



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Indiana Agricultural Teacher Named “Ag Educator of the Year”

Indianapolis, IN – Duane Huge honored as Indiana’s Golden Owl Award grand prize winner after being named one of 8 state finalists

West Lafayette, IN – Agricultural educators across the nation are devoted to making meaningful connections and encouraging the development of their students. In Indiana, [eight exceptional ag teachers](#) were named as finalists for the Golden Owl Award® for their positive impact in the classroom and industry overall. Of the finalists, Huge, an agricultural teacher at Danville Community High School, was named Indiana’s 2022-2023 “Ag Educator of the Year.”

Nationwide, in partnership with the Indiana FFA and other partners, recognized Huge as the 2022-2023 Golden Owl Award grand prize winner during the Indiana FFA State Convention. In addition to the title of Indiana’s Ag Educator of the Year, Huge received the coveted Golden Owl Award trophy and a \$3,000 Nationwide-funded donation to further Danville’s agricultural education efforts.

Huge received an outpouring of community nominations that described him as being impactful, going above and beyond, and having unmatched dedication to not only his students, but agricultural education. One nomination stated, “Duane Huge is a deeply committed educator who instills in his students a lifelong love of learning and a deep sense of community service. I credit his personal involvement for helping both of my sons define their life paths, which have now led both through challenging programs at Purdue and to top-rated graduate schools, one an engineering master’s student at Purdue and one a biology PhD student at Yale. Their FFA background provided the motivation and direction to not only excel academically, but also to contribute to their communities. Their areas of research are also strongly influenced both by their FFA projects and by the instilled sense of community, as both are working in areas that will help provide ample food and drinkable water around the world.”

As the number one insurer of farms and ranches in the United States¹, Nationwide established the Golden Owl Award with its state partners to shed light on the contributions of Indiana’s leading agricultural teachers and provide additional resources to support their programs.

“Nationwide is proud to recognize the dedicated men and women who are educating and inspiring students to pursue careers in agriculture,” said Brad Liggett, Nationwide’s president of Agribusiness. “We’re honored to have the opportunity to appreciate their contributions,

highlight the growing need for their services, and supply additional resources to help provide students with optimal learning experiences.”

Nationwide supports the future of the ag community through meaningful sponsorships of national and local organizations. In conjunction with the Golden Owl Award, Nationwide is donating \$5,000 to each participating state’s FFA, including the Indiana FFA, to further support the personal and professional growth of students, teachers and advisors alike.

The Golden Owl Award is the result of a partnership between Nationwide, the California FFA, California Farm Bureau, Illinois FFA, Illinois Association of Vocational Agriculture Teachers, Farm Credit Illinois, AgCredit, Indiana FFA, Farm Credit Mid-America, the Iowa FFA Foundation, Nebraska Agricultural Educators Association, Nebraska FFA Foundation, New York FFA, New York Farm Bureau, Ohio FFA, Ohio Farm Bureau, Pennsylvania FFA, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, Compeer Financial and South Dakota FFA Foundation. For more information, visit www.goldenowlaward.com.



¹Source: A.M. Best Market Share Report 2021

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