

# *Sherrie* HUTCHINSON

Former Director  
WVDA Plant Industries Division

*Jackson County*

Sherrie received her BS in Botany from Marshall University and then a MS in Forestry (Protection) from Duke University in May 1978. Upon graduation she worked as a part-time summer employee in the WVDA's Plant Pest Control Division as a Laboratory Technician.

During Sherrie's 35½ years at the WV Department of Agriculture she worked several jobs from sorting insect trap collections as Laboratory Technician, recommending control measures for forest, garden and home insect/vertebrate/cultural problems as Plant Pest Biologist, conducting insect surveys for native and non-native forest pests as Forest Entomologist, planning and assisting with native and non-native insect and disease surveys for forest and agricultural crops and conducting Division program and personnel management. Sherrie worked in many sections of the WVDA Plant Industries Division; Pest Identification Lab, Forest Health Protection Program, Agriculture Pest Survey Program and ended her career with the WVDA as the Director of Plant Industries Division in October 2013.

Sherrie is happiest outdoors and considers herself blessed that she was able to spend a lot of time doing field work conducting insect and disease surveys all over the state. Some of these surveys included emerald ash borer, hemlock woolly adelgid, balsam woolly adelgid, loopers, oak leaf tier, beech bark disease and soybean rust. She also coordinated and conducted biological control releases for hemlock woolly adelgid and emerald ash borer.

Her farm now provides for the family via their bees, chickens, ducks, vegetable garden and wood lot where they cut firewood for winter use. Sherrie is an avid gardener and does a lot of canning with her sister. Sherrie often gets antsy by spring time and starts vegetable plants from seeds in order to get plants out as early as she can to start grubbing around in the garden.

She resides in Ripley with her husband, Hutch who also worked at the WVDA. They have four children (two sons & two daughters) which they raised on their farm, Hutch & Sons Apiary.



## *2015 Women in Ag*