

## **Mrs. Mary (Pew) Thomas**



### **1. What activities were you involved in as a student at RVHS?**

Mrs. Thomas was involved in National Honor Society, MArching and Concert Band, Show Choir, and Track for 1 year. She also was in FFA and competed in the many judging contests like Public Speaking, Soils Judging, General Livestock Judging, Food, Science and Technology, Parliamentary Procedure, and many more.

### **2. What or who was influential in your life that drove you towards your career field?**

The FFA program was a huge part of her time at high school. Although as a freshman, she did not realize how much it had to offer to students with or without an ag background. Both of her teachers, Mr. Buxton and Mr. Rich, were very encouraging with students to become involved. As a female student, it was inspiring to have such positive female role models in upperclassman and even college students who served as state and national officers. Agriculture is such a vast field, and FFA really opened her eyes to all of the potential career opportunities that were available. As a freshman starting out who didn't want to be a part of the "farm kid class" to a senior whose love of livestock grew the more she was around them, agriculture became her definite plan for a career path.

### **3. What are your career and job responsibilities?**

Mrs. Thomas currently works part time on her beef, sheep, and hay farm while she is home with her 2 young children. She has 30 commercial sheep and 30 beef cattle that she assists with feeding daily, performs routine vaccinations, estimates and calculates weight gain, and corresponds with her direct market customers to fill their orders on freezer meet. She maintains records and provides labor assistance for making 30 acres of hay as well. She tracks all of the farms financial records on her computer bookkeeping program to know how the operation is performing financially and for tax purposes.

### **4. How did River View lay a good foundation for your success?**

River View offered many different programs to help students find their interests as they grow. What she enjoyed as a freshman was much different than what her passion grew into over the years and throughout her senior year. Her interests surrounded the ag community and careers. The connections she made as a student has helped her into her adult life as well. From having professionals speak about careers in agriculture, to volunteering alongside FFA Alumni members, she still sees and works with many of these same people, even 15 years after graduation.