

## **Cox Wins Award at National 4-H Conference**

By Mike Deering

Charles Cox, State 4-H Program Leader with the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, was honored with the Meritorious Service Award presented by the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents. Cox was one of over 1200 youth professionals from across the nation participating in the association's 58th annual conference Oct. 31 through Nov. 5 in Oklahoma City, Okla.



Each year NAE4-HA recognizes members for extension work by presenting awards for outstanding accomplishments in achievement, leadership and communication. Cox received the Meritorious Service Award during the recognition banquet, Nov. 2.

This award is presented to an NAE4-HA member with at least 15 years of service to extension youth programming. The Meritorious Service Award is based on work with professional associations and extension committees. Other aspects included in the selection of an award winner are professional improvement, professional accomplishments, personal interests and community contributions.

Cox was recognized for his work with county extension staff and volunteers in the areas of liability and risk management, agricultural literacy education and the 4-H Shooting Sports project. He was also recognized for his efforts in securing extramural funds to support Oklahoma 4-H programming efforts. Cox was very proud of the recognition but said it is an award that could easily go to one of many outstanding educators.

“The award means a great deal, but I am even more proud to have the opportunity to work alongside extension educators across the country that work very hard to keep the future of 4-H strong and dedicate countless hours to youth,” said Cox.

Cox began his Extension career in Woods County and also worked in Logan County before joining the State 4-H Staff in 1988. He has presented or authored more than 20 juried posters, presentations or articles while serving on the State staff. In addition to his work with 4-H, Cox also serves on the faculty of the department of agricultural education, communications and 4-H youth development where he frequently serves on committees for graduate students working on advanced degrees related to 4-H, extension and community education.

The conference hosted in the sooner state was appropriately themed “Stake Your Claim.” The conference allowed extension youth professionals the opportunity to learn innovative, up-to-date educational information, methods and techniques, exchange ideas and to promote cooperation among all extension personnel.

For more information about the department of agricultural education, communications and 4-H youth development, contact James Leising, department head, at (405) 744-8036.

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Chris Anderson, President of the National Association of Extension Agents, presented Charles Cox with the Meritorious Service Award during the 2004 Conference of the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents.