

2010

Janet L. Fisher

West Virginia Department of Agriculture - Deputy Commissioner

“Women have always played a strong role in agriculture, but it’s just been in the last few years they have received the recognition they deserve. Agriculture means different things to different people. To some, agriculture means working directly on the farm; to others it means working in or starting an agricultural business; and still to others, it means having a career in government, working daily with agricultural issues and policies to the benefit of our agriculture community. I am proud to stand alongside women across our nation and to be counted among the ranks of Women in Agriculture.”

Jean Smith

West Virginia Department of Agriculture – Marketing & Development Division Director

“I was raised on a dairy farm in Wood County and grew up knowing how important Agriculture is! Agriculture is my passion! I wish that everyone had the opportunity to grow at least one food item, then perhaps food would not be taken for granted. During my tenure at the Department of Agriculture my greatest joy has been helping West Virginia Grown Agribusinesses become recognized for their importance in our state’s economy!”

Jenny Carder

Beef Cattle Farmer – Taylor County

“I learned the importance of agriculture at an early age being the daughter of a country doctor in Wetzel County. We never had a lot of money, but we ate good. Steaks, ham, bacon, eggs, butter, beans, tomatoes, turnips, all kinds of produce including apples and grapes which paid the patients bills. I married a farmer 50 years ago and we still are farming, raising beef cattle. I love our cows and the cattle industry which I have worked in for 45 years. Our 6th generation farm is our life whether it is calving in the spring, mowing and baling hay in the summer, or feeding stock in the winter. I’m proud to be a part of an industry that feeds the world.” P.S. I love my tractor!

Marge Burke

Beef Cattle Farmer – Gilmer County

“Whether it was as a five-year-old little girl working on my grandfather’s farm in Braxton County, or standing to speak to my peers in the West Virginia Legislature, I have dedicated my life to the support, protection and advancement of agriculture in West Virginia. For over five decades, I have worked tirelessly to help young people pursue and improve their interest in farming. I consider my success in the progression of agriculture with 4-H and FFA youth as one of my greatest accomplishments.”

Herma Johnson

West Virginia Department of Agriculture – Regulatory & Environmental Affairs Division Director

“I grew up in rural Fayette County where our family raised a garden and canned everything possible. I was the youngest of 10 children and we never had a meal without opening a jar of those canned vegetables. Agriculture was a way of life for me then and now. My garden is in containers now, but I still crave fresh vegetables in the summer from my own garden. I began my career with the WVDA in 1973 and have worked in various positions. As Director of Regulatory and Environmental Affairs, we are “behind the scenes” inspecting and sampling agricultural products

to ensure quality products for the folks of West Virginia. I am proud to say during my career, I have seen tremendous technological progress in the way we complete inspections and testing.”

Katy Orr-Dove

Orr’s Orchards – Martinsburg, WV

“Agriculture has given me opportunities to be an entrepreneur and to share the fruits of my family’s labor with my community. I believe women are so important to agriculture because of their versatility, creativity and persistence. Women know what farm products people want, find a way to produce them, and then market these products in their own special way. Women also tend to be enthusiastic and optimistic about their farm enterprises, which gets the consumers excited about agriculture.”

Ruth Linton

Dairy Farmer – Berkeley County

“I am proud of the family farm in Berkeley County that my husband Doc and I bought from his father in 1947 which my four sons and I still farm today. After Doc’s passing, the boys and I have continued to carry on the operation, and build the foundation that the 6th generation of our family now enjoys. The farm has given my four sons, nine grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren the platform they need to become successful in 4-H and FFA. One of my greatest joys has been to watch them show their dairy cattle at our county youth fair. Being a farm family has taught them responsibility and the value of working hard for what you have. I have told them, always work hard and keep your nose to the grindstone. You can’t leave work when you come home. It’s a constant job and you must be dedicated. I feel proud that I have watched the simple life Doc and I started so long ago become a family full of role models for future farmers for many years to come.”

Marjorie Ours

Beef County Farmer – Upshur County

“I was born and raised on a farm and married Robert M. Ours, who was also a farmer. We raised beef cattle and when he passed away in 1993, I realized he had certain goals he worked toward and if I didn’t continue to farm, all of his hard work and goals would vanish. I learned from my husband how to manage and continue to farm which was a big undertaking. I have been, and still am involved with many agricultural organizations and programs that are beneficial to our agriculture industry and keeping our family farm in existence. These organizations are comprised of many youth who seem to be taking an interest in raising animals on their family farms. These are our future farmers and we women farmers can be a stepping stone to their future in Agriculture.”