



Both Wayne and Ruth Cross grew up on a farm. Ruth grew up on a farm in the Kinmundy/Alma area, while Wayne grew up farming in the Illiopolis/Buffalo area. Wayne and Ruth met at SIU-Carbondale and were married there in 1965. While in Carbondale, Wayne earned his B.S. in Animals with a minor in Ag Economics and a minor in Plant Industries (Agronomy) from the School of Ag at SIU-C. They then moved to Indiana, where Wayne worked at Del Monte on their farms. They returned to Illinois for Wayne to take a job in Pleasant Plains, working on a farm there. It wasn't long until Wayne and Ruth moved to Illiopolis, so Wayne could start farming again with his dad while he also worked at Borden's. Eventually, Wayne began farming full-time with his dad. They raised corn and beans and had some livestock.

Wayne and Ruth have both been active with the Farm Bureau. Wayne has served as President, while Ruth served as the Women's Committee chair. Even

after those terms were up, they remained active on various committees and activities with the Farm Bureau.

Wayne and Ruth were active in 4-H growing up and continued their involvement with the 4-H as their daughters were active in Sangamon County in 4-H. Ruth even served as a local 4-H for several years. Both Ruth and Wayne have also served on the Laneville Township Board as Trustees and Supervisor.

Ruth & Wayne still reside and farm the ground in Buffalo, where Wayne grew up and where they raised their two daughters. Together they farm about 1600 acres.

**2021 Recipients
Wayne & Ruth Cross
Buffalo**