

Oklahoma – 2009



Hometown: Stillwater, OK
Nominated by: Oklahoma 4-H
Year Inducted: 2009

Joe Hughes **Extension 4-H Youth Livestock Specialist**

4-H Efforts: Native of South Carolina. BS in animal science, Clemson University; PhD in animal science, Oklahoma State University. Two years in the Army, one tour in Vietnam, then joined the Army Reserve. OSU Extension 4-H Youth Livestock Specialist 1971 - 1999. Active in Lions Club, OSU Animal Science Alumni Association, the Baptist Church, and the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation. Passed away in 2009.

Honors: NAE4-HA Distinguished Service Award, NACAA Distinguished Service Award, Oklahoma State University Division of Agriculture Distinguished Professorship Award. Named Scholarship Funds at Oklahoma 4-H Foundation and Oklahoma State University Foundation.

Dr. Joe Hughes began his career in 1971 as the first full time 4-H Youth Livestock Specialist at Oklahoma State University. For many years he defined the essence of the best mix of subject matter expertise and positive youth development, and he became the model that others aspired to match. His entire career focused on helping young people develop into responsible, caring citizens with leadership potential. He was one of the earliest in the country to encourage ethical practices,

sportsmanship, and quality care for youth livestock project animals. Dr. Hughes made it clear that the animal was an important means through which positive youth development and leadership could be developed.

Joe was recognized for creating innovative programs, such as the expansion of meat science education programs; the creation of youth livestock achievement awards; collaboration with 4-H and FFA leadership to develop ethical treatment and sportsmanship programs for youth exhibitors; and the "Big Three" animal science field days. He worked with university colleagues and the industry to develop a three day series of educational and competitive events for beef, sheep and swine projects that became one of the largest youth livestock educational events in the country. Joe was instrumental in the development of the National Show-ring Code of Ethics, which was adopted by the North American Livestock Show and Rodeo Managers Association.

Quotes: "God put me at the right place at the right time and surrounded me with people who believed in the same principles of good education and life skill development. I tried to carry out programs that would teach life skills and leadership that could best be taught with animal science programs." Joe Hughes

"The reason Joe played such an instrumental part in the formulation of the National Show-ring Code of Ethics was because of his genuine love and respect for the 4-H Program and all that it embraces, as well as his reverence and appreciation for agriculture." - Barbara Woods, retired State Fair Show Manager



Dr. Joe Hughes congratulating an exhibitor on his award.



Dr. Joe Hughes doing what he did so well, making positive comments about a team of youth.



Dr. Joe Hughes, always on the mic. He always wore a tie, regardless of the heat.