

# Dr. Phillip I. Osborne



Dr. Phillip I. Osborne was born March 30, 1952, in Greensboro, N.C. He earned a B.S. in Biology from Western Carolina University in 1974 and a B.S. in Animal Science from North Carolina State University in 1975. He then attended Clemson University where he completed an M.S. in Animal Science in 1977 and a Ph.D. in Animal Physiology in 1980.

He joined the WVU Extension Service in 1981 as Livestock Marketing Specialist. He was promoted to Associate Professor and awarded tenure in 1986, was made a Professor in 2008, and was granted Professor Emeritus status at his retirement in 2014.

At the beginning of his career, he worked with wool pools and led the charge to establish a WV Pork Producers Association.

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However, the majority of Osborne's career focused on beef production and marketing. He worked with producers, livestock markets, Extension agents and the West Virginia Department of Agriculture to expand markets for feeder cattle. He stressed using the state's forage resources to improve growth and health of cattle. This led to the development of the WV Feedlot Test and Contract Grazing Programs. He incorporated video technology into livestock sales, making West Virginia cattle among the first to be sold using that method.

He also helped to develop the WV Quality Assurance Feeder Cattle Marketing Program, which now includes 230 producers in 16 pools and has resulted in \$16 million in additional revenue for producers. It was used as a model for the Mid-Atlantic Quality Assurance Program.

From 1981-2014, he was the Show Manager at the WV 4-H and FFA Livestock Round-up. He helped to organize and operate the state 4-H Judging Day, the Youth Division at the State Fair of West Virginia, the Youth Quality Assurance Program and the WV Beef Expo. He gave his college students real-world experience working at many of these events.

He has numerous Extension publications to his credit and was a regular contributor to the WV Cattlemen's Newsletter and the WV Farm Bureau Magazine.

He is a member of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) and serves as its state Beef Quality Assurance Coordinator. He also belongs to the National and WV County Agricultural Agents Association, the American and WV Angus Association and the Gamma Sigma Delta Association, among others.

NCBA presented him with its Outstanding Service Award in 2013, and he was the recipient of the Gamma Sigma Delta Extension Faculty Certificate of Merit in 2006, among other awards.

Following retirement, he was elected as a Supervisor for the West Fork Conservation District. He can still frequently be found hosting field days, attending calf pool meetings and visiting livestock auctions.