

WEST VIRGINIA

2022



AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY HALL OF FAME

JENNIFER OURS WILLIAMS

Jennifer Ours Williams has spent her career advocating for agriculture in West Virginia, where she is a strong voice for farmers and agribusiness owners. She was the first woman in the state to become a USDA-certified livestock grader, was instrumental in the creation of the West Virginia Women in Agriculture Conference, and currently serves as the WVU Extension Service's Associate Dean for Programs and Partnerships.

She was raised at Ours Valley View Poultry Farm in Fisher where she was active in 4-H and FFA and earned numerous honors in those organizations, including first place in the state poultry judging contest and was among the top five at the national 4-H contest



She graduated from WVU with a Bachelor of Science in Animal and Veterinary Science and a Master of Science in Agriculture Education. Her first job was as a Livestock Marketing Specialist for the West Virginia Department of Agriculture. She was part of the inaugural board of directors for the first West Virginia Beef Expo and served as the group's secretary for nearly 20 years. She also assisted in the development of the West Virginia Beef Expo Stockman's Contest, which has become the biggest agricultural youth event in the state.

Jennifer joined WVU Extension as the agriculture agent for Upshur County and led a team that developed the Premier Exhibitor Program at the State Fair of West Virginia. She then moved to Morgantown to lead Extension's Agriculture and Natural Resources Unit before becoming associate dean.

She is a driving force behind the West Virginia Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame and championed major renovations to the organization's facilities at Jackson's Mill.

Jennifer was presented the Distinguished Service Award by the National Association of County Agriculture Agents (2020) and by the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents (2015). She was named a 2019 West Virginia Wonder Woman from WV Media and was awarded the Susan Dew Hoff Award by the West Virginia Women's Commission (2012). She was given the WVU Extension Faculty Award of Merit by Gamma Sigma Delta (2012) and the West Virginia Department of Agriculture presented her with the WV Women in Agriculture Award (2010). She is the co-owner of Ours Valley View Poultry Farm, which raises more than one million birds and grows over 400 acres of corn and soybeans yearly.