

2015
Missouri Agricultural Extension
Professionals Agriculture Leadership Award

Dave Baker, Columbia, MO

Describe leadership contributions to Missouri agriculture:

MO Ag Leadership – Dave joined Missouri Extension in 1975 and led our efforts in agricultural safety programs as the state specialist. In this capacity he led the development of farm safety programs both in-state and across the United States. His contributions included journal articles, book chapters and guide sheets. His MU Guide Sheet list is very impressive dating back into the 70's, 80's and 90's. Topics such as chain saw safety, big bale safety, radon, pesticide safety, grain-bin safety, just scratch the surface of the excellent agricultural related information he brought us.

As his career developed and he became assistant dean of agriculture and natural resources extension at the University his role as an ag leader expanded. He's given strong support to two major ag extension efforts, the pasture-based dairy program and the Missouri Show-Me-Select Beef Heifer Development Program. Each of these programs has reached many farmers across the state as well as across the United States. The dairy effort has even extended into other countries.

More recently he has become a real advocate for ag and Missouri in Jefferson City. He's busy at certain times of the year attending the numerous annual meetings of the various agriculture general and commodity organizations such as Farm Bureau, Natural Resource and Conservation Service, Missouri Governor's Conference and others.

Honors include Missouri Farm Bureau's Outstanding Service to Agriculture, MU's F. B. Mumford Outstanding Faculty Award and the Award for Superior Service from the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

Describe leadership contributions to University of Missouri Extension:

The Missouri Agricultural Extension Professionals especially have appreciated Dave's attendance and support of the NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference each year. He was unable to attend this year in Sioux Falls but he did take time to visit us in the evening via Skype.