



Mike Beebe
Governor

Department
of Workforce Education

William L "Bill" Walker, Jr.
Director

Three Capitol Mall • Little Rock, AR 72201 • dwe.arkansas.gov

Media Advisory

March 13, 2009

For more information contact:

Reginald Jackson, Communications Director

Telephone: 501-680-6275

Fax: 501-682-5117

E-mail: reginald.jackson@arkansas.gov

State Agricultural Manager/FFA State Advisor inducted into Agriculture Hall of Fame

LITTLE ROCK - Arkansas Department of Workforce Education (DWE) Agriculture and Science Program Manager Marion Fletcher, a 46-year education veteran, was inducted into the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame on March 13 during a luncheon at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Little Rock. The Hall of Fame honors those who have made significant contributions to Arkansas agriculture, as well as community and economic development.

Fletcher has spent his professional life mentoring vocational agricultural students and members of the Arkansas Chapter of the FFA. He has been the state FFA advisor since 1989 and is also a member of the National FFA Board of Directors.

"The life of Marion Fletcher has defined Arkansas agriculture education," DWE Deputy Director for Career and Technical Education John Davidson said. "Through Marion's leadership during the past four decades, three generations of students have become today's and tomorrow's leaders.

"He has never accepted mediocre. He has held the bar high and has continued to push for greater excellence for both our students and our instructors," Davidson continued. "This excellence is recognized not only locally but nationally. Marion is the longest serving State Director of Agriculture Education in the nation. Marion is not only knowledgeable about agriculture education, but he excels in his knowledge and understanding of the political process that is so necessary to the success of agriculture programs and FFA chapters around the state."

Fletcher spent six years as an agriculture instructor, first at Desha Central Schools, then at Magnet Cove, before joining the Arkansas Department of Education as Area Supervisor of Agricultural Education, a post he held for 20 years. In 1989, he was named State Supervisor and Program Manager of Agricultural Education. The Vocational and Technical Education Division of the Department of Education was renamed the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education in 1997.

He is a life member of the National Vocational Agricultural Teachers Association. Fletcher's career also includes more than 20 years of helping young people show livestock as co-superintendent of the Arkansas State Fair Association, and as a member of the Arkansas Farm and Ranch Club, where he served as president from 1992-1994.

"Marion Fletcher is a legend," said Jack Justus, Chairman of the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities. "When you see his red hair and the blue and yellow jacket, you know it's Marion Fletcher. He is so deserving of this. It's an honor not only to him, but for his family and the profession he cares so much about."

Fletcher received the Arkansas "Boss of the Year" award in 1991 and the 35-year Service Award for Career and Technical Education in 2004. He's also received the Honorary American and Arkansas Farmer Degree from the FFA.

-more-

"To say his induction into the Hall of Fame is deserved is a major understatement," DWE Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr. said. "When you hear the name Marion Fletcher, you automatically think of FFA and agricultural education. He has shaped the lives of hundreds upon hundreds of students throughout the years and has made such a positive impact on Arkansas agriculture.

"We gratefully acknowledge and honor him for his many years of exemplary service, outstanding accomplishments, dedication, and unending generosity, and his vision and guidance to agriculture in the state of Arkansas. We thank him for his unwavering commitment and leadership to the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education. I am very proud of him for receiving this honor."

The Agriculture Hall of Fame is sponsored by the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce and Arkansas Farm Bureau. Other inductees joining Fletcher included Paul H. Harvel, Justin Morris, Bob Spears and Collier Wenderoth, Jr.

--30--