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SAUK CITY; WIS. – This year the 2023 WAAE Organizational Relations Award was presented to LEAF-Wisconsin's K-12 Forestry Education Program. The award was presented at the 2023 WAAE Professional Development Conference held June 25-29, 2023 in downtown Oshkosh at the Best Western Waterfront Hotel and Convention Center.

The Organizational Relations Award recognizes an organization that contributes to the overall success of WAAE. It recognizes positive service provided to WAAE on the state level for their dedication and contributions to agriculture and agricultural education through their funding and sponsorships as well as providing educational materials that are used extensively throughout the state. This year's recipient is LEAF - Wisconsin's K-12 Forestry Education Program. As agricultural educators, we know the importance of business support to our programs.

LEAF - Wisconsin's K-12 Forestry Education program is like a majestic oak tree that agriculture teachers have been able to always use as a reference in forestry education since its creation in 2001. LEAF is a partnership between the WI DNR Division of Forestry and the UW Stevens Point Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education.

The efforts of LEAF staff members and their programs are ever-present. Not only is LEAF a common workshop facilitator and exhibitor at our annual professional development conference, but their expertise and resources are available year-round for our educators. If you are not familiar with their resources, please visit their website to catch a glimpse of the bountiful materials they provide. Professional development, ready-to-use classroom lab & equipment kits, classroom-ready lessons, facilitating the Wisconsin school forest program, and curriculum development with teachers are just a few of the many ways LEAF helps agricultural educators. Their outreach programs with agricultural educators across the state have been, and continue to be, an integral

partnership in helping us enhance the ***Natural Resource*** education in Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resource programs across the state.

WAAE is the professional association for agricultural educators in Wisconsin. Members include 410 middle school, high school, technical college and university educators. The focus of the association is to provide professional development, legislative support and educational resources for teachers to enhance their local agriculture education programs.

For more information about your local agriculture education program and to find out how you can support agriculture in your community, please contact your local agriculture education instructor or visit www.waae.com.

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