the latest to be enshrined during the annual Ohio Agricultural Hall of Fame breakfast.

Selected for the hall were:

■ R. Craig Fendrick, retired manager of the Farm Science Review

■ James R. Helt, 4-H supporter with Ohio State University Extension

■ Donald H. Schriver, cooperative leader

■ William Preston Stalter, former executive director of the Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association

Each had a large contingency of supporters seated near the front of the stage at the Rhodes Center. The program has been conducted by the Ohio Agricultural Council since 1966. The program included a video presentation of each winner. Their portraits join more

Key Points

- The Ohio Ag Council chose new hall of fame winners.
- Gov. Ted Strickland saluted Fendrick, Helt, Schriver and Stalter.
- More than 200 gathered for the ceremony at the state fair.

than 180 others in the hallway of the building.

R. Craig Fendrick

R. Craig Fendrick spent his entire career with the Farm Science Review, first as a student service assistant in 1966, then as a graduate administrative assistant, the first assistant manager and finally as the manager of the show in 1981. He helped develop the show from about 350 exhibitors to more than 600. Attendance under his leadership increased from a reported 80,000 to 145,000. In 1983, he opened the new Molly Caren Agricultural Center on 2,200 acres near London.

Under his leadership, the show became a marketing venue for agriculture, as well as a showcase for the university's educational resources. A hands-on manager, Fendrick knew most



PROUD INDUCTEES: Joining the Ohio Agricultural Hall of Fame during the Ohio State Fair were (from left) William Stalter, Jim Helt, Don Schriver and Craig Fendrick.

of the exhibitors by first name and helped nurture an environment where businesses felt confident sharing information with the university for a mutually beneficial result. In recognition of his work, the headquarters of the review have been named in his honor.

"To be selected to in the hall of fame with the kind of people who have been chosen is truly humbling," Fendrick said. "I want to thank my wife and my family for sharing me with so many people over the years." He and his wife, Karen, live in Sunbury. They have three children: Lyle, Lee and Lori.

James R. Helt

James R. Helt was introduced by Bobby Moser, OSU vice president for agriculture, as someone so dedicated to 4-H that "if you cut Jim Helt, I think he would bleed green."

Helt served Extension for 46 years. His many positions lead to his being named assistant director for 4-H Youth Development. During his leadership, 4-H membership increased from 166,000 to 205,000 members. He developed the first inner-city 4-H programs in Cincinnati and the first "youth-at-risk" program in Circleville. He initiated a 4-H advisory training package to help more than 2,100 volunteers serve the organization.

As a development officer at OSU, he continues to be involved with fundraising for the university and was instrumental in gaining support for the new nationwide and Farm Bureau Youth Development Center. The top deck was named for him.

"My passion is being helpful to other people, whether they are adults or young people," Helt said. "It is a great satisfaction knowing the new building and 4-H will be a part of OSU long into the future."

He and his wife, Marlene, live in Mt. Gilead. They have two children: Randy and Alan.

Donald H. Schriver

Donald H. Schriver follows in the footsteps of his father, Henry, to be the first father-son team to be inducted in the hall of fame. Like his father, Donald Schriver is recognized for his contributions to cooperative development in the state.

"I grew up seeing the passion my dad had for cooperatives," Schriver said.

"It was special to see him inducted and now to join him."

Schriver served as CEO of Milk Marketing, the state's largest milk cooperative. During his tenure he helped convince the processors that single serve, resealable plastic bottles would help business. It did with more than 1 billion units in sales. While at Milk Marketing, he led the formation of the first cooperative-to-cooperative international business venture with Campina Melkunia of Holland. He was also instrumental in the formation of Dairy Farmers of America, the nation's largest cooperative.

He is serving his second term on the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for trade with USDA and received the Agriculture Future of America 2007 leadership award. He also chaired OSU's "Share the Vision" campaign and is on the board of directors of the OSU Alumni Association.

He and his wife reside in Missouri and have two children: Brian and John.

William Preston Stalter

William Preston Stalter might be another one who bleeds green. He has served the state's "green industry" as executive director of the Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association for more than 25 years. During his tenure, the organization has grown in numbers and national stature. One of the steps taken under his leadership was to change the organization's name from the Ohio Nurseryman's Association.

He also expanded the group's Central Environmental Nursery Trade Show to more than 1,300 booths occupied by more than 60 firms from 40 states and nations. With more than 12,700 attendees, it is considered the best show of its kind in the country. The trade show is run with the OSU Nursery Short Course.

Stalter started as a broadcaster in Lima. He later joined WRFD and got a lesson in agriculture from Ed Johnson. The relationship led him to always encourage strong ties between agriculture and the green industry. He has served as president of the Ohio Plant Science Advisory Council, and president of the Ohio Horticulture and Crop Science Council at OSU.

He and his wife, Patty, live in Westerville. They have four children: Scott, Dawn, Brian and Ildar.



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