

WEST VIRGINIA

2021



AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY HALL OF FAME

JEAN FIELD-SMITH

Jean Field-Smith was born on a dairy farm in Mineral Wells and was active in 4-H growing up. After graduating Glenville State College in 1972, she joined the WVU Extension Service as the 4-H Agent in Wood County. In 1984 she joined the West Virginia Department of Agriculture's (WVDA) Marketing Division, eventually becoming Division Director in 2001. She retired in 2015.

As Marketing Director for the WVDA, Smith headed a division that operated four state farms, three farmers' markets, a livestock grading and marketing program, an apiary inspection program, numerous grant programs, plus management of the WVDA commodity food warehouse.

In addition, the division helped to incubate numerous food-related companies through specialized technical assistance and marketing programs. One letter of support called her the "true initiator of the West Virginia local food movement."

She has been a member of the Mountain State Art and Craft Fair (MSACF) Board for more than 35 years and is the group's 2021 President. She also has been an active member of the West Virginia Women in Agriculture program. She serves as the Secretary of the West Virginia Farmers' Market Association and has been the pageant manager for the West Virginia Association of Fairs and Festivals (WVAFF) since 1984.

Smith was named to the MSACF Hall of Fame in 2004, and the WVAFF Hall of Fame in 2008. She was presented with the WVDA Women in Agriculture Award in 2010 and is a lifetime 4-H All-Star.

She is a two-decade member of the South Charleston Little League Board of Directors and the South Charleston High School Athletic Boosters. She is also a member of the South Charleston Planning Commission and is a member of Rock Lake Presbyterian Church.

