

## Edward C. Grose

Edward C. Grose was born in West Virginia in Braxton County and grew up on his family farm in Upshur County, where he was a 4-H and FFA member, and was awarded the W.Va. Farmers Degree. He attended West Virginia University (WVU) from 1941-1943 until he entered the military, serving in the air corps, infantry and airborne. In 1946, he was discharged from the army and returned to WVU, received a Bachelors Degree in Animal Husbandry in 1947, and became a WVU graduate assistant in Animal Husbandry until 1948. From 1948-1951 he served as a Penn State University instructor in animal nutrition research, while completing a Masters Degree in Animal Nutrition from WVU in 1949. He was inducted into WVU's Gamma Sigma Delta an Agri-Business Honorary; receiving the Gamma Sigma Delta 1975 WVU Graduate Award.

Mr. Grose returned to West Virginia in 1951 to fulfill a life-long dream of farming. He and his wife Jean acquired 232 acres in Terra Alta, Preston County. Over 58 years, Mr. Grose, his wife, two sons, three of his grandchildren and several WVU associates and employees, turned the 232 acres into 487 acres of a continued "practical research" institution named Montcroft Farms – named for its high elevation and small fields. Although he has been involved in many enterprises, the main constants in his farming career have been cattle and potatoes. A few cattle and a few acres of potatoes in the beginning became a manageable size registered Angus herd and 15 plus acres of certified seed potatoes. His farming practices have served as models for others and he received the W.Va. Department of Agriculture's 1966 Agri-Business Award and 1998 Agriculture Innovation Award, as well as the W.Va. Conservation 2000 Farm of the Year award for the improvements he has made to his farm and the environment.

WVU's Davis College of Agriculture, Forestry and Consumer Science has also benefited from Mr. Grose's expertise, vision and experience, as he has served on the Visiting Committee for many years. He, his family and the Montcroft Farms are a "must see" for every agricultural tour in the northern part of the state.

Mr. Grose served as president of the W.Va. Direct Marketing Association from 1983-1986 and again in 1988. He was instrumental in the development of agricultural marketing strategies and the formation of the Association. The Association was "ahead of its time" as very few states had seen the wisdom of shortening the marketing pathway from the farm to the table.

Mr. Grose is a leader in the potato industry and took his expertise nationally, representing West Virginia on the National Potato Board from 1978-1990. He, with many WVU researchers, performed countless potato trials and his research initiatives have given him access to many northeast potato researchers which allowed him to learn the skills required to become a certified seed potato stock grower. This has helped many West Virginia producers who now have a source of reliable seed to plant.

Mr. Grose has dedicated his life to agriculture and farming and worked tirelessly to advance the West Virginia agriculture industry. He has worked to fulfill his Montcroft Farms' mission statement: "To provide and establish a way of life and to grow in various ways to a profitable business with fiscal responsibility, and to employ and impart every feasible means to establish an honorable and respectable business having a reputation of integrity and character." He said the real satisfaction of associating with people is a repeat customer who is happy.

