

Moffat County Fair Dedicated to Rhonda Counts



Each year, the Moffat County Fair Board works to recognize someone who represents the core values and work ethic of our Fair participants and volunteers. For 2023 the Moffat County Fair is Dedicated to Rhonda Counts. Moffat County history runs deep and wide in the family tree of Rhonda Counts.

Rhonda's mother, Beverly, was born into the Ottens family who settled in the Hamilton area and started the Hamilton Store in 1913. Beverly's mother, Edith Osborn married Albert Ottens on Aug. 30, 1931, in Rifle, Colorado. Edith and Albert were well-known for their 50-year tenure as the proprietors of the Hamilton General Store and Post Office.

Originally settling in the Great Divide area in the 1920's, Wesley's parents eventually moved North of Cedar Mountain where they remained.

Rhonda's parents Wesley Counts and Beverly Ottens were married July 12, 1958, in Grand Junction, Colorado. Wesley is a longtime wheat farmer and Beverly worked with Moffat County Social Services for 33 years.

Graduating from Colorado State University with a Bachelor's degree in horticulture, and later receiving her Master's degree in education from Regis University, Rhonda went on to teach Science in the Moffat County School District for 22 years. Rhonda is active in her church, the Craig Church of Christ, and devotes many hours to "volunteering under the radar." She is spending time this summer with a small group of girls

teaching them to sew, with a push toward entering quilts for this year's Fair. She loves to spend time in her yard and at the family cabin on the White River. With acres of grass that needs tending, there is no lack of mowing to be done and Rhonda is the family go-to!

Rhonda was quick to say the confidence gained, and connections made by participating in 4-H, FFA, and exhibiting at Fair had a tremendous influence on the trajectory of her daughter Jessica's career.

Rhonda attended the County Fair for many years with her daughter, waiting for just the right time to serve on the Moffat County Fair Board, which she was an active member of from 2012-2019. Rhonda reflected on her motivation for serving, "It's my turn, everybody needs to have a run at it and realize what a huge job it is."

When asked if she had any special thoughts about Fair, her response was, "I think it's a little bit humbling to be even asked to do anything like this because there are so many people that work so hard on it. I think there are a lot of things that happen that nobody ever sees, so I think it's really about the people that are not getting acknowledged."

Rhonda's unwavering support and volunteer hours are the backbone of the Moffat County Fair Quilt Exhibit, she is an integral part of the volunteer team! Without such dedicated volunteers, the Fair would not survive. That is why we take extreme pleasure in dedicating this, the 2023 Moffat County Fair, to you Rhonda Counts. We want to thank you for your many years of service and commitment to the Moffat County Fair.