Hardin County Extension News Release
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Ag Hall of Fame to Induct New Members

*Hardin County* – The Hardin County Agriculture Hall of Fame has announced the 2014 honorees, to be inducted at the twelfth annual Agriculture Hall of Fame recognition banquet. The 2014 inductees include: Edward Althauser, Eugene Haudenschield, Bruce McCullough, and J. Ray Parrott. The banquet will be held on Tuesday, December 2nd, beginning at 6:30 pm at St. John’s United Church of Christ on East Carrol Street in Kenton. The public is invited to come to honor these inductees and their families, and to recognize their many accomplishments.

The purpose of the county Agriculture Hall of Fame is to recognize outstanding agricultural contributions by Hardin County people and to honor those who have brought distinction to themselves and the agricultural industry. Gary Wilson will present the keynote address. Gary recently retired as the Hancock County OSU Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources. Currently Gary works with Pioneer Seeds, and is still involved with raising sheep on the family farm near Jenera.

Edward Althauser graduated from Kenton High School in 1937. He has been a lifetime farmer with crop and livestock operations including a sizeable Jersey dairy herd, swine, sheep, chickens, and beef cattle. From his early days of working as Secretary of the Hardin County Agricultural Society and at the Farm Bureau Livestock Auction, to later years of being active in Grange and Farm Bureau, Althauser has been truly interested in contributing what he could, while maintaining a thrifty farm and home. Not only has he been a frequent exhibitor at the Hardin County Fair, but he has also helped his son, grandchildren, and great grandchildren show livestock at the fair. Althauser was a delegate to the Ohio State Grange Convention, where he served as a committee chairman giving reports in front of the delegate body. He has had several articles published in the Ohio State Grange Magazine. Althauser is a member of both the Goshen and the Hardin County Pomona Grange, where he has served as Master of both organizations. He was also the County Youth Director for the Pomona Grange.
Althauser has served on the Hardin County Farm Bureau Board, was a member of the Hardin County Jersey Cattle Club, and is a charter member of the Kenton FFA chapter where he received the State Farmer Degree. Althauser was a solicitor for contributions to the Grange-sponsored Community Fund Drive to national charities. He is a 7th Degree member of the National Grange and served his country during World War II as a member of the U.S. Navy. Later on, he measured acreage for the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), where he also served as a township committee member and was on the county Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) committee. Althauser was Sunday School Superintendent at Salem United Church of Christ. He was a member of the Marseilles Volunteer Fire Department and an original BKP EMT. He is currently co-owner with his grandsons of a Hardin County Century Farm in Goshen Township.

Eugene Haudenschield graduated from Kenton High School in 1953, where he was president of the Kenton FFA chapter and captain of the football team, earning First Team-All State Honors. Gene has been a farmer, sheep shearer, and a wool buyer. He operated his farm and raised livestock. He has worked for many farmers in Hardin County. For over 60 years, Gene has been a sheep shearer and wool buyer for the sheep that he has shorn. He has helped many other farmers with their sheep, performing such tasks as dipping or worming sheep. Gene has helped other farmers harvest their crops and has organized a sheep shearing contest at the Hardin County Fair for many years. He has also helped many youth at the fair to prepare their lambs for the show. Gene has sheared sheep for other people in Logan, Marion, Crawford, Allen, and Hancock Counties, as well as shearing out of state. He has given shearing demonstrations at Young’s Dairy in Yellow Springs, Ohio to promote the sheep industry.

Haudenschield is a current Director of the Hardin County Sheep Improvement Association. He received a plaque from the Association for over fifty years of shearing sheep in Hardin County. He has been both vice president and president of the Hardin Northern Band Boosters and has served on the Hardin Northern School Board. He is a lifetime member of the Logan County Sheep Association. He was president of the Sheep Shearers Association for many years and he received a plaque for his years of service. Haudenschield is a member of the Ohio Sheep Improvement Association and recently received a Proclamation from the Ohio House of Representatives, signed by Robert Cole Sprang, for his dedication to agriculture throughout his life and for being a role model for young people.

Bruce McCullough graduated from Kenton High School in 1962. As a youth he was active in 4-H, FFA, and attended Buckeye Boys State. He received the FFA State Farmer Degree in 1963 while a student at The Ohio State University, where he graduated with his Bachelor of Science Degree in 1967. He later earned his DVM in 1969, MS in 1971, and PhD in 1973. Bruce was a resident of Hardin County for 21 years and currently resides in New Hope, Pennsylvania. He is a board certified veterinary pathologist, and has worked in the area of veterinary pharmaceuticals. His work at Schering-Plough Animal Health, which later became Merck Animal Health, was with the development and FDA registration for Nuflor (otherwise known as Florfenicol). This antibiotic has benefited cattle producers in Hardin County and beyond. Since its launch in 1996, Nuflor has gained several additional approvals. Nuflor is now prescribed for not only bovine respiratory disease, but also foot rot.
As an employee of Shell Development Company, McCullough was involved with researching several new agri-chemicals (pesticides and herbicides) of value to agriculture. Later in his career, he was involved principally with human pharmaceuticals as a global research and development manager. Professionally, McCullough has presented numerous lectures to university students. In 2011, he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the College of Veterinary Medicine at The Ohio State University. Internationally, McCullough has been recognized by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists, Society of Toxicologic Pathology, Society of Toxicology, and the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology. Over his career, Bruce McCullough has mentored numerous younger colleagues who have went on to highly successful careers in industry and academia.

J. Ray Parrott graduated from Magnetic Springs High School. He was a resident of Hardin County for 44 years before passing away in 1988. He was a grain and dairy farmer, known for his Brown Swiss cattle. He served on the Hardin County Fair Board and was the speed superintendent for 30 years. The fair restarted in 1939 and built new buildings and facilities after World War II. When it came time to design and build the race track, Parrott went back to the Delaware County Fair where he previously served on the board, and saw to it that the Hardin County track was built with the same design as the Little Brown Jug. It was under his leadership that that the Little Brown Jug, one of the legs in the pacers’ triple crown was begun in 1947. Parrott spent many hours year around to maintain and improve the race facilities at the Hardin County Fairgrounds where he was recognized for his efforts as the 1983 fair honoree. He was well known statewide as a Brown Swiss breeder and was a past director and state president of the Brown Swiss Breeders Association. He was one of eight men who helped organize and was a charter member of the Brown Swiss Futurity, a special show for two year old dairy cattle. Parrott showed and judged cattle throughout the United States and for 22 years at the Ohio State Fair.

Parrott was a member of the Hardin County Trotting Club and the Dairy Service Unit. He was elected for seven three-year terms to the Hardin County Fair Board. His wife Opal traveled with him by car to California in 1922 where he worked in the central valley preparing land for production in what has to become a rich agricultural area. Parrott was involved in growing popcorn and developing a market for it in the Delaware and Marion County areas. This market later became the Wyandot Popcorn Company. His involvement in the dairy industry allowed him to participate in a program where cattle were flown into Havana, Cuba where they were taken to be shown and sold. Parrott also served on a committee which established a statewide 4-H program on Standardbred horses. He was also active in the Hardin County Men’s Garden Club and the First United Methodist Church, where he served as a Sunday School Superintendent who made sure he got the milking done early so his family could attend church together.

Tickets for the Hardin County Agriculture Hall of Fame Banquet must be purchased in advance. Tickets are $12, and available at the Hardin County Extension office (419-674-2297), or from the committee members: Andrew Flinn, Robert McBride, John Messmer, Kerry Oberlitner, Paul Ralston, Don Spar, Luke Underwood, Robert Wood, and Mark Badertscher.