

News Release

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANNOUNCES 2013 "WOMEN IN AG" HONOREES

Four women have been named the West Virginia "Women in Agriculture" honorees for 2013, according to the West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA).

Induction is granted to those women who have made significant contributions to the establishment, development, advancement or improvement of West Virginia agriculture, forestry or specialty crops in the Mountain State. Biographies of the selected women will be featured during the 2013 State Fair of West Virginia

"This program provides recognition for a very deserving group of people," said Commissioner of Agriculture Walt Helmick. "I extend my congratulations to this year's new members. They have all demonstrated a lifetime of dedication to agriculture in the Mountain State."

This year's inductees are:

Arlene Rexrode of Arbovale – Rexrode, 86, takes great pride in the 250 – acre farm she has operated since her husband's death in 1995. The farm consists of pasture, hay and woodland, and Rexrode has participated in conservation programs to implement many agronomic and structural practices. She has been a member of the West Virginia Farm Bureau for 45 years. During that time, she has served as Vice Chair of the State Women's Committee, and received the WVFB Distinguished Service Award in 1997. She was honored at the 2012 Greenbrier Valley Legislative and Awards Banquet, and has served on the Southern States Home Advisory Board. She has been treasurer of the Arborvale United Methodist Church since 1947.

Carol E. Webb of Burlington – Webb is an Agriculture Education teacher, FFA advisor and farmer in Mineral County. She has coached numerous teams to national gold and silver medals. She also secured funding and operates a state-of-the-art aquaculture facility at the Mineral County Technical Center, and has helped numerous students earn their State and American FFA Degrees. Her students also provide the county school system with produce and beef produced in agricultural courses. She is involved with her family's business, Flying W Farms, LLC, and provides produce for the Flying W market. She and students have built and maintained raised beds for local senior centers and community areas. Webb is an Honorary State FFA Degree recipient, Mineral County Teacher of the Year in 1997, West Virginia Teacher of the Year Finalist in 1997, West Virginia Outstanding Agricultural Teacher in 1998, Honorary American FFA Degree recipient in 1999 and Southern State Agricultural Leadership Award recipient in 2009.

Karen Knight of Glen Easton – Along with her husband, Knight owns and operates Knight's Farm Supply. For years, she has been actively involved with Marshall County 4-H and FFA livestock programs, and is a founding member of the Cameron and John Marshall FFA chapters. She also supports youth agriculture programs in Marshall, Wetzel, Tyler and Marion Counties in West Virginia, as well as Greene County in Pennsylvania, and Belmont and Monroe Counties in Ohio. She is a lifetime member of the Marshall County Fair, won the National FFA Appreciation Award in 2011, the New Holland President's Award and the Massy Ferguson Customer Satisfaction Award for outstanding sales and service at her company.

Shelby Jean Hulver of Baker – Hulver operates a successful 125 commercial ewe flock and a herd of 30 cows. She is active in the Bean's Settlement Ruritan Club, and has held many offices, including president. She belongs to Ebenezer Lutheran Church at Rio, and has served on the Church Council and is a member of the choir. In her spare time, she does oil paintings depicting scenes from rural life in West Virginia. She has worked with WVU as a participant in many field trials on the reproductive physiology of small ruminants, and has participated in many conservation programs and stewardship programs on her farm. She won a Photographic Excellence Award from Pennsylvania Farmer Magazine, and she and her late husband, Robert, were presented with the Ruritan Outstanding Senior Citizen Award.

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture protects plant, animal and human health through a variety of scientific, regulatory and consumer protection programs, as mandated by state law. The Commissioner of Agriculture is one of six statewide elected officials in West Virginia. For more information, visit www.wvagriculture.org.