

Watchdog Hall of Fame Class of 2022 Inductees

Academics/Achievement

Dr. Marvin Wastell (1959)

Marvin Wastell is the second of three children of Wayne and Lucille Wastell. He grew up in a farmhouse without electricity until eight years of age and without indoor plumbing until he married his wife at age 21, five miles northeast of Beresford. He attended Pleasant Hill #55 grade school, a one-room school for grades one through eight, where Marvin had only two other classmates.

Like many others living on a farm, Marvin did many chores before and after school. He milked two cows (by hand) and ensured the family livestock were cared for and fed. Marvin borrowed money from the First National Bank in Beresford at the mature age of eight to purchase a pregnant gilt from his grandfather. A couple of years later, he purchased a show steer to show alongside his pigs at 4-H Achievement Days. He continued his work with 4-H, serving as a club officer and participating in many 4-H activities.



Marvin's neighbor, John Stuessi, befriended Marvin, and they showed purebred Chester White pigs at 4-H Achievement Days and the State Fair.

In addition to 4-H, Marvin was active in sports, debate, and Future Farmers of America while attending Beresford High School from 1955 to 1959. During his four years of FFA, he served as Secretary, Vice President, and District Officer. As a senior, Marvin earned a State FFA Farmer's degree, Star State Farmer's degree, and State President. He later received an American Farmer's degree before attending college full-time.

Marvin attended South Dakota State University, formerly known as South Dakota State College, and started with a major in Agriculture Education. He later changed his major to Animal Science. During the first two years of college, Marvin returned to the farm during the crop seasons. In the fall of 1962, Marvin and his new bride, Corinne, thought it was best to continue their education, so they sold their livestock and their machinery to move into student housing at SDSU and continue their education. To provide for his family, Marvin worked various jobs at the college in the Nutrition and Bacteriology Labs, Beef Reproduction, and Swine Barns.

After graduating with a bachelor's degree, Marvin continued to achieve his master's degree, while Corinne finished her bachelor's degree at the College of Nursing. Marvin is proud to share

that his wife was the first Nursing student to graduate from SDSU while married and a mother of two children.

In 1966, Marvin and his family moved to Ames, Iowa, so he could begin his Ph.D. studies in Animal Nutrition while Corinne began her nursing teaching career. Marvin continued his education and earned his Ph.D. at Iowa State University in January 1970. A month later, the family moved to Decatur, Indiana, where Marvin worked as a Swine Research Specialist in Central Soya's Research department. Corinne taught health careers for the Fort Wayne Indiana school system.

After four years in Indiana, the Wastell family moved to Lansing, Michigan, where Marvin served as the Director of Nutrition and the Director of Technical Services for the Michigan Farm Bureau Services. While serving as the Director of Nutrition, he coordinated swine research projects for 20 different farm cooperatives throughout the United States and Canada. Marvin also served as the technical advisor to the Farm Bureau attorneys in one of the largest cases of man-caused property damage in the United States, where there was accidental feed contamination at the Farm Bureaus Feed Plants.

In 1978, the Wastell family moved to Dayton, Ohio, where Marvin served as a Nutritionist for Carl S Akey, Inc. There, he developed feed products and feeding programs for regional feed manufacturers in Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, and Kentucky. Additionally, Marvin assisted the Akey salesman with teaching regional feed manufacturers, owners, salespeople, and customers the benefits of the new products and programs.

A year later, the family moved to Kentucky, where they were the part owners of a 500-sow farrow to finish swine operation and a small feed mill. Again, Marvin served as a nutritionist for both the swine operation and feed company. Meanwhile, they formed Nutri Plus, Inc., a consulting nutrition and management company. A few years later, they co-founded Gro Master, Inc with two other swine producers.

In 1985, the Wastell's sold their interest in the swine operation and the Kentucky feed company and moved Gro Master Inc. to Omaha, Nebraska. The company grew in Nebraska, expanding to Iowa, South Dakota, Kansas, Arizona, Texas, and Manitoba, Canada. Gro Master became the innovative engine for the Swine Industry, starting with the Crystal Spring Wet/Dry feeders Marvin brought to the United States from Manitoba, Canada. Additional innovation includes solid dividers for private eating, wean/finish feeders with adjustable shelf and nipple guard, the EZ Adjust: quick find-tooth adjustment, and Water Space: Bringing wet/dry feeding to weaned pigs. Marvin is also one of the inventors of two other patents, including feeding different diets to different groups of pigs and an animal feeder with the adjustment of a feed discharge opening.

Marvin's other accomplishments in nutrition include serving as the nutritionist for the Arizona Pork Producers Association. Marvin is also the published author of four scientific papers in *Supplemental Vitamins in the Drinking Water for Early Weaned Pigs*, *The Role of Vitamin E and Selenium in Nutrition of the Pig*, *Performance and deficiency Symptoms of Young Pigs Low in*

Vitamin E and Selenium, and Effects of Wet/dry Feeders and Pen Stocking Density on Grow-Finish Pig Performance.

Although Marvin and Corinne reside in Omaha, Nebraska, Marvin continues to support his home state of South Dakota and Future Farmers of America. He received the Honorary American FFA Degree in 2009, represented as the Keynote Speaker at the South Dakota FFA State Convention in 2011, earned the South Dakota Honorary State FFA Degree in 2015, initiated and led the capital campaign efforts for the renovation of the FFA Nursery and Petting building in 2016, awarded the state FFA Association Distinguished Service in 2017, and elected President of the state FFA Alumni Steering Committee in 2018.

In Nebraska, Marvin and Corinne are active in Optimist International. Through Optimist International, they serve to bring out the best in the community's youth and themselves. In addition to holding many offices at the local and state levels, Marvin has received several awards. In 2010 he received the District Charles "Bud" Sharrick Award for a chairperson who succeeds in meeting criteria in Preparation, Knowledge, Effort Extended, Follow-Through, Difficulty, and Results. He also earned the Richard L. Stoehr Award for the most dedicated to attaining the district's goals. In 2016, Marvin was recognized as Distinguished Nebraska District Governor. At that time, Nebraska District ranked fifth out of 48 Optimist Districts.

Marvin has served in multiple capacities for the Metro Area Youth Foundation, a 501c3 nonprofit organization that helps families in their fight against childhood cancer. The organization provides emergency financial assistance to families with a child battling cancer at one of Nebraska's premier pediatric oncology units in Omaha, Nebraska. In 2021, the organization provided over \$110,000 in financial relief to 99 families in the Midwest. Since Marvin's involvement in the Metro Area Youth Foundation, the organization has contributed over \$1.3 million to assist families challenged with childhood cancer.

Furthermore, Marvin and Corinne started Avenue of Flags in 2014 to honor all Americans. In 2021, they placed over 600 flags in five different neighborhoods and raised over \$20,000 to help fund various youth activities and scholarships.

Since Marvin finished his collegiate career, he strived to follow the creeds of the Future Farmer's of America and Optimist International. From the FFA motto, Marvin and Corinne are always "Living to Serve" and from the Optimist International they are "Bringing out the Best in our Youth" by being involved in many activities that help our youth.

**Congratulations to our Watchdog Hall of Fame
Academics/Achievement inductee, Dr. Marvin Wastell!**

