

NYFB State Promotion & Education Committee Welcomes Heather Prokop

Grassroots and PE Website

Sandie Prokop

February 14, 2017

Heather Prokop was recently elected as the District 9 (Schoharie, Delaware, Otsego, Greene, and Sullivan Counties) Representative on the NYFB State Promotion & Education Committee. She is not new to promoting and educating and wanted to be more active and increase her ability to share her farming story.

Heather grew up living in many places as her Dad, Frank Masterson, was a Navy Officer. This gave her the opportunity to see a bit of the US and experience “change” as a very real part of her life. Although her residence changed, her attachment to farming was a constant via her grandparents. Her Dad’s parents were farmers in Schoharie, NY, from 1938 to 1994. Her Mom’s parents were dairy farmers in Columbus, NY, with the family farm operating from 1805 to 2002.

Her hands-on experience began in 2000 when she married Jon Prokop, who owned and operated Crossbrook Farm in Middleburgh, NY, with his parents. Heather helps when needed and devotes her time to their children and several volunteer roles such as Vice President of the PTO at the Middleburgh Elementary School and as a team member raising funds for The Marathon for A Better Life, which seeks to provide relief and support to distressed Schoharie County residents currently fighting cancer; encourages community solidarity between those who are fighting cancer, those who have fought cancer, and their families, friends, and neighbors; promotes human dignity; and, empowers local residents currently fighting cancer through providing them with financial assistance and other necessary resources to better enable them to overcome personal obstacles, pay for medical treatments and expenses, triumph over cancer, and fight for a better life. She also provides a farm tour opportunity to many requests, which provides time to share the farming story.

Their farm enterprise includes a milking herd of 400 Holsteins (with a few Ayrshires) plus their special Jersey ladies, some of whom are shown annually at the All-American Dairy Show in Harrisburg, The World Dairy Expo and at the North American International Livestock Exposition (plus some Canadian Shows). Their three sons, Hunter, Devin, and Connor have all been active in the show ring. Crossbrook Farm’s main crops include a total of almost 1,000 acres including corn, hay, and soybeans, plus the occasional crop of pumpkins.

Heather’s background and experience as a teacher’s assistant for twelve years for special education and behavior modification is a testament to her patience, caring attitude, and dedication to education. Those skills are a major asset as she daily works to promote understanding of agriculture through a variety of avenues. Heather feels strongly that “Farm Bureau is extremely important, a great way to educate and build relationships with those from a non-agricultural background. Agriculture has enriched our lives and added to our “family” network. This industry is very special, the welcome sign is always out and a helping hand always extended. We value and are thankful for so much.”

We look forward to Heather’s support and ideas as we embark on a 2017 program to Promote & Educate!