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Don Quincey and John Woeste are Fla. Agricultural Hall of Fame Inductees

Information Provided By

FDACS Office of Communications

Published Nov. 1, 2022 at 8:12 p.m.

TALLAHASSEE – Today (Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2022), Florida Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried and the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame Foundation announced Dr. John T. Woeste and Donald J. "Don" Quincey as the 2023 Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame inductees. The induction ceremony is scheduled to be held at the Florida State Fair's Agricultural Hall of Fame Banquet in Tampa on Feb. 14, 2023.

"Florida agriculture has always played a key role in our state's development and economy, providing over \$150 billion in economic output while feeding families across the state, nation, and world," Commissioner Fried said. "The industry's success and resilience in the face of disease, unfair trade practices, and extreme weather comes from individuals who wake up every day ready to tackle new challenges and work for a better future.



"I am honored to recognize two such individuals whose contributions have strengthened Florida agriculture for generations to come," Commissioner Fried continued. "Both Mr. Quincey and Mr. Woeste stand apart for their leadership, dedication and innovative practices -- expanding our agricultural industry and creating new opportunities for both our state and the farmers of tomorrow."

Dr. John T. Woeste

Dr. John T. Woeste is a longtime champion and tireless supporter of Florida agriculture, now a retired dean and professor emeritus of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS).

Dr. Woeste was appointed in 1976 as the dean and director of the UF/IFAS Extension Service, a role he held until he retired 19 years later. With visionary leadership and an innovative approach, Dr. Woeste championed the selection, professional growth and development of 400 Extension Service faculty, specialists, agents and staff who served the entire state of Florida.

A former captain in the United States Air Force, examples of his leadership are numerous. During his tenure, he revived the agricultural law program at the University of Florida, adding funding and organizational guidance for the program. That work earned him the United States Department of Agriculture Unit Award for Distinguished Service in 1987.

Courses in agricultural law are now taught in the University of Florida's Fredric G. Levin College of Law. He encouraged the development of a national agricultural weather working group, which he

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chaired, and the Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN), a program still used extensively by the industry during the winter months to this day.

He also encouraged and supported focused programs by multi-county agent teams, several of which received national recognition for extension program effectiveness.

Throughout his career and upon his retirement, Dr. Woeste's commitment to the development of future leaders in the agricultural industry carried through. During his time as dean, he was greatly involved in developing the Florida Agriculture in the Classroom program.

Since his retirement, Dr. Woeste has served as a member of the board of the Florida Rural Rehabilitation Corp. (FRRC) and has been president since 2001. Citing a need to support students from rural areas and farms who wanted a college education in agriculture, the FRRC established its first scholarship with CALS in 1985.

These scholarship funds have supported hundreds of students over the years.



Donald J. Quincey

Donald J. "Don" Quincey is an advocate for the industry and role model for future generations, Quincey has an undeniable passion and dedication to the agricultural industry.

Born in Gainesville, Quincey is a fifth-generation Florida cattleman. Upon graduation from Chiefland High School, he felt called to serve in law enforcement. But after two years of service, his unquestionable love for the land and raising cattle brought him back to the family's feed store and cow-calf operation.

He was actively engaged in ownership and operations from 1977 to 2003, when the store was sold.

While supporting the family business, Quincey founded Quincey Cattle Co. in 1992, a diversified cattle-feeding operation in Levy County. The operation has grown in size and scope to meet fellow cattle producers' needs and goals, providing services to improve marketability, and options for Florida cattle.

Quincey's commitment to innovation has led to improved sustainability for the industry, with approximately 80 percent of his commodity needs coming from within 20 miles of his ranch.

Quincey has been an advocate for mutually beneficial environmental and agricultural policy – seeking to bridge the gaps between production and regulation – as a member of the Suwannee River Water Management District's Governing Board for many years. He served as chairman for nine of his 12 years as a leader in the water management district.

During his tenure, Quincey initiated the district's cost-share program and was instrumental in developing a water-use monitoring program to assist agricultural stakeholders with reporting actual water use instead of estimated data.