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# Dr. Gerald A. Doeksen

## Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. Gerald A. Doeksen, Regents Professor of Agricultural Economics, Oklahoma State University, has established a national reputation in rural economic development with emphasis on community services. During the past 34 years, he has received more than \$5.5 million in grant funds to support his research and extension program. He has written or coauthored 60 refereed journal articles, 97 Experiment Station publications and other bulletins, and 331 professional presentations.

He was a charter member of the Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA) and has been an active member ever since. Dr. Doeksen served the SAEA as the Association's second editor from 1973 to 1975 and served as first vice president in 1981. In 1991, he received the Distinguished Extension Program Award from the SAEA.

Dr. Gerald A. Doeksen has provided distinguished leadership and stimulation for innovative thinking about emerging issues related to rural community service and rural impact analysis for over 35 years. He has taken sound economic principles and applied these principles to critical issues facing rural society. His exceptional professional contributions include research and scholarship, publications in professional journals, and a legacy of sharing his findings, techniques, and programs with young extension professionals and seasoned colleagues across the nation.

Dr. Doeksen's professional career started with the application of solid economic theory to address the critical issue of providing rural emergency medical services (EMS). His scholarship work using optimization models and budgeting allowed him to work with rural leaders in designing cost-effective EMS systems. Because of his work, the most presti-



gious EMS publications, *Journal of Emergency Medical Services*, listed him as a "mover and shaker" in 1985. The article states:

Recognizing that budgeting and management skills might be in short supply in small rural counties, he published a "fill in the blank" guidebook that covers all the bases with classic simplicity. Dr. Doeksen, an agricultural economist by profession, can take much credit for the major improvement in rural ambulances in Oklahoma and other rural states in recent years.

Doeksen moved quickly, building on this scholarly experience, and applied optimum lo-

cation, routing, budgeting, and impact models to other community services and community problems, including health care, fire, transportation, solid waste, water/sewer infrastructure, and local economic development.

In addition to this innovative research with community services, Doeksen also pioneered work in input-output theory. His work is referenced in input-output textbooks such as Harry W. Richardson's book titled *Input-Output and Regional Economics*. He is given credit for groundbreaking work related to aggregation and size of the multipliers. Dr. Mike Woods, Professor at Oklahoma State University, indicates why the input-output research by Doeksen was instrumental in his decision to work under Dr. Doeksen. He states:

His work with input-output models and regional economic analysis were key reasons for my attending Oklahoma State University to obtain a Ph.D. in agricultural economics. I and several other graduate students worked with Dr. Doeksen in the 1970s and 1980s.

Woods further states that Dr. Doeksen's input-output research earned him several awards.

Dr. Doeksen's work with input-output research for his Masters Thesis and his Ph.D. Dissertation earned him several awards. Both were recognized by the AAEA as outstanding. His early publications in the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* (AJEA) and other journals documented his work and shared it with the profession.

Dr. Doeksen, throughout his career, has always enhanced his program with grant dollars. Over the past 2 years, Dr. Doeksen, serving as principal investigator, has received over \$800,000 in grant awards. This impressive amount of funding has been devoted to con-

ducting useful research and implementing innovative Extension programs. Although receiving this funding is testament in and of itself to Doeksen's outstanding extension program, he has also shared his knowledge across the nation. During the past 5 years, he has conducted over 50 rural health workshops in approximately 45 states. In addition, he has also presented at many workshops and conferences sponsored by such organizations as the Southern Rural Development Center. For his outstanding Extension program, he has received the Distinguished Extension Program Award from the SAEA, Western Agricultural Economics Association (WAEA), and American Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA).

In summary, Dr. Gerald A. Doeksen has made a continuous contribution to the agricultural economics profession throughout his career. He has provided leadership and stimulation for innovative thinking about emerging societal needs and issues. He has promoted the highest standard of professional accomplishment at both the state and the national level, including analysis, teaching, research, management and administration, consultation, and other relevant endeavors.

Dr. Doeksen has encouraged dialogue on a broad range of subject matter affecting rural people and places. He has facilitated communication and cooperation among AAEA members, scientists in other fields, decision makers, and the public. And finally, he has encouraged and facilitated professional growth and development opportunities for emerging agricultural economic professionals.

Dr. Doeksen's peers across the country recognize and appreciate his significant contributions as a scholar, as an Extension educator, and as a role model and mentor for students. He has operationalized scholarly research and converted it to useful extension products that have improved the quality of life in rural areas around the nation.