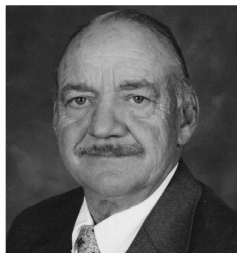


# Carl W. Larew



Carl W. Larew (dec.) was born in Marquess, Preston County, in 1946. He spent 32 years as a Vo-Ag instructor at Preston County High School (PCHS) and a lifetime as a practical farmer.

He graduated from the National School of Meat Cutting in Toledo, Ohio, in 1964, and then worked as a meat cutter for three years for Ruby Packing Company, while also working on his father's farm. In 1972, he earned a degree in Agriculture Education from WVU, where he was also a member of

the Alpha Tau Alpha Honorary Fraternity.

In 1974, he bought 181 acres with no buildings, a dozen cattle and a tractor. Using modern techniques such as embryo transfer and aggressive soil and environmental management strategies – along with cooperative business practices – he built one of the first commercial Limousin cattle herds in West Virginia. By the late-1990s, Larew had a herd of 400 animals. He was a 30-year member of the WV Cattleman's Association, but raised other livestock as well. He was particularly fond of Paint horses.

At PCHS he helped to develop a 300-acre, 275-animal “laboratory farm.” Due to his business acumen, the farm was financially self-sufficient. Profits were rolled back into purchases of farm equipment and performance-tested bulls and rams. He also helped to develop one of the country's most innovative animal processing programs. Begun in the mid-1980s, the initiative was envisioned as a way to have a facility large enough to process the county's FFA ham, bacon and egg show projects.

The meat program eventually grew to the point that Larew could persuade the Preston County Buckwheat Festival to purchase the 8,000 pounds of pork it used for pancake dinners from the school animal processing program, rather than the out-of-state vendors it had relied upon in the past.

His involvement building and operating the meat processing facility was cited by the principal as one substantial reason for the school's National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence designation.

He broke barriers for underprivileged students who were often neglected in traditional classrooms. He recognized their potential, even when they did not, and treated them with attention, respect and encouragement.

He coached numerous land judging, soil science and meat science. Twice, his teams placed in the top five in the country in livestock judging. He had an extensive practical knowledge of animal science and taught all his children how to properly care for livestock. Both of his daughters served as state FFA presidents and are veterinarians.

He is a recipient of the Honorary State FFA Degree and WV Vocational Agriculture Teacher of the Year award. He was Grand Marshal of the 66th Annual Buckwheat Festival Farmer's Day Parade in 2007. The Masontown Valley, Central Preston, East Preston and Preston County Education Center FFA Chapters all awarded him the Honorary Chapter Farmer Degree for his service. When the Preston County FFA Alumni Chapter was formed, Larew purchased the first membership.