

# K The Woman Behind KSU ASI Events

*Lois Schreiner has given 40 years of fabulous service to K-State.*



No matter what Kansas State University Animal Sciences and Industry (ASI) extension-sponsored event you attend there's one smiling, dedicated face you're sure to find — Lois Schriener's.

"In any organization, there are a few people who do all of the behind-the-scenes work and make the organization go. We have a few of those, and Lois is one of those key people," says Dr. Mike Tokach, KSU ASI professor and extension specialist.

Lois is an integral part of the ASI department, leading the planning and hosting of the annual Family & Friends Reunion, KSU Cattlemen's Day, KSU Swine Day and everything in between.

"Smart, generous, hardworking, positive, honest, successful. These words describe what it means to be a member of the KSU ASI Family," says Dr. Patsy Houghton, Heartland Cattle Co., McCook, Nebraska. "They also describe a very important member of our family, Lois Schreiner."

Starting as a secretary in the department at 17, Lois has dedicated her entire working career to Kansas State University. That is just more than 40 years of commitment to our state, each one better than the last.

"June 3, 1974, was a lucky day for me... starting on the same day as Lois," recalls Dr. Larry Corah, KSU ASI professor emeritus.

Lois remembers the days of scribing notes from a professor, then typing up their reports on a typewriter. The professor would look over the document, make their edits, and Lois would type it up again, hoping she didn't make any mistakes. She can also recall the day Corah brought in the department's very first computer to make her job easier.

Lois' KSU career has not always been on campus. After taking a three-year hiatus from working to stay at home and raise her small children, Lois returned in a part-time capacity to the Pottawatomie County Extension Office for six years before Dr. Mark Arnes convinced her to return to Manhattan full-time. She hasn't missed a beat since. Picking up right where she left off, Lois is still positively influencing the direction of the department to this day.

"No event hosted by ASI occurs without Lois' fingerprints all over it... and when she is involved, you know it is going to be successful," Corah adds.

According to State Extension Leader and Professor Joel DeRouchey, Lois is much more than an event coordinator and administrative professional. DeRouchey has known Lois since his time at K-State as a graduate student in 1998. He says Lois has a true desire to host high-quality events for the department and is

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“Besides her unique and talented skill set, Lois is one of the finest people you could ever be associated with. She is a special lady.”

“In her own quiet, behind-the-scenes way, Lois is a very effective leader. Never one to seek the spotlight, she leads by example through her work ethic, integrity and creativity.”

“Her ability to be a fantastic grandma, mother, wife and friend are what make her one of my heroes.”

“Lois is unwavering in her dedication to help people. K-State Animal Science is lucky to have a wonderful, hard working woman like Lois, that brings this department together from students, to faculty, to alumni and industry partners.”

“Lois’ ‘get it handled with a smile’ attitude and approach to life is an example we should all follow.”

“She is the unsung hero behind the reputation our department has for providing excellent events and educational opportunities for both young and old.”

“Lois Schreiner is a highly respected, long-term employee of the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry. She has superb organizational skills and great attention to detail. She combines these skills with an unmatched level of professionalism.”

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truly invested in putting on professional and educational programs.

### **Above and beyond**

Lois goes far above and beyond what is expected of her. Youth Livestock Coordinator Lexie Hayes says, “Lois is essential to planning and hosting high-quality youth livestock programs in the state. Although she does not have any direct responsibilities for the program, she shows up at every event with her classic smile and warm, welcoming attitude, ready and willing to do anything to help the event run smoothly and to make sure all of the families in attendance have a great experience.”

DeRouchey adds, “Lois is viewed as a part of the team; she truly cares about the department, putting in extra time on nights and weekends to make sure everything runs as smoothly as possible.”

Lois also represents K-State ASI at the annual National Cattlemen’s Beef Association Convention and Trade Show. According to Dave Nichols, KSU ASI professor, Lois is the perfect person for industry partners, potential students and other NCBA attendees to meet and associate with the department.

Outside of K-State, Lois also assists the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF), currently serving as assistant to the executive director. In this role she helps coordinate the BIF board activities and attends the yearly convention that moves from state to state.

### **Mother, grandmother and colleague**

Mother of five and grandma to 12, Lois stays busy at home as well as at work. She has found

the perfect work-life balance, attending evening middle school football games and high school basketball games after her KSU workday. Lois rarely missed a ballgame or extracurricular event while her children were growing up, and continues to attend her grandchildren’s games and activities. In fact, most of her vacation days are taken to spend time with her grandchildren. ABS North America District Manager Sandra Levering notes, “Her family has always been her priority, but she also goes above and beyond what is expected of any job or responsibility.”

Her positive attitude and cheery personality are uplifting to those around her. “Lois is one of those very special people who makes everything and everyone around her better,” Houghton says, adding, “She is always ready and willing to offer support, no matter the circumstances.”

No matter how busy she is, Lois is always willing to share a listening ear and a shoulder to cry on. Tokach explains, “Lois serves as a trusted confidant for many in our department, including undergraduates, graduate students, staff and faculty. She always listens, hears and gives advice as requested. You can air your concerns and know she is going to hear them with an open mind.”

Former student employee Rose Dollarhide



adds, “Lois will always take the time to ask about a person’s family or home life, no matter how long her to-do list is.”

There’s no doubt Lois Shreiner has been and continues to be a huge driving factor behind the success and popularity of the ASI department. She is selfless, kindhearted and humorous; a friend to all who are fortunate enough to cross paths with her. Thank you Lois for your “fantastic” work.

— Rachel Waggie

