

Certificate of Merit Citation for Marlene E. Baskerville

Marlene grew up on a small family farm near Rosenfeld, MB, taking her education in Rosenfeld and Altona. She went to the then Manitoba Teacher's College, now part of the Canadian Mennonite University. Receiving her Teaching Diploma, she taught Grade 4 in Steinbach. However, a moment of inspiration led her to the University of Manitoba where she earned her Bachelor of Home Economics (Honours) in 1970.

Marlene was hired by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture in Boissevain, MB, where she was the Home Economist from 1970 to 1974 and from 1985 to 1995. From there she moved to Winnipeg as the Agriculture Curriculum Specialist until 2012 when she left the department. She was also the Acting Superintendent of Agricultural Societies for a number of these years.

Since she has 'retired' she finds herself busier than ever and enjoying it.

Marlene is currently working as the Executive Director of the Manitoba Association of Agricultural Societies (MAAS), which is the provincial advisory board for the 59 Agricultural Societies in Manitoba. Currently MAAS is working with ag societies in building community leadership capacity through community engagement activities. As well, MAAS is organizing and delivering Open Farm Day and including ag societies in creating experiences and activities for consumers to see when and how their food is produced.

Volunteer work is a big part of her life. Marlene serves as Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors for the Heart and Stroke Foundation, and focusses her time on the importance of primary prevention in health risk factors based on smoking cessation, physical inactivity and excess weight. She also sits on the Board of Directors with the Red River Exhibition Association, one of Manitoba's largest agricultural societies, where she is Finance Chair and is involved in developing and directing the policies and programs of the Association.

For more than 25 years, she has been involved in the Manitoba 4-H program, as a member, a leader, a parent, a departmental staff person, and again most recently returning as a leader. She is currently co-leading the University of Manitoba Future Leaders 4-H Club where members participate in leadership development activities and programs to help them prepare for their careers in the agricultural industry.

Marlene has three children, two of whom are working in the agricultural industry and the third is a member of the Canadian Armed Forces. She has five grandchildren, age range three to 13.

This Certificate of Merit is presented to Marlene E. Baskerville 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 6, 2016
Winnipeg, Manitoba**