

Andy Groseta

Andy has been involved in agriculture for a long time. He taught agriculture and led FFA at Amphi High School in Tucson and has also committed years of service to ranching on both the state and national level. He is a third-generation rancher from Arizona's Verde Valley. His family immigrated to the U.S. from Croatia during the twentieth century. After they immigrated here, his grandfather worked in the mines in Jerome for 15 years.

Once Andy's family was settled, they saved enough money and bought a farm and ranch in Middle Verde in 1922. On this ranch and farm, they raised fruits and vegetables, cattle, sheep, chickens, turkeys, and some milk cows. His grandmother would churn milk from the cows into butter. Needless to say, they were pretty busy! They would take all their produce up the hill and peddle to the miners in Jerome.

Peter and Katherine, Andy's parents, were born in Jerome. His mother completed training at St. Joseph's in Phoenix. After her training was complete, she went back to Jerome and continued her career as a Registered Nurse. His father went to work in the smelter after graduating high school. Andy's family later went on to have the first mechanized hay baler in the valley.

Andy graduated from the University of Arizona in 1972 with a B.S. degree in Agriculture Education and Animal Science. He also received a master's degree in Agricultural Education in 1978 and went on to become an FFA Advisor and Agricultural Education teacher at Amphitheater High School in Tucson. Here, he designed and built one of the first high school livestock/land laboratories in Arizona.

When Andy's father passed away in 2000, he purchased the W Dart Ranch with his wife, Mary Beth Meyers, from the family. Today, half to two-thirds of their cattle herd consists of Angus cattle. Since then, they have expanded their operations-they bought the Aultman pasture from Bill Fain in 2003, added the old Montezuma Indian School property in 2005, and started grazing cattle on the Quail Springs Ranch in 2009. In 2008, he traveled to South Korea (at the request of President George W. Bush) and represented the National Cattlemen's Beef Association as the President. Andy was inducted to the Arizona 4-H Hall of Fame

in 2013 and also, along with his wife, were recognized as the 2004 Arizona Agriculturists of the Year by the Arizona FFA Association.

Andy's love of working with the land and cattle run deep in his family. His children all continue to be helpful on the ranch and have ag ventures of their own with cattle and sheep.



