

# Jennifer "Tootie" JONES

Swift Level Farm  
Beef Cattle Operator

*Greenbrier County*



Both sides of Tootie's family are deeply rooted in agriculture and have made significant contributions to farming and cattle in WV and beyond. Family beef and dairy operations provided her adolescent education and inspired what she has followed her entire life. From the back of a horse, she has studied and worked on ranches in North America, South America, Europe and the far West Indies learning about land, grazing, cattle, meat and the culture of that life. This helped develop her understanding of genetic origin, forages, unique qualities and a great zeal for cultural food influences.

Tootie owns and manages Swift Level Farm and Swift Level Land and Cattle. She is absolutely committed and passionate in her efforts to regenerate fertile soil, lush and abundant forages and to produce healthy, slaughter steers that finish on "all grass," which she markets by the cut and carcass in many restaurants and homes across the country. Swift Level was awarded the 2014 Greenbrier District Conservation Farm and was runner-up for the 2014 WV State Conservation Farm of the Year.

Visitors will also enjoy the small herds of horses that Tootie has been breeding for over 40 years, two of which have made two different Olympic 3 Day Event teams.

She operates Swift Level with her two children, Rece and Everett, both who are very involved in running the diverse seasonal event schedule, farm dinners and tours, educational programs and other events. "I couldn't do this with out them!" And there is a new generation, a beautiful grand-daughter, making for five generations on Swift Level land.

Tootie's philosophy is that a society grows when its people plant trees whose shade they know they will never sit in.

Tootie's commitment to agriculture is very noticeable as she works with and is a member of several agriculture organizations throughout the area such as the Greenbrier Valley Pasture Network, WV Food and Farm Coalition Meat Working Group, WVDA Rural Rehab Loan Committee, Greenbrier Local Foods Initiative Sharecrofting Project, NC Choices Women in the Meat Business and others.



## 2015 Women in Ag