

GOLDEN OWL AG EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

ED CURRY, RIVER RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL



Edwin (Ed) Curry, FFA Advisor and Agriculture Education Teacher of the River Ridge FFA Chapter in Hanover, was named the top agricultural educator of the year. Mr. Curry unexpectedly passed away on July 29, 2019. He spent his career teaching agriculture initially at Pearl City for three years from 1984 to 1987. He then went on to teach at River Ridge for nineteen years starting in 2000, and ending in 2019 when he passed. Ed Curry taught agriculture for a total of twenty-two years and was loved by not only the entire teaching community in Illinois, but also hundreds of FFA members from across the state. "Ed Curry is a game changer, he changed lives. Because if you have met Ed, your life was forever changed for the better," stated Mindy Bunselmeyer, FFA Executive Director. His active role as a FFA Leadership Camp staff member allowed him to impact hundreds of members every summer for the entirety of his 15 years spent on camp staff. Two campers that were a part of Mr. Curry's camp groups in 2016 and 2017 later became Section Presidents together and had powerful comments regarding the kind of person Mr. Curry was to so many. Margaret Vaessen, State FFA Reporter, explains her first interaction with Mr. Curry: "Mr. Curry had a way of putting people at ease. I remember nervously walking up to my camp group my freshman year and being thrown a volleyball with questions to get to know me on it. Not only did he get me to say the FFA Creed to a group of strangers after learning I loved the creed speaking contest, but he made me feel like I could do anything in that moment." Similarly, Sophia Reavely described Mr. Curry as someone who "...was always cracking jokes and making fun of us, but I think that's why so many people loved him. He was always making people smile and getting even the shyest of students to spread their wings and take risks." Mr. Curry opened his heart to FFA campers and everyone that he met.

DISTRICT 1

Ed Curry
River Ridge

DISTRICT 2

Diana Loschen
Tri-Point

DISTRICT 3

Jody Heavner
Pittsfield

DISTRICT 4

Don Lockwood
Sullivan

DISTRICT 5

Jennifer Timm
Cisne