

# 2019 Grand Marshals: Randy & Gail Curless

The Bonner County Fair is a family tradition that began in 1927 when Gail (Sherwood) Curless' mother, Ruth Allanson Sherwood, showed hogs at the inaugural Bonner County Fair. Gail's dad, Bob Sherwood, was a 4H leader and local rancher. Gail became a 4H leader as soon as she became too old to participate in 4H. She led everything from photography, vet science, beef, dairy and horse. Her favorite was starting the pilot Ranch Horse project, teaching roping, reining and cattle handling. Gail and Randy also instructed numerous 4H trail clinics. Randy and good friend Mark Bonser developed a packing and outfitting project. In the late 1960s, Randy helped design the Bonner County Fairgrounds campus when it moved to Boyer. The indoor and outdoor arenas were his special projects. Randy and Gail haven't missed a county fair since 1963 when they were married. Gail hasn't missed a county fair since she was 8 years old, her first year of 4H. Gail has served on the Bonner County Fair Board since 2002, in addition to volunteering as a fair judge, beef superintendent, and fruit and vegetable superintendent. Randy can be found judging dairy cattle, pumpkins, leather work and many other fair entries.



Their daughter, Erica, participated in 4H showing horses, cows and market steers. Her grand champion steer also won the carcass contest in 1993, the same year she graduated from Sandpoint High School. As an adult, Erica has served as the fair's creative writing superintendent. This spring Erica's daughter, Quinn, showed her first market steer at the Spokane Junior Livestock Show. This marked the fourth generation of 4H livestock showmen in the family. The Curless family has sponsored and worked on junior rodeos and dog trials at the Bonner County Fairgrounds. Randy and Gail team roped and showed cutting, reining and snaffle bit futurity horses. Now they practice at their home arena in Dover for the annual cattle-sorting exhibition at the fair.

For 25 years, Randy has devoted his energy to training herding dogs of all breeds. He gives people and their dogs lesson on working stock. He trials the family's Border Collies across the Northwest. For years, he demonstrated the amazing herding abilities of his dogs at the fair. Outside their Dover ranch, which has been in the family since 1918, Randy worked for the Union Pacific Railroad for 32 years, retiring in 1995. He served as the mayor of Dover for nearly 20 years, resigning in 2014. Gail worked as a seed potato inspector for the state of Idaho and then at the Lake Pend Oreille School District for 20 years in transportation as a bus driver, dispatcher and Director of Transportation. Randy and Gail still live west of Dover and raise Katahdin sheep, hay, and ride their horses and mules.



## BONNER COUNTY FARM BUREAU

MORE THAN JUST GREAT INSURANCE

The Bonner County Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization that promotes agricultural enterprise, supports rural America, defends property rights and educates our community regarding these values.

### THE BONNER COUNTY FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS

- Bonner County Fair & Pre-Fair
- FFA: Working to Reinstate the FFA Program in Bonner County
- Scholarships for Graduating HS Seniors
- Farm Tour
- 4-H Livestock Sale
- Livestock Barn Improvements
- 4-H Horse Camp
- Tractor Driving Contest
- Forestry Contest

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