

Margaret WOODWORTH

Flying W Farms
Agri-Business Operator

Mineral County

Margaret's love for agriculture began with her upbringing on a beef farm in Randolph County. She went on to earn her BS in Agriculture from West Virginia University and then worked for Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) in Washington, D.C. as an employee development specialist, and special assistant to the Associate Administrator. After leaving FmHA, she helped form the Farm Credit System Assistance Board. In 1991, missing the rural life of West Virginia, she transferred back home and joined the WV Farmers Home Administration Team as a Program Analyst in Morgantown. Margaret married Rick Woodworth and moved to Burlington, working as an assistant county supervisor while continuing many of her duties as Program Analyst until she left the agency in 1996.

Margaret ended up becoming "the new farm hand" after her move back to the farm and from there, things grew. She and Rick moved the "Produce Stand" to the store's current location and sold their beef along with produce. In 2001, a deli and grill was added and in 2002, the processing facility. In 2006, the store grew with the addition of the restaurant and larger retail meat cases. Off-premise catering adds another dimension to the business. In 2010, construction was completed on the USDA-inspected slaughter facility. The farm has continued to raise its cow numbers. Currently, they have 450-head of cattle consisting of cow/calf pairs, replacement heifers, market/feedlot cattle, feeder calves, and bulls. In addition to their own farm, they rent three additional farms.

Flying W Farms produce is sold in their store, the Mountain Fresh Producers Farmer Market, and they also have wholesale customers. Produce raised includes: sweet corn, tomatoes, cantaloupe, watermelon, peppers, cabbage, pumpkins and gourds.

Margaret has continually been involved and supported 4-H and FFA programs where children are taught to strive in the agricultural arena, strongly believing in supporting our future agricultural leaders.

Margaret lives in Burlington with her husband, Rick and their three children Jessica, Will and Don. They are a fifth generation family farm which focuses on sustainability, food safety and seasonality.



2015 Women in Ag