AgSource honors Dr. Klemme, Selz-Pralle

VERONA

Dr. Richard Klemme was named the 2012 Friend of the Cooperative during AgSource Cooperative Services annual meeting and Pam Selz-Pralle earned the Distinguished Leadership Award.

2012 FRIEND OF COOPERATIVE

Klemme served as an Ex-Officio member of the AgSource board of directors for 11 years.

In his current position as the Dean and Director of the University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension, he leads an organization critically important to the history and future of the AgSource cooperative.

"Dr. Klemme is an effective leader with a positive, 'can-do' outlook," said Pete Giacomini, Chief Operating Officer for AgSource.

He continued, "Extension is an important part of AgSource's continued growth and success. Dr. Klemme understands this, and has been a valued advisor and proponent of what our cooperative has to offer to the agricultural community."

Klemme received his Bachelor's Degree from Illinois State and his Masters and PhD from Purdue University.

He joined the UW-Madison faculty in 1980, and since then he has held positions in the Department of Agricultural Economics, the Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems, and Agricultural and Natural Resources Extension.

The award was presented at the AgSource Annual Meeting held March 20-21 in Bloomington, MN.

The Friend of the Cooperative Award honors a non-member individual or an organization that has contributed to, supported, and helped strengthen the cooperative and the industry as a whole.

2012 DISTINGUISHED LEADER AWARD

Pam Selz-Pralle earned the Distinguished Leadership Award at the annual meeting.

The Distinguished Leadership Award is presented to a member of the cooperative who has demonstrated exceptional service and provided extraordinary leadership at all levels of the organization.

Selz-Pralle served on the AgSource board of directors for 12 years. She was elected to an officer position nine of the 12 years, including three years as president.

In addition, Selz-Pralle served on the Cooperative Resources International (CRI) board of directors from 2003 to 2009, including service as board secretary and vice chairman.

"Pam is gifted. Her ability to break down and articulate issues enables her to gain support and understanding," stated Nathan Kling, AgSource board of directors secretary. "Her leadership helped drive strategic planning, which charted a course of success for AgSource during her years of service and beyond."

During Selz-Pralle's tenure on the board, the cooperative experienced rapid growth and added over 30 million dollars in annual sales over the course of six years.

Through all of these changes, Pam was a strong leader and outstanding spokesperson for both AgSource and CRI, contributing greatly to what they have developed into as an organization today.

Selz-Pralle has also served as president of the Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin and participated in the Holstein Association at the local, state and national levels.

Through it all, Pam has stayed involved in community and family activities, serving as a 4-H leader, dairy judging team coach, basketball coach, Sunday School teacher, and Parent Teacher Organization president.

Pam and her husband Scott have a 425-cow dairy in Humbird. They are the proud parents of three children: Ryan, 18; Jessica, 17; and Nicole, 14.

AgSource is a member-owned cooperative and a subsidiary of Cooperative Resources International. Find out more at www.agsource.com.