



2005 Bonnie Teater
Community Development Educator

**Lifetime Achievement Award
Recipient**

**Dr. Gerald Doeksen
Oklahoma State University**

The Southern Rural Development Center is proud to honor Dr. Gerald Doeksen as the 2005 recipient of the *Bonnie Teater Community Development Educator Lifetime Achievement Award*. Dr. Doeksen is Regents Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Oklahoma State University (OSU), a special professorial rank achieved by only a handful of OSU faculty having a superior record of scholarship and exceptional national standing.

Dr. Doeksen has sustained a high level of productivity over the course of his long and distinguished career. His work on input-output theory and applications, his extensive budget analyses of a wide spectrum of community infrastructure and vital local services, and his pioneering work devoted to rural health care planning, have impacted the community development work of Extension educators across the U.S. According to Dr. Tom Harris, his own success in maintaining a highly successful University Center for Economic Development at the University of Nevada – Reno is a due to the fact that “I run my program in a manner that is reflective of the research and extension principles and activities implemented by Dr. Gerald Doeksen.” Dr. Rick Maurer of the University of Kentucky adds, “I look to [Gerald] for program guidance, suggestions, materials, and ideas. Gerald is . . . an outstanding colleague.”

Dr. Doeksen has amassed an impressive array of scholarly achievements over the course of his career, having published over 60 journal articles. Equally impressive has been the score of Extension products and programs that he has prepared during this same time period. Most notable of his outreach activities has been his tireless efforts to initiate and build the nationally recognized *Rural Health Works* program. According to Maurer, it was Gerald’s long history of research and Extension programs that provided the very foundation for this important initiative. As he states, Gerald “continues to conduct training for faculty, Extension staff, and health agency personnel throughout the country. The impacts of Gerald’s work on communities and their health services are incredible.” Dr. James Trapp, Interim Associate Director of the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, affirms Rick’s observation when he states that in the past three years, “Dr. Doeksen has given 19 workshops in 19 different states, and 40 out-of-state presentations.” As a result, *Rural Health Works* has been introduced in all 50 states and fully launched in 30 states. Despite Gerald’s demanding travel schedule, Jack Frye, Community Development Specialist with the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, indicates, “Dr. Doeksen never says no when a community needs help. He always finds some way to respond in a timely fashion.”

For his innovative community development Extension activities, for his sustained commitment to advancing the community development work of Extension educators throughout the country, and for his dedication to rural people and communities in the America, it is most fitting that Dr. Gerald Doeksen be honored by the Southern Rural Development Center as the first recipient of the *Bonnie Teater Community Development Educator Lifetime Achievement Award*.

About the Bonnie Teater Lifetime Achievement Award



Bonnie Teater is a special individual to friends of the Southern Rural Development Center. For 30 years, she provided valuable support and day-to-day assistance to the Center as a member of its staff. She served as an inspiration to all because of the dedication she brought to her work and her passion for the rural development research and Extension outreach mission of the region's land-grant schools. She currently is enjoying retirement in her home state of Kentucky.

Award Selection Process

This important award is sponsored by the Southern Rural Development Center for the purpose of honoring the superior accomplishments of an Extension educator from the Southern region. Eligibility is limited to individuals who meet the following conditions:

- Currently employed by one of the 29 land-grant universities located in the Southern Rural Development Center region, and whose principal work is in the area of community development. Individuals who have retired from one of these institutions during the calendar year in which nominations are sought are eligible as well.
- Extension educators who have worked in the CD area for at least TEN years
- Extension educators with a CD focus working in a state, multi-county, or county level positions

Furthermore, it is required that nomination packets be assembled and submitted to the SRDC by the deadline date. These packets include:

- A primary letter of nomination prepared by an Extension educator or administrator in the South having an excellent command of the accomplishments of the nominee.
- Select examples of CD Products developed by the nominee
- Support letters from up to three individuals who are knowledgeable of the nominee's Extension CD work, and who can affirm the significance of the person's lifetime achievements in advancing CD work within a variety of arenas (i.e., state, region, national, international)

All packets submitted by the deadline date are evaluated by a subcommittee of the SRDC Technical and Operational Advisory Committee (TOAC), a group composed of land-grant university faculty and other rural development partners in the region. It is this subcommittee that selects the *Teater Lifetime Achievement* awardee.

