

Certificate of Merit Citation for L. Margaret Rempel

Marg Rempel grew up on a dairy farm near Brandon, MB, and studied at Canadian Mennonite University, University of Manitoba, and Assiniboine Community College. Marg and her husband Ron worked as community development volunteers with Mennonite Central Committee in northeast Brazil from 1975-78. They returned to Manitoba and purchased the family farm near Ste. Anne, southeast of Winnipeg.

Marg farmed together with Ron until his death in 2003, and has continued to farm on her own, managing and operating a mixed farm of 500 sow farrow-to-finish hog enterprise and 1600 acres of cropland, growing cereals and oilseeds. Several years ago, her oldest son Jason made the decision to return full-time to the family farm, adding meat goat and pasture-raised chicken enterprises to the mix.

Marg is very involved in Manitoba's agriculture community. She has served on the 4-H District and Regional Councils for six years; has been a director with Keystone Agricultural Producers (1987-1995), including four years on the executive committee; and she has been a founding board member of the Manitoba Rural Adaptation Council (1996-2003), including serving as chair of the project evaluation committee and vice-chair of the executive committee. Since 2008, she has served as a delegate/district advisor on Manitoba Pork Council. Nationally, Marg sits on the board of directors for the Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute.

For six years, Marg was part of the Provencher constituency agricultural advisory committee. She served as a representative on the Sectoral Advisory Group on International Trade (Agriculture and Food). Marg's interest in international food security issues led her to serve on the Canadian Foodgrains Bank board of directors (1997-2004), chairing the board for the last four of those years, and traveling to India and Bangladesh in that capacity. In her local community, Marg has served as a board member with the Bethesda Hospital Foundation in Steinbach since 2000, chairing a capital fund-raising campaign for a new community cancer care wing at Bethesda Hospital in Steinbach, as well as a new obstetrics/birthing centre, opened in December of 2007.

In 2012, Marg was presented with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for outstanding service to her community. Also in 2012, she was presented with the Award of Distinction from Manitoba Pork Council in recognition of outstanding contributions to the agriculture sector. In 2010, she was awarded the Farm Credit Canada Rosemary Davis Award – a distinction that honours women who are active leaders in Canadian agriculture. In 2009, she was recognized with the Philanthropist of the Year Award from the Loewen Foundation and the Steinbach Community Foundation.

Marg Rempel's accomplishments and vast contributions have had far reaching global impact, but perhaps it is the motivation and commitment to her work that impresses most. She has said that primary food production is the most important vocation that exists. Marg is deeply acquainted with the challenges and the complexity required to provide our community and the world with high-quality, environmentally-friendly food options and considers it an honour to do so.

Marg is the mother of three adult children and grandmother of two preschoolers.

This Certificate of Merit is presented to L. Margaret Rempel by the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences at the University of Manitoba, in recognition of leadership with agricultural organizations and outstanding service to the community at large.

May 2, 2014
Winnipeg, Manitoba