

MARY HOOKHAM

JANESVILLE - ROCK COUNTY

Occupation: Agriculture Journalist & Photographer

Employer: Freelance

As a freelance agriculture journalist and photographer, Mary enjoys meeting area farmers to learn about their operations, as well as to understand and share their passions for agriculture. Though she is based in Janesville, she generally visits several farmers each month around the state.

Mary grew up on a small beef and chicken farm near Footville where she worked with her family to care for 50 head of cattle and 200 chickens. Her older brother, Jim, and younger sister, Colleen, have always been very close to her as they all grew up and shared work responsibilities on the farm. She has many wonderful memories of her childhood and is thankful to have had the opportunity to experience farm life firsthand.

She graduated from Parkview High School in Orfordville in 2005 and obtained a technical diploma in landscaping and horticulture from Blackhawk Technical College. She went on to obtain a Bachelor of Arts degree in Print Journalism with a minor in English for Writers from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in 2010. Since Mary has always loved to write, she feels confident she's found the perfect career for herself and is excited to write each day. The joy she feels in getting to know farmers, sharing their stories and perfecting her agriculture photography is second to none, and she is always enthused to see her work published in Agri-View.

Mary met the love of her life, Matt Hookham, at their Catholic church in Footville in 2007 and they were married in 2010. They celebrated their rural upbringings by having their wedding reception on her family farm and roasting a pig. After spending the first five years of their marriage living in Fort Atkinson, Mary and Matt found their dream home on the west edge of Janesville and have settled there.

She enjoys working from home in her journalism and photography career. She takes pleasure in spending time with Matt working on their home, kayaking, camping, going on motorcycle trips and experiencing life to the fullest. Mary also loves to read commercial fiction novels, writers' magazines and anything related to agriculture. And Matt enjoys her baked treats daily!



Support Mary in her Leadership Wisconsin experience by sending a tuition sponsorship check to: Leadership Wisconsin, 610 Langdon St., Room 331, Madison, WI 53703 (In memo line write: Mary Hookham Sponsorship)

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