

Cathey Day – Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences Certificate of Merit

Cathey Day's lifelong dedication to community development, international cooperation, and volunteerism has left an indelible mark on Manitoba and beyond. Born and raised on a multi-generational, farrow-to-finish hog farm near the infamous community of Dand, Cathey's early life instilled in her a deep appreciation for rural life, family, and agriculture education. She graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1988 with a Bachelor of Human Ecology, majoring in Family Studies with a minor in Women's Studies. Her academic foundation laid the groundwork for a distinguished career in public service and community leadership.

Since becoming a Professional Home Economist in 1989, she has remained an engaged member of the Manitoba Association of Home Economists (MAHE). Her contributions were recognized in 2010 when the Faculty of Human Ecology Centennial Committee named her one of 100 graduates who have made significant professional contributions.

Cathey began her professional journey in 1990 with Manitoba Agriculture as an Extension Home Economist where she served many communities in western Manitoba. For decades, Cathey has managed programs and people with humour and wit. She demonstrates empathy and gratitude with all those with whom she is involved. From the Manitoba Government's Queen's Leadership Development Initiative to Circles for Reconciliation – Cathey loves learning and having fun.

Cathey served as Canadian Coordinator (Canadian Society of Extension), in partnership with the Tanzanian Society for Agricultural Education and Extension (TSAEE) with the Agriculture Institute of Canada travelling to Tanzania and Ghana building agricultural and educational partnerships. She was a founding member of the former Canadian Agricultural Rural Extension Society and contributed to project evaluation and international outreach traveling to El Salvador through the Canadian Home Economics Association.

For 30 years, she has served as a volunteer board member of Prairie Skills Inc., a non profit organization that restored a heritage building in Deloraine and focuses on community. She enjoys dancing at the MB Farm Women's Conference; volunteering with Ag in the Classroom – MB; The Marquis Project and as an executive trustee of Deloraine Area Donor's Choice.

Cathey's commitment to youth development includes a passion for Camp Wannakumbac. She was a founding member and Vice Chair of Wannakumbac Circle Inc. and the Clear Lake Community Service Cooperative which now governs Camp Wannakumbac.

From being a provincial 4-H public speaking winner in 1984 to a 2024 chaperone of Manitoba 4-H students to Japan, Cathey's family commitment to various levels of the 4-H program remains strong.

Her involvement in arts, sports, and faith communities is equally robust—she participates in the Deloraine Community Band and Choir and provides worship leadership and music at the Deloraine Area United Church.

Home for almost 35 years has been the Prairie Wind Angus farm near her hometown of Deloraine where she and Buzz raised three sons with lots of extended family support. Two sons attended the University of Manitoba and perhaps so will their delightful grandsons. Cathey's family continues to embody the values of service, leadership, and community that has defined her remarkable life.