

Alan & Jackie Steeby

"The Steebys have served the Caledonia community in a variety of ways, but their time, energy and commitment to the FFA program is what brought them this tribute", said Bill Harrison, former school board president and the Steebys' FFA advisor when they were students at CHS.



After graduating from Michigan State University in 1974, Al returned to Caledonia to teach science-related classes and FFA leadership development. As FFA advisor, Al's students excelled in leadership and skills contests at the district, regional, state and national levels. Over 140 of his students earned the State FFA Degree with six recognized as Star State Agri-businessperson. Thirteen went on to earn the American Degree.



During his 29 year teaching career, Al was named Teacher of the Year in 1994 by the National Agriscience Teacher Organization. Caledonia High School was awarded the FFA National Program Award in 1992. Al retired from CHS in 2004.

Jackie is also a Michigan State University graduate, and received her Master of Science from MSU in 1991. While Al taught classes at CHS, Jackie made sure the FFA program's needs were met by involving parents, administrators, board members and community groups.

Jackie served as coach for public speaking, demonstrations, presentations and leadership contests. She took on the responsibility of event and program planning for meetings, interviews and the annual banquet; and she made travel arrangements and chaperoned at state and national conventions. Together, Jackie and Al developed curriculum and learning strategies for individual students and small groups.

The Steebys have been involved in a variety of other activities. Al still maintains the family farm, where he raises registered Suffolk sheep. Jackie's list of accomplishments is extensive: Barry County Master Gardener, former Caledonia Education Foundation founding board member and secretary, former member of the Walking Horse Association of Michigan board of directors and she conducted Kent County Farm Bureau educational programs at area elementary schools.

"The number of students these two people have motivated, inspired and taught is impossible to determine", said Caledonia school board president Bob Bergy. "The FFA program at Caledonia is one of the premier programs in the state, if not the country, because of their efforts."

The Caledonia Education Foundation is proud to recognize two outstanding individuals who have enriched our community through their involvement with our students. Their love for the Caledonia school community — its students, faculty, parents and the farmland from which it all starts — has been evident in all they have done to make Caledonia a great place to live and learn.