

Local educator in running for honor

**(KAIR)--An agricultural educator at Jefferson West High School, in Meriden, is named as a finalist for the Golden Owl Award, presented through the Kansas FFA in partnership with Nationwide.**

**According to a release, Steve Buss "was selected through nominations submitted from October 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024, recognizing his outstanding contributions to agricultural education and student development," with the release noting that "Buss was selected for his exceptional dedication to agricultural education, hands-on learning, and leadership development."**

**As part of being named as a district finalist, Buss received an individualized plaque and a \$500 check as a district finalist, and now advances to the final selection stage, where one educator will be named Kansas Ag Educator of the Year, receiving an additional \$3,000 Nationwide-funded check and the prestigious Golden Owl Award trophy.**

**Beth Gaines, Executive Director of the Kansas FFA Foundation calls Buss "an outstanding mentor and role model for his students," adding, in the release, that "his ability to connect classroom learning with real-world agricultural experiences makes a lasting impact on the future of agriculture."**

**Established by Nationwide, the Golden Owl Award honors the hard work of agricultural educators and provides additional resources to enhance their programs. This year, the award program recognizes exceptional ag educators in 13 states, including Kansas.**

**In addition to recognizing finalists, Nationwide is donating \$5,000 to Kansas FFA to further support the professional and personal development of students, educators, and advisors.**

**The Kansas Ag Educator of the Year will be announced at the 97th Kansas FFA Convention at Kansas State University from May 27-30, 2025.**

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