

2012

## **Sandra Smith**

### **Ag & Forestry coordinator at Potomac State College**

Sandy is employed by Potomac State College of West Virginia where she serves as the Agriculture and Forestry Coordinator. She also manages the family farm in Grant County consisting of beef cattle, sheep and horses. She has served as the secretary and treasurer for the WV Purebred Sheep Breeders Association and is heavily involved in the WV Angus and Junior Angus Association.

Since joining the PSC faculty, enrollment has grown at Potomac State College within the agriculture division from 45 to 165 students. She has direct involvement with the Equine Program, where she helps to maintain breeding and herd records. Sandy has successfully taken students to national judging competitions and has been involved with many student activities. Annually, she helps organize and facilitate the WV State 4-H and FFA Horse Judging Competition held at Potomac State.

As manager for Spring Run Farm, she and her family breed club calves and market lambs for 4-H and FFA exhibitors on both local and state levels.

## **Delores Pomeroy**

### **Preston Farmers' Market Manger**

Delores is the General Manager at the Preston Farmers' Market in Terra Alta. She has been involved with agriculture her entire life. Delores was raised on a farm in Preston County and also raised her own family on a farm in the county where she still resides with her husband, Kent.

Delores is currently working with businesses from all over the United States to purchase livestock that the farmers in West Virginia are raising. In doing this, she is able to get the farmers a better price for their animals. She is also able to use what she learned from the larger feedlots to help the farmers in WV raise better livestock.

It is difficult to put Delores' contributions into words as this is her everyday life. She works at the stockyards every day and lives for agriculture, the stockyards and the farmers.

Throughout Preston County, she is an example of a strong and powerful influence in the agriculture economy.

## **Bernadette Law**

### **Diversified Livestock Operator at Leading Valley Farm**

Bernadette and her husband, John, have had a cow-calf operation on their 165-acre farm at Camden for over 40 years. They also owned and operated the John T. Law Accounting Firm in Weston for 36 years. During that time, and especially tax season, Bernadette was the one who took care of the farm, in addition to working with the accounting firm. She was there to see the calves were being born and making sure they were properly cared for. She assisted the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service staff when they would come to prepare new techniques with a pond, fence or water trough installation.

Bernadette has served as a Conservation District Supervisor for the West Fork Conservation District for the last 20 years. During this time, she has conveyed to local farmers her enthusiasm and dedication to the world of

conservation stewardship and practices. Being knowledgeable about local grasses, trees and flowers has served as an asset in establishing her credentials as an astute conservationist. She believes her work as a conservation district supervisor is very important as we must share our vision with the next generation. She is also actively engaged in the Samara Contest, a program in which seventh graders are tested about their environmental and conservation knowledge.

## **Virginia ‘Ginger’ Nelson**

### **Diversified Livestock Operation at Morlunda Farm**

Ginger is not stranger to agriculture. She grew up on a farm showing market steers and hogs. As a youth, she was very active in 4-H in Person County, North Carolina. However, Ginger has made West Virginia her home and West Virginia agriculture her livelihood for over 30 years.

While operating a cattle farm with her husband, Oscar, she purchased her first flock of ewes in 1990. She was very successful in developing her flock into club lamb caliber through hard work, knowledge and an eye for genetics. Ginger and her family have supported the sheep industry both by showing and selling throughout West Virginia and surrounding states. She represented WV well with her high-quality club lamb production. Currently she runs approximately 300 head of sheep and 200 chickens. Having one of the largest sheep flocks in WV, Ginger is involved in the out-of-season breeding program supported through the state and WVU. Ginger works closely with research regarding hormones and synchronization in the sheep industry.

For many years on Saturday mornings, you would often find her at the Lewisburg Farmers Market selling lamb, beef and eggs. Her involvement with the farmers’ market started her regular egg sales and started her down the trail of a successful agricultural enterprise.

## **Mary Phillips**

### **Agricultural Education Teacher and FFA Advisor in Cabell County**

Mary has been an agriculture education teacher for over 26 years. She has devoted her career to educating young people in the field of agriculture. She provides hands-on learning for students through greenhouse production, aquaculture laboratories, small animal care, as well as her advisory duties to the Cabell Midland FFA Chapter.

Mary believes her students are her children and always encourages them to do the extra work to achieve the highest goal. Her teaching continues through the after-school activities, scholastic contests, events and activities of FFA students. She is also involved in the Farm to Family school program in Cabell County. Her FFA students for the past two years have raised an agriculture product to be harvested and consumed at local schools. Her program was a recipient of a recent USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant advocating Farm to School in WV.

Mary serves as the Vice President of the Cabell County Farm Bureau and has held this position for the past 10 years. The Farm Bureau Women’s Club is doing a Book Barn project and she has been instrumental in getting the needed funding for supplies and materials for this project.

## **Dr. Jean Woloshuk**

### **4-H Youth Agriculture Extension Specialist with WVU**

Dr. Jean Woloshuk began her service to the citizens of West Virginia in 1977 as an extension agent. In 1989 she moved to the WVU State 4-H office as an Extension Associate Professor then became an Extension Specialist in 4-H Youth Agriculture and full professor with tenure in 2001.

Dr. Woloshuk plans and implements eight statewide judging events. She also collaborates with the WVU Davis College to conduct Davis-Michael 4-H Day that provides youth support in dog, cat and veterinary science 4-H projects while creating a linkage to the pre-vet program with the college.

For more than 35 years, Dr. Woloshuk has dedicated her life to providing West Virginia youths and adults high-quality agricultural educational programs, events and curriculum. As Extension Specialist, 4-H Youth Agriculture, Jean has major responsibilities in the areas of the youth agriculture program development. Through the development and implementation of educational opportunities and programs, she strives to increase youth and adult knowledge and understanding of agriculture and food and fiber production and the impact on their lives.

## **Donna Elza Teter-Bee**

### **Diversified Farm Operator at Teter Farms**

Donna grew up on a cattle and sheep operation in Whitmer, Randolph County. After marrying Danny Teter, they established Teter Farms. With the untimely death of her husband, Donna took over the farming operation. With the assistance of two teenage children, the farming operation continue and has grown to the present-day production of brood cows, purebred ewes, commercial goats, a newly added corn maze and pumpkin patch. In all, the operation contains over 6,000 acres of owned and rented land.

Donna's greatest contribution is in the area of advocacy. She is committed to adopting conservation practices in some of West Virginia's most remote grazing lands. On both owned and rented farms in the "Sinks of Grady" area of Randolph County, she has worked to make those farms more useable and manageable for livestock production.

On January 9, 2012, Donna passed away. The farming operation is continuing under the leadership of her children, Zachary and Natasha. The Randolph County farming community has suffered a great loss. Her contributions will be truly missed. Donna's hard work and dedication will be remembered through her recognition as a WV Woman in Agriculture.