

Columbia County Teacher Honored With Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award

HERSHEY – The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB) honored Central Columbia Agricultural Science Teacher and FFA Advisor Doug Brown with the PFB Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award on Monday, November 17



during the organization's 75th Annual Meeting in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

The Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award, PFB's most prestigious award, recognizes individuals whose lifelong commitment to agriculture has meaningfully contributed to and advanced agriculture in Pennsylvania.

Past recipients of the award include Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding; Ernie Mattiuz, owner of Earleyville Farm; Potter County farmer and ag educator Edward Heyler; and ag educator Dr. Jim Diamond, among others.

Brown, originally from Coudersport, PA, has been surrounded by agriculture from the very beginning. His grandfather, a third-generation dairy farmer, owned and operated a prominent dairy farm in McKean County. Brown's father served as an ag teacher at Coudersport High School for 43 years. These connections to agriculture heavily influenced Brown as he pursued higher education at Penn State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture and Extension Education, followed by a Master of Education in the same field.

Upon graduation, he began his professional career at Central Columbia High School—where he has remained a leader in their agriculture education and FFA programs for 35 years.

For Brown, a career in agriculture education was never in question.

“I chose this career as a choice, not by chance,” Brown said. “I knew that I wanted to make a difference in the lives of future students. Folks had a hand in developing what I’ve become, and I wanted to do that same thing to future generations.”

At Central Columbia, he has worked diligently to build a program that provides a consummate agriculture education to students from all backgrounds. Brown’s curriculum prioritizes an inquiry-based education which encourages students to explore their own interests in agriculture and environmental science. Brown prides himself on this approach as it drives continued curiosity, and ultimately, a career in agriculture or environmental science for many of his students.

For 35 years, Brown has also served as Central Columbia’s FFA advisor, where he stresses the importance of “Living to Serve,” a line from the FFA motto. “Living to serve is community service, any aspect dealing with community service,” Brown states. “Our students know that, and our FFA members thrive on that.”

Brown lauds his support network for what he has been able to accomplish. “I’ve had nothing but support for 35 years with what we’ve done here in promoting agriculture but also promoting this school as well. From my family—my wife and daughter—to my parents, friends and family of ours, to administration here, to the Central Columbia school board.”

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau thanks Doug Brown for his selfless work, and continued dedication to the growth and success of agriculture in Pennsylvania. His work has left a lasting mark on countless students, young farmers, and agricultural professionals throughout the state. His incredible commitment to education and community serves as an inspiration to all.