Nominations sought for Agriculture Hall of Fame

Agriculture was one of the first industries in Hancock County. Farmers and agri-businesses have contributed to the economic growth and vitality of the county for almost 200 years. The Hancock County Agriculture Hall of Fame was created in 2006 to recognize individuals who have made an impact in the agricultural community.

The award specifically recognizes and honors individuals with Hancock County connections who have made major contributions in agriculture, either as a production farmer or from another agriculturally-related profession.

Some of these individuals may have made their mark outside of the county, but have their roots, or close ties to Hancock County. However, most recipients have resided in the county.

Any individual or organization may submit a name by completing the hall of fame nomination form. Qualified applicants may be a producer or breeder or anyone involved in an agriculturally-related field. Past winners have been farmers, agri-business leaders, government officials, veterinarians, and even a harness racing driver.

At a minimum, nominees should have been born, raised, resided or begun their careers in Hancock County. They should have at least 25 years in an agriculturally-related occupation.

Nominees should have made a significant contribution in their agricultural field and provided leadership and service to the agricultural community.

Only four individuals may be inducted each year, and of these, only two may be posthumous. Inductees are selected from the applications submitted and reviewed by a local committee.

Fifty-five individuals have become members of the Hancock County Agriculture Hall of Fame since the first group was inducted in 2006. C. Frank Egner, Jacki Johnson, Mark Pepple, and Dave Thomas were the last group to be inducted in 2018.

Nominations should be submitted to the Hancock County Extension Office by Feb. 8. Nomination forms or additional information may be obtained at the Hancock County Extension Office or its website, hancock.osu.edu (select the Agriculture and Natural Resources option under Featured County Programs), or call 419-422-3851.

The 2019 inductees into the Hancock County Agricultural Hall of Fame will be recognized at the Farmers' Share Breakfast, to be held at the Millstream Centre on March 14.

Their pictures will be displayed at the Hancock County Fair and become part of a permanent display at the Hancock County Agricultural Service Center.

Be sure to submit your nomination, so they can be considered for the award and receive appropriate recognition for their longtime work and contributions to agriculture — and if selected, become a part of the 14th group to be added to the Hancock County Agriculture Hall of Fame.

Hancock County Agriculture Hall of Fame is affiliated with the leadership efforts of the Agri-Business Committee of the Findlay-Hancock County Chamber of Commerce. The program is managed by Ohio State University Extension, Hancock County.

Lentz is extension educator for agriculture and natural resources for Ohio State University Extension Service in Hancock County. He can be reached at 419-422-3851 or via email at lentz.39@osu.edu.

Lentz can be heard with Vawn Wickerham on weekdays at 6:35 a.m. on WFIN, at 5:43 a.m. on WKXA-FM, and at 5:28 a.m. at 106.3 The Fox.