

## Former Agricultural Economics Faculty

### ERIC C. OESTERLE (1922-2000)

For thirty-six years, the energetic "Dr. O" was a dedicated sympathetic teacher and counselor, a pragmatic extension communicator and a practical researcher. He taught financial management (AGEC 424), strategic business management (AGEC 430) and small business management (MGMT 583). Oesterle used situations he encountered as he worked with businesses to illustrate the basic principles emphasized in the classroom. His real-life supermarket game, a computer simulation, made financial and operational management come to life for students.

He conducted meaningful off-campus food-firm workshops based on reliable resource studies of well-defined short-term problems in which management of food firms was actively involved.

His research activities were directed specifically at problems he encountered in his extension activities. Oesterle's activities earned him several recognitions: the National Distinguished Extension Specialist Award from the American Agricultural Economics Association, the Outstanding Teacher Award in the School of Agriculture at Purdue, and citations by the Indiana Grocers Association and the Egg Industry for outstanding service to their members. His students cited him "Dr. O -- the Student's Professor."

Oesterle earned his B.S. from Cornell University and his M.S. and Ph.D. from Purdue University. He and his wife Germaine are parents of five children, four of whom have advanced academic degrees in their respective fields.

