



Mary Kraft

Morgan County Exemplary Leadership Serving Agriculture

Inducted 2013

Mary (McIntosh) Kraft is a fourth generation dairy farmer, growing up and working on her family's Adams County dairy farm. Mary loved animals and chose 4-H projects that included those—horses, dog obedience and veterinary science. She rounded out her projects with quilting, pie baking, and ceramics. Underlying each of those projects were club leadership, speech contests, demonstrations and exchange trips—all providing a training ground for organizational skills, parliamentary procedure and community service.

Mary credits her success to the 4-H activities and her parent's dedication to the 4-H program. David and Joyce McIntosh both led projects, fundraisers, 4-H camp and mentored 4-H members in addition to running their dairy farm. She says 4-H and her parents set an example of service, leadership and quality work output that have been the bedrock for her life choices and accomplishments.

Mary and her husband Chris started their own 200 cow dairy in 1988 named Badger Creek Farm in Morgan County. Through seven remodels, they improved the dairy, then designed and built a second, state-of-the-art facility, Quail Ridge, which, in 2007, milked 4,200 head three times daily. The two dairies employ 75 full time people, deliver 20-30 calves daily and contribute to the economic fabric of Morgan County and Colorado.

Mary is a key agricultural and community leader in Colorado having served on various boards related to economic development, the community hospital and performing arts. She is a graduate of the Colorado Agricultural Leadership Program, Colorado State University (Journalism and Technical Communications) and New York Institute of Technology (MBA). And just recently she was named president-elect to the Colorado Livestock Association—the first women to hold an elected office or serve on the board of directors of that organization.

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