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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Indiana FFA recognizes Honorary Degree Recipients

Four members of the agriculture education community tabbed for exceptional service to Indiana FFA.

WEST LAFAYETTE, Indiana (June 15, 2016) – Indiana FFA recognized four people for their dedication to agriculture education and FFA at the 87th Indiana FFA State Convention on Wednesday. Sue Ellspermann, Scott Wheeler, Sarah Furthmiller and Doug Walker were recognized.

During her three years as Lieutenant Governor, Ellspermann was engaged in several projects in regards to FFA and agriculture education. She hosted a luncheon for schools interested in starting an agriculture program, worked with the Read to Feed initiative with Heifer International and her “Listen to Learn” tour touched 92 counties within the state putting her face-to-face with many leaders within the agriculture community.

Wheeler has been the production manager for State Convention since 2008. Without his help “behind the scenes”, the seamless transitions of lighting, video and sound would not be possible. Wheeler also handles all the pyrotechnics of the convention’s production.

Furthmiller and Walker are both recognized for being outstanding agriculture educators. Furthmiller has taught for 10 years at Columbia City and has produced numerous state champions on both individual and team levels. During her time, Columbia City FFA has been a Gold Rated Chapter for the past 10 years. She has been the advisor to eight District Officers, two District Presidents, two Section Directors, and one State Officer.

With 24 years of teaching at Delphi, Walker has produced over 100 Hoosier Degree recipients and 50 American Degree recipients. He has served on numerous committees within the Indiana FFA and the Indiana Association of Agriculture Educators, as well as worked on projects at the Indiana FFA Center in Trafalgar.

The Honorary Degree is to recognize teachers who have created high-quality agricultural education programs which inspire and motivate their students to strive for success and individuals who have provided exceptional service on a national level to agriculture, agricultural education, or FFA.

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