

# *George Hunter*

George was born in Grove City, Pennsylvania on June 6, 1917 to the late Samuel Robb and Mary Denniston Hunter. He married Evelyn McMichael on June 12, 1943. They celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013. On March 18, 2014 George passed away.

During his life, George was a self-employed farmer and a metal smith at Arthur Armour Forge in Grove City. He served his country during World War II as a U.S. Army Medic. He was a member of the Tower Presbyterian Church in Grove City and in recent years had been affiliated with the Irwin Presbyterian Church. He taught Sunday school class for decades. He often was the chosen “preacher”, sharing the Good Word at many livestock shows for informal Sunday services.

Active in agriculture throughout his life, George attended Penn State University. He was an active member of numerous sheep and wool organizations. He was the secretary for over four decades of the Pennsylvania Suffolk Sheep Association. His unique Suffolk newsletters were popular, not just in Pennsylvania, but across the entire nation. George was well-known for his signature style of artfully blending current livestock news with a history lesson and a little dose of humor. He also served as secretary for the Pennsylvania Shorthorn Cattle Association for many years. George was a past president of the Mercer County Board of Extension. He was enthusiastic and passionate in his endeavors to promote the livestock industry.

George was well known in Pennsylvania and nationally for exhibiting prize winning sheep and cattle at many county fairs, Keystone Livestock Exposition, Pennsylvania Farm Show and the Chicago International Exposition for more than 50 years. George and his fellow exhibitors often rode in railroad cars, with their livestock, to some shows out west. He was a frequent judge of sheep and cattle in the Eastern United States. He also managed sheep sales in Pennsylvania. He received numerous awards for his outstanding contributions to the livestock industry.

The George Hunter Family was honored as the 1983 Pennsylvania Farm Family of the Year. In 1984, George was inducted into the Pennsylvania Livestock Hall of Fame at the Keystone Livestock Exposition. Also, in 1994, the Keystone Sheep Sale was dedicated to him in honor of many years of contribution to the sheep industry. Nationally, George was recognized in 1997 at Louisville with the presentation of the Distinguished Service Award by the National Suffolk Sheep Association. His service to the Suffolk industry began in 1939 with the purchase of his first Suffolk. Decades later, he was still promoting Suffolks. His outstanding loyalty, motivation and dedication as a Suffolk breeder continued into the 2000s.