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UA11/2 WKU Agriculture Department Wins Award

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News

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from Western Kentucky University

Office of Public Information • Bowling Green, KY 42101 • (502) 745-4295

WKU AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT WINS AWARD

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture Ward "Butch" Burnette announced today that Western Kentucky University's Department of Agriculture is one of four university programs selected to receive a national Award for Excellence in Agricultural Technology Instruction. The award includes a \$7,000 cash award.

The Award for Excellence is sponsored by the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture and by R.J. Reynolds Nabisco. Western's agricultural mechanization program was selected as the winner of the 15-state Southern region. Forty-eight applications were submitted nationally, including 22 from the the Southern Region.

WKU's agriculture mechanization program was selected because of its unique instructional approach, industry support and because it was deemed to be a "model program which can be disseminated throughout the higher education community to improve instruction in agricultural technology."

Cletus Mitchell, associate professor, developed the proposal for WKU's application. According to Dr. Luther Hughes, head of Western's Department of Agriculture, "This award acknowledges national recognition of the high quality of our program, the dedication of outstanding professors and the high value of support from both the agricultural industry and community."

A national winner, to be announced in September, will be selected from the four regional winners. The national winner will receive an additional \$7,000 cash award from R.J. Reynolds Nabisco. Other regional winners included Rutgers (Northeast Region), The Ohio

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State University (Midwest) and California Polytechnic State University (West). R.J. Reynolds Nabisco provides \$7,000 to each Regional winner.

Among programs submitted for consideration in the Southern Region were ag technology and dairy science at Virginia Tech; mechanical technology, University of Puerto Rico; crops entomology, Texas Tech; B.S - Agriculture, Southern University; ornamental horticulture, Louisiana Tech; computers in agriculture, Austin Peay State University; agricultural systems management, Texas A & M; agricultural education (energy), Middle Tennessee State University; agricommunication, Mississippi State University; ornamental horticulture, University of Georgia; turfgrass management, North Carolina State University; and landscape design, Clemson University.