

2009 CLARK COUNTY FAIR HONOR ROLL



Ed Kranz

Ed Kranz came to Clark County in June of 1964 as the newly hired teacher of vocational agriculture at Northeastern High School. After growing up on a dairy farm in Richland County, he attended The Ohio State University where he was awarded both a Bachelor and a Masters degree in Agriculture Education. One of his first responsibilities was to prepare his chapter members for the upcoming Clark County Fair. The learning curve was rather steep because as a youth, he was part of a fair that was significantly smaller and less involved than the Clark County Fair.

Ed continued his involvement in the fair as an F.F.A. advisor for seven years. He then changed roles at Northeastern and became a guidance counselor. He had the privilege of serving the students in that capacity for the next 37 years before retiring in 2008 after 44 years of service to Northeastern. During this time, he was still a part of the fair through his role as one of the assistant advisors to Agle's Eager Beavers 4-H club and eventually both his daughter, Michelle, and son, Michael, became exhibitors through their 4-H and F.F.A. activities.

His most significant involvement began in the spring of 1981. The fair was in the midst of a highly publicized conflict between various groups and among other actions, the fair manager was dismissed. The treasury was nearly depleted and attendance was down. The Fair Board decided to make radical changes to the Fair including what, at that time was an unheard of plan to have patrons pay one price at the gate and get to ride all rides for free. They also decided to begin bringing in well known stars as well as up and coming entertainers. Their innovation was to allow people into the shows free. Names like Garth Brooks, Reba, Little Jimmy Dickens, and Louise Mandrel among others all graced the stage at the Clark County Fair. As a result of the new initiatives and the past financial situation, they had no funds available to pay a manager. They asked Ed to take the job as a volunteer. He agreed and for the next two years, through the innovative actions of the Board, support of the public and some simple "good fortune", the Clark County Fair turned around and once again became a major event and continued its role as one of the largest agriculture fairs in Ohio.

After the 1982 fair, the Board was in position to hire a full time manager. Ed continued to be a part of the fair as an advisor and parent. In 1986, he was elected to the Fair Board and served in that capacity for the next three years. He helped develop "The Best Cookie in the County" contest and still serves as the host at that annual event, helped start the "Dish of the Day" contest and now sponsors one of the daily events, and assists with the livestock sale by working with the auctioneers at the beef sale.

Ed is active in Plattsburg Church having served as a deacon, trustee and Sunday school teacher over the years. He will be starting his 39th year as the "Voice of the Jets" at football games as well as other events at Northeastern High School. Community activities include Kiwanis, Farm Bureau, The Ohio State University freshman admission council, Ohio State Fair 4-H woodworking advisory committee, and a member of the Ohio Berry Growers Cooperative.

Honor Roll Members:

Paul Deer

Mary Alma Benedict

Bryce Hill

Jim Foreman

Lloyd Kaffenbarger

Gayle Locke

Ethel Waddle

Gordon Flax

Bill Ferguson

Alex Neff

Dr. Ernie Winterhoff

John A. Goodfellow

John W. Kame

Norm Filburn

Dr. John L. Agle

Wilbur J. Waddle

Paul D. Shore

Janet L. Paugh

Bob Kaffenbarger

Richard L. Griest

Helen L. Smith

Dana & Mary Bumgardner

Jim & Catherine Agle

Fred & Cathie Maine

Dan Dean

Congressman Dave Hobson

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The Clark County Agricultural Society pays tribute to the above people for their outstanding dedication and distinguished service to the Agricultural Society and its facilities.