



## Arlyn Lawrenz

Arlyn Lawrenz grew up on a farm north of Walnut Grove, MN. He participated in basketball and track before graduating from Walnut Grove HS in 1966. After high school he attended Worthington Junior College from 1966 to 1968 before moving on to the University of Minnesota from 1968 to 1971 where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture Education.

In 1971 Lawrenz accepted the agriculture instructor and FFA advisor position at Holdingford High School. During his years at Holdingford he worked with over 2000 students in the Agriculture Dept where he worked to instill the importance of agriculture in the state, United States, and world. He was named the Holdingford Teacher of the Year in 1997.

His work was founded on the principles of the FFA Motto, which was written in 1928.

Learning to Do  
Doing to Learn  
Earning to Live  
Living to Serve

Countless students went on to receive a degree in some field of Agriculture, including Ag Economics, Ag Business, Ag Engineering, Animal Science, Veterinary Medicine, and Agronomy/Plant Science. It was especially important for him to see five of his former students receive a degree in Ag Education and went on to teach Agriculture. Two are still teaching today, Duane Litchy in Albany and Robert Skwira in Royalton.

Through the Agriculture/FFA Department in Holdingford, many school and community projects were initiated, including

- Community Park downtown
- Outdoor environmental learning centers, on the south end and on the north end of the school
- Landscaping of the school grounds with trees, shrubs and flowers
- Developed the “Welcome to Holdingford Home of the Huskers” sign by the school
- Raised over \$20,000 for Camp Courage from 1971 to 2006
- Raised and released close to 10,000 pheasants in the area from 1971 to 2006
- Started the Veteran’s Day Program with the FFA chapter

Arlie retired from teaching in 2006. His support of the FFA continued and he earned a Honorary Chapter Farmer degree from the Holdingford FFA and the Honorary State Farmer Degree from the Minnesota FFA Association.

Arlie was also a devoted member of the community of Holdingford. He has been a Holdingford Lions member for 45 years, a member of the Community Country Church, formerly known as the South Elmdale Congregational Church, from 1973 to present, a member of Holdingford Snoflyers, and of the Two River Lake Association.

Arlie has continued to serve in other capacities as well. He held the office of District II Director for the Stearns Electric Cooperative for 18 years. He currently is the Area II Supervisor for Stearns Soil/Water Conservation District, an office he has held for the last 10 years.

Have been married to Marcy for 54 years and have two children who both graduated from HHS. Nikki and her husband, Steve, children Michaela, Mia. Son, Trevor and great grandchildren, Isaiah and Emma.

Arlie believes this would not have been possible without the backing of the Holdingford School District and community. He gives a lot of credit to Mark Stai who taught alongside him for over 30 years. The successful agriculture program continues today with two great agriculture teachers, Mr. Roberts and Mrs. Blackbird.

