

Dr. Larry Watson



Dr. Larry W. Watson was born September 17, 1947, in Mannington, WV. He received his bachelor's degree at WVU then began his 47-year-long agricultural education teaching career, starting at Shady Springs in 1969. In 1974, he returned home to Marion County to continue his teaching at the Marion County Career and Technical Center. He saw a need for expansion of agriculture offerings at the Technical Center and two major efforts resulted. This expansion helped upgrade the school curriculum to show off Marion County and the agricultural needs of WV.

The expansion brought the first 4-year secondary level, comprehensive Pre-Vet program to the school, state and nation in 1994. The program offers students advance study in animal anatomy, hematology and microbiology among other things. This resulted in the school being named in the top four of National Agriscience Education Program. The program is still thriving today. Dr. Watson's expansion also brought the first in-depth secondary level Meat Science program to the state. Numerous prize winning hams have been completed by his students since 1986.

Dr. Watson also led his students in community development efforts such as renovating old buildings into functional facilities, including a new meats facility, a fire house and a museum. Dr. Watson has shown great dedication in fostering a community awareness and promotion of rural/agricultural efforts over the years.

From being an active officer in the WV Association of Ag Educators, to helping develop curriculum standards, winning numerous awards on a local and national level, and helping dozens of students have success in FFA contests, including three first-place National Land Judging Teams all attest to Dr. Watson's educational mentorship. In 2011, Dr. Watson was the recipient of the National FFA VIP Award.

Dr. Watson is a member of the Llwellyn Baptist Church in Mannington where he serves as lay pastor to the small congregation. Dr. Watson and his deceased wife Marleen also raised two accomplished daughters. One is an agricultural educator in the Eastern Panhandle, the other a nurse in the Morgantown area.

In his teaching career, Dr. Watson saw 20 State Gold Emblem FFA Chapter Awards, 12 National Gold Emblem FFA Awards, 8 Eastern Regional US Land Judging Teams, 8 state FFA 1st Place Entomology teams, over 100 State FFA Degree Recipients and 27 State FFA, Ham, Bacon and Egg Show individual winners, among other accomplishments.

Dr. Watson officially retired in the spring of 2016.