



AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY HALL OF FAME

WEST VIRGINIA | 2024

MARK FITZSIMMONS
CAMERON, WV

“ I taught science for 31 years. I took every 9th grader to the farm and showed them what farming was. I wanted to teach them the difference between buying groceries at the store and where food actually comes from. ”

Mark Fitzsimmons was born and raised on a dairy farm outside Cameron, WV. The principles of conservation education and agriculture he learned growing up have remained central to his career. He has contributed to his community through a 31-year teaching career and by transitioning the family farm into its current beef cattle operation.

Mark earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology from West Liberty State College in 1974. After graduation, he briefly worked for the Soil Conservation Service before accepting a teaching position with Marshall County Schools. He fulfilled his goal of educating youth with positions at Moundsville Jr. High School, Sherrard Jr. High School, and John Marshall High School, where he taught ninth-grade science. During this time, he was recognized as the “Conservation Teacher of the Year” and the “Marshall County Teacher of the Year.”

While at Sherrard, he developed his well-known “West Virginia Thru the Windshield” honors science field trip. Even after retirement, he continues to lead this field trip through his consulting firm, West Virginia Edventure Tours, LLC.

Mark’s community involvement extends beyond education. He is a licensed auctioneer in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and WV, as well as a licensed realtor. He has generously donated his auctioneering services to numerous organizations, including the Marshall County Ham, Bacon & Egg Sale, the Marshall County Chamber of Commerce Christmas Tree Auctions, and the WV Association of Conservation Districts Scholarship Auction.

Currently, Mark is a supervisor with the Northern Panhandle Conservation District. His focus has been on conservation education not only in the Northern Panhandle but throughout the entire state. His motto is, “Tomorrow’s Conservation is Achieved Through Today’s Education.”

Additionally, Mark has worked with elementary students on high tunnel production, increasing the number of local foods served in Marshall County schools, and helping run the annual Hands-on Ag event in Marshall County.

Mark is a member of the Marshall County Farm Bureau, Northern Panhandle Stockman’s Association, WV Auctioneer’s Association, and Wheeling Board of Realtors. He was a 20-year member of the Marshall County Fair and an honorary member of the Marshall County Livestock Club. He and his family were founding members of the Cameron FFA Alumni. In 2011, the family farm was recognized as a West Virginia Century Farm.