

Roger L. Nestor

Roger L. Nestor was raised on his family's farm in the Moatsville area of Barbour County. The oldest of six children, he and his siblings worked on the farm and cared for the cow herd. After graduating high school in 1969, he attended West Virginia University where he earned a B.S. degree in Agronomy in 1973 and an M.S. degree in Agronomy in 1976. In August of 1975, he married his wife, Reta Jean.

In November 1977 he started working as an Agriculture Extension Agent in Upshur County, and in 1984, he transferred to Barbour County, where he remained until his retirement in 2012.

Although Mr. Nestor has been involved in significant grassland and livestock programs throughout his career, his most obvious achievement is the Barbour County 4-H land judging and home site evaluation programs he began building in 1979.

Since 1985, 16 of Nestor's 34 teams have qualified to go to the National Contest. Six have finished second, and nine have won national titles in either the 4-H Land Judging or Home Site Evaluation Contests. Four teams have won both titles in the same year, and the Barbour County Land Judging Team took three consecutive National Land Judging Championships between 2002 and 2004, the first-ever three-peat in the 60-year history of the event.



But Mr. Nestor's true greatness is the time, effort and love he puts into each student, building self-confidence and team skills along with knowledge of soil uses and management. Although retired, Nestor volunteers to continue coaching the teams, and has led fund-raising efforts so team members won't face financial hardships on their regular trips to Oklahoma City for the national contests.

Nestor also has provided untiring service and research to the farmers of the state. For 27 years, he has helped local farmers in their selection of performance tested bulls. He also played an important role in establishing a Barbour County calf pool.

For more than 15 years, he compiled carcass data on the Barbour County 4-H market animals to better help the 4-H and FFA members improve the quality of these animals. He has also been involved with contract grazing research at WVU for more than 18 years. His work with grassland management and feeder cattle programs have led to better farm productivity for countless individuals throughout the state.

The 4-H & FFA market animal program in Barbour County increased from 38 exhibitors to 60 during his tenure, and the market animal sale grew from approximately \$29,000 in 1984 to nearly \$105,000 when he retired. He has served as the Swine Superintendent at the W.Va. State Fair for more than 15 years.

Mr. Nestor was awarded the Honorary FFA Degree in 1995, the 2001 Distinguished Service Award from the National County Agriculture Agents Association, and the Barbour County Chamber of Commerce Director's Special Award in 2006. In 2011, he was named an Outstanding 4-H All-Star, and in 2012, the Barbour County Fair Livestock Barn was named in his honor.