

# John B. Peters



John B. Peters was born August 25, 1939 in Cool Ridge, Raleigh County, West Virginia. He grew up on a family farm with his parents, Woodrow and Katherine Peters, and two younger brothers. The farm was a traditional small farm with a few cows, sheep, hogs and chickens. Thus, a lifelong interest and dedication to agriculture began.

He was Salutatorian of the Shady Spring High School class of 1957. During his high school years, he was a member of FFA, National Honor Society, Thespians, Varsity Club and played football. As a member of FFA, he earned the State Farmer Degree, served as the chapter president, southern federation treasurer and state vice-president. He married Wanda Cook in 1960.

Dr. Peters received the B.S. in Animal Science in 1962 and the M.S. in Animal Nutrition in 1963 from West Virginia University. He was awarded the Ph.D. in Reproductive Physiology from the University of Wisconsin in 1968, and was Assistant Professor of Animal Science at Iowa State University from 1968 to 1971. He accepted the position of WVU Assistant Professor of Animal Science and Animal Scientist with the Allegheny Highlands Project of January 1, 1971. In 1977, he became the WVU Livestock Extension Specialist and was promoted to Professor of Animal Science in 1980.

Dr. Peters made many contributions to West Virginia Agriculture. He was well respected and very productive in the academic community (research and teaching), but, perhaps more importantly, he had a positive influence on livestock management practices and marketing options for West Virginia's beef cattle and sheep producers. Among the major contributions Dr. Peters made in his career include: enhanced marketing options for feeder cattle and lambs, improvement of genetic base for beef and sheep, development of handling facilities for cattle and sheep, support for 4-H and FFA livestock projects, and research in the area of reproductive physiology. Dr. Peters was involved in many professional and industry societies in his career.

In his personal life, Dr. Peters was a farmer and dedicated family man. He was very active in the Calvary Baptist Church in Elkins, serving as both deacon and trustee. In addition, he was instrumental in the establishment of Randolph-Elkins Christian Academy. It has been said that a farmer's best crop is his family. His accidental death in 1980 prematurely ended a very distinguished and productive career, but not his influence. Soon after his death, friends and family established the John Peters Memorial Fund for bringing new information to farmers, students and faculty at WVU.