

I was proud to recently induct six new members into the 2019 class of the N.C. State Fair Livestock Hall of Fame at the State Fairgrounds.

This is one of my favorite events each year, because it gives me the opportunity to recognize the men and women who have helped to make our livestock shows some of the best in the nation. With the addition of these six, there are now 169 members of the N.C. State Fair Livestock Hall of Fame representing all facets of the livestock industry.

I'd like to share a little about each inductee.

Frank Hollowell of Hurdle Mills was inducted into the swine category. He has been a fixture of State Fair hog shows for decades, and he has been involved in North Carolina agriculture for even longer. Hollowell began his career at the Extension Swine Husbandry program at N.C. State University in the 1970s. He has put in hundreds of hours over the years at junior livestock shows around North Carolina to make sure they run smoothly, and has been involved in nearly every part of the hog shows from set up to tear down. Hollowell's contributions have been vital in helping inspire the next generation of young people in agriculture.

David Lee of Zebulon was inducted into the swine category. He also began his career at the Extension Swine Husbandry program at N.C. State University in the 1970s. Lee has become an invaluable part of the State Fair livestock shows over several decades of work. He has been responsible for assigning pens, setting up the unloading area, scales and ultrasound equipment, leading the ring crew in penning and moving hogs and more during the hog shows.

Sammy Jenkins of Apex was inducted into the horse category. Over nearly 40 years working at the fair, he has been many things, from exhibitor to vendor to volunteer. Jenkins sits on the North Carolina Horse Council, and has also been part of the Appaloosa horse club and American Quarter Horse Association. He has dedicated himself to building up the next generation of equine exhibitors, and has lent young people his time, his expertise and his horses to help them start their own careers in the horse industry.

Freddie O'Neal of South Mills was inducted into the supporters category. He began his career at Jones County Cooperative Extension in 1979, before eventually moving to Camden County Extension in 1989. O'Neal has been a consistent presence at the State Fair for many years, and has put hundreds of hours into helping livestock shows of all kinds flourish. Even after his retirement in 2003, he has given his time and energy to help kids with their livestock projects and cheer them on during shows.

The late Dr. Carm Parkhurst of Castalia was inducted under the Commissioner's Meritorious category. His legacy, built over four decades at North Carolina State University, is still felt even after his passing. As a professor of Poultry Science at N.C. State University, his commitment to his students and deep knowledge of the poultry industry made him a beloved teacher and advisor. Parkhurst also worked at the fair for many years, and as recently as last year he was the general division director of the State Fair Poultry Competition.

And finally, Larry Wooten of Raleigh was inducted under the Commissioner's Meritorious category. As president of the North Carolina Farm Bureau, Wooten has been one of North Carolina agriculture's strongest

allies for decades. He sits on the board of the American Farm Bureau Federation, and he serves as a member of the Board of the Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company. Wooten has traveled in Europe, Africa and South America promoting trade and North Carolina agriculture, and he currently serves on USDA's Ag Policy Advisory Committee. He is a highly respected leader because of his vision and commitment to agriculture. I value his opinion and knowledge of the industry and appreciate his service to North Carolina agriculture. You won't find a more passionate advocate for farmers than Larry Wooten.

We are fortunate to have people who are committed to the North Carolina livestock industry and to sharing their knowledge and experience with our state's future agricultural leaders. Each person inducted should be proud of their hard work and its impact on others.

A great example are the grand and reserve grand champion winners in the State Fair junior livestock shows. Be sure to check out pages 4 and 8 for photos and information on the grand and reserve grand champion junior livestock winners.