

# Moffat County Fair Honorary Volunteers Keith and Shelley Pankey

The Moffat County Fair board has selected Keith & Shelley Pankey as the 2022 Fair “Volunteers of the year”. Keith & Shelley have not only donated countless hours helping at the Moffat County Fair but they are also involved in numerous other entities that help at the fair. They say, “it is for the kids & the community.” They enjoy going to the fair each year to see everyone & watch the kids grow & bring back families of their own to the fair. Keith says that “there are no better people than Ag people!”

Keith & Shelley are both 4<sup>th</sup> generation ranchers in the Yampa Valley. Shelley was from Meeker CO, but when her family moved to Axial basin, she started attending school in Moffat County in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and has lived here ever since. The Pankey family has been in Moffat County since homesteading here in 1917 on Great divide. Keith & Shelley met in High School & were married on August 12<sup>th</sup>, 1972. Friends & Family did not need to worry about an Anniversary party, because it was always during the fair, and they were always all there together!

Neither Keith nor Shelley attended more than 1 year competing in 4-H as children because their families lived too far out of town, but they were very involved in FFA and Ranching growing up. Their boys, Kevin & Justin, however, started 4-H at a young age showing steers.

Along with full-time jobs, Keith & Shelley have been volunteering at the Fair for a very long time. When ask to help, they jump right in. Keith & Shelley were asked to help pick the Fair Queens back when DeLaine Brown was the Extension Agent, and have been involved with interviewing the Queens & helping with the program ever since. Keith (with Shelley’s help) has been involved in and part of the Moffat County Cattlemen, Fair Board, Beef Superintendent, and Foundation for over 30 years. They are both a staple in beef weigh-ins every year helping. They say it is always entertaining watching new steers, and new exhibitors coming in with their steers for the first time but also rewarding watching the kids grow and learn each year.

As well as being selected for Volunteer of the year, Keith & Shelley have received numerous awards through the years for Land Conservation, Range Management, and the most recent being the “2022 Colorado Leopold Conservation Award” for their commitment to traditional agriculture while working to implement daily conservation practices on their land east of Town. They have also been awarded the “Super Superintendent award” from the fair in 1999 and had the Fair dedicated to them in 2008. They say “It is not for the awards, they do it for the kids”. They are proud to be part of the Fair & have enjoyed seeing all the improvements made through the years. DeLaine Brown stated that “Keith and Shelley have always been an instrumental part of making the Moffat County Fair & Jr. Livestock Sale, not only a success but fun each year. Their easy smiles and laughter with everyone always make the fair a welcoming family affair.” “They are truly appreciated for their unwavering dedication & everything they have done for the MC Fair and Jr. Livestock Sale.”

Needless to say, Keith & Shelley have not only lived and raised a family in Moffat County, but they have been stewards of the land and livestock in our community, and have continuously been an asset to our kids, County Fair, and way of life. When asked, they jumped in with both feet

and continue to give their time. Their dedication and love for Agriculture make Craig & Moffat County a better place to live.