

The Maryland Affiliate of NEAFCS cannot think of a more deserving candidate than **Dr. Patsy Ezell** for the Hall of Fame Class of 2026. Dr. Ezell joined NEAFCS in 1977, when it was known as NAEHE. At the University of Tennessee Extension, Dr. Ezell held appointments as an FCS/4-H Agent, Nutrition Specialist, District and Regional FCS Leader. She joined the University of Maryland Extension (UME) in 2008 as the FCS Program Leader and served in that role for a decade before retiring and becoming a Life Member of NEAFCS in 2020. She even returned from retirement to serve as interim program leader from 2022-2024. Thanks to Dr. Ezell, she helped build and mentor new FCS Agents under her tenure. By 2020, at least 60% of the UME-FCS Agents were hired while she was the UME-FCS Program Leader. Over the course of nearly 50 years in the Land Grant System, Dr. Ezell served as a role model, mentor, colleague, and friend to many.

Dr. Ezell's service and leadership in the association is apparent through her recognition with the Distinguished Service Award (1987), Continued Excellence Award (1998), and 25 Year Service Award (2002). Dr. Ezell was a consistent presenter at many NEAFCS Annual Sessions over the years. Her numerous awards demonstrate an outstanding career in professional development and leadership. To grow FCS membership and elevate professional development, she served as the 2004 Facilities Committee Chair where the NEAFCS Annual Session hosted 950 participants in Nashville. Dr. Ezell gave time and expertise to other deserving groups, such as American Heart Association, Giles Co. Fair Board, TN 4-H Foundation, and Rotary Club, culminating as the President in 2018 for the College Park, MD Club.

Her passion for NEAFCS led many of her employees to participate at the national level, where she still is an active mentor. Dr. Ezell has long been a passionate advocate for the mission and impact of NEAFCS. She consistently emphasized the importance of professional engagement, collaboration, and leadership within the association. Although she is retired, she continues to offer her mentorship to our local chapter members. For this and all the reasons above, we would like to nominate our friend, Dr. Patsy Ezell, to be inducted into the NEAFCS Hall of Fame in the state where her Extension career began almost 50 years ago.

Sincerely,

Alexander E. Chan, Ph.D.
NEAFCS-MD Affiliate President 2026