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For Immediate Release

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AG EDUCATOR KENNETH MALONE RECEIVES AWARD OF MERIT, NAYC'S HIGHEST HONOR

LINCOLN – Kenneth Malone, retired agriculture educator of over 44 years, was recently selected by the members of the Nebraska Agricultural Youth Council (NAYC) to receive the Council's highest honor. Malone received the Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute's (NAYI) Award of Merit during a special awards luncheon at UNL's East Campus Union in Lincoln. The Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) oversees NAYC and NAYI.

"Kenneth Malone has been an ag educator since 1976, inspiring generations of students," said NAYC Advisor Christin Kamm. "His work has supported those interested in agriculture for years, helping raise money for classroom materials and supplies, contributing to the continued education of all students."

Malone began his career at Diller from 1976-1984 before joining the staff at Tri County Public Schools 1984-1988 and finally ending his career at Palmyra in 2020. During his time as an educator, he worked with many students encouraging them to join programs such as FFA and NAYI and supported them during their work. Malone also worked with the Nebraska FFA State, American Degree and State Star Review Committee to review State and American Degrees as well as FFA District application for the American Degree.

Additionally, Malone has been a Nebraska State Land Judging committee member for 36 years. He has worked with Natural Resource Districts, Soil Scientists and Teachers across the state to coordinate area and state contests, revise state curriculum and State Contest Regulations and awards. He visits teachers across the state of Nebraska and assists them with classroom training in Nebraska Land Judging and joined teams to the National FFA Land Judging contest to assist them on their trips.

"Ken is a shining example of what it means to be an ag educator," said Kamm. "We want to congratulate Ken on receiving this award and thank him for his dedication to the youth of Nebraska and the ag industry."

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Scholarships Awarded to Youth

Scholarships in the amount of \$500 each were awarded to two recent graduates who participated in NAYI this year as returning delegates. Returning delegates have additional responsibilities during NAYI designed to enhance leadership abilities and organizational skills.

The two scholarship recipients are Gracie Reynolds of Hooper, and Preston Beattie of Sumner.

NAYI is a week-long event for high school juniors and seniors interested in agriculture. NAYI includes motivational speakers, ag education, networking with peers and industry leaders, leadership experience and information on ag careers. In its 55th year, NAYI is the longest running program of its kind in the nation.

NAYI is made possible through generous donations from agricultural businesses, commodity groups, and industry organizations. To learn more about NAYC or NAYI, visit <https://nda.nebraska.gov/nayi/>

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NOTE TO MEDIA: Photos of award recipients are available by emailing NDA's webmaster at agr.webmaster@nebraska.gov.