

# Don and Willadean Ramsey

## *Supporting Agricultural Education*

When Don and Willadean Ramsey met at a pig sale in the 1960s, they could have never imagined the important role that pork would play in their future.

As an agriculture education teacher at Jones High School, Mr. Ramsey was constantly faced with the challenge of helping his FFA chapter raise money to fund on-going projects. After bouncing around a few ideas, he and his students began processing live hogs into a breakfast sausage product that they then sold to raise funds.

The popularity of selling sausage as a fundraiser grew quickly, as did the number of groups wanting to participate. A few years later, Mr. Ramsey took his idea even further and began selling sausage full-time.

“He walked into the kitchen and said, ‘I hope you want to be in the sausage business, because I just bought us some equipment,’” says Willadean. “I wasn’t worried.”

After nearly 40 years of success, the Blue & Gold Sausage Co. is still going strong and has expanded to selling additional products like bacon and chicken tenders. The company works with 900 groups that sell the company’s products to raise money for community projects, trips, equipment and other such needs.

Married since 1966, Don and Willadean Ramsey made their first charitable gift to the Oklahoma City Community Foundation in 1979. Through an advised fund, the Ramseys and their two sons recommend grants to support agricultural education programs such as the Oklahoma FFA Foundation and the OSU-Agricultural Education Scholarship Inc., both of which were founded by the Ramseys.

“There comes a time in someone’s life when helping others becomes more important than helping yourself,” Don says. “When you get to that point, you’ll enjoy it so much.”



The Oklahoma FFA Foundation helps to support the Oklahoma FFA Association and its 24,000 members.



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