

# Harry “Steve” Conrad



Steve Conrad graduated from Franklin High School in 1960, and received a degree in Animal Husbandry from West Virginia University in 1964. At WVU, he was a member of the Livestock Judging Team and Meats Judging Team that placed second in national competition. He also won the Block and Bridle Showmanship Contest in 1963 and served as president of the Alpha Gamma Rho agricultural fraternity.

Following college, he joined the U.S. Navy, became a fighter pilot and completed 129 combat missions in Vietnam, for which he received numerous citations. He left the Navy in 1974 and returned to the family farm in Fort Seybert. At first, he continued the family hog and cattle operation, but eventually opted to raise turkeys and cattle instead of swine. The farm consists of 1,350 acres – plus 400 rented acres – that are used to support a 200 cow/calf operation and to raise 275 acres of corn, 80 acres of soybeans and 175 acres of hay. The farm employs an array of conservation practices, including two waste storage facilities, a mortality composting facility, an animal use protection area, 300 feet of diversion ditches, 500 feet of pipeline, two springs, a well and two roof runoff management systems.

The Conrad farm also raises 76,000 turkeys for the Virginia Poultry Grower Cooperative (VPGC), which Steve was instrumental in establishing after Pilgrim's Pride stopped processing turkeys in 2004. His work allowed more than 150 Virginia and West Virginia turkey farms to remain in business. As vice-chair of the VPGC and with cooperation from WVU, Mr. Conrad also helped develop a poultry research facility at Wardensville.

Throughout his career, Mr. Conrad has remained involved in civic and agricultural affairs. He was chairman of the Board of Potomac Valley Farm Credit, a Potomac Valley Conservation supervisor, a member of the Pendleton County Board of Health, on the WVU agriculture visiting committee, chairman of the Pendleton County Economic and Development Authority and a member of the Pendleton County Board of Education. He served as county Farm Bureau president for many years, vice president of the West Virginia Farm Bureau for eight years, and was on the Board of Directors of Farm Family Insurance. He is a member of the West Virginia Cattlemen's Association, West Virginia Poultry Association, South Fork Ruritan Club, and Main Street United Methodist Church, where he and his wife, Jane, sing in the choir.

Mr. Conrad was named West Virginia Outstanding Hog Producer in 1981 and Pendleton County Conservation Farm in 1975, 1977 and 2001. He received the Pendleton County Farm Bureau Service Award in 1992. Pilgrim's Pride awarded the farm the 2003 Environmental Stewardship Award and the West Virginia Poultry Association named it as its 2008 Environmental Award winner.