



About George Donald DeVault

Award-winning journalist George DeVault began work at the age of 15 as a staff photographer on his hometown newspaper, *The Delaware Gazette*, in Delaware, Ohio. After studying photojournalism at Ohio University, he worked as a labor writer and general assignment reporter for *The Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch* and assistant city editor at the *Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel*, where he began writing about agriculture in the mid-1970s.

He was a farm magazine and book editor/publisher at Rodale Inc., for nearly 25 years. He headed *The New Farm* magazine for 10 years and served as special assistant to Chairman Robert Rodale. After Rodale's death in 1990, DeVault became U.S. editor of *Novii Fermer* (New Farmer in Russian), and later general director of Rodale's Russian-American joint venture, living with his family in Moscow, Russia, in 1993-94.

DeVault has written widely for publications such as *Successful Farming*, *Farm Journal*, *Top Producer*, *Mother Earth News*, *Organic Gardening*, *GRIT*, and *Growing For Market*. He has edited or published six farming and gardening books including "How To Make \$100,000 Farming 25 Acres," "Backyard Market Gardening," "Truckpatch" and "Return to Pleasant Valley," a revival of the works of Pulitzer Prize-winning author and sustainable agriculture pioneer Louis Bromfield.

He has received professional honors from groups as diverse as MagazineWeek, the North American Agricultural Journalists, the American Chiropractic Association, Florida Newspaper Editors, the Florida Farm Bureau Federation, the Florida Agribusiness Institute, and the Northeast Farm Communicators. In 2002, he was named a Food and Society Policy Fellow in a program funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

DeVault served on the Lehigh County Agricultural Land Preservation Board, and as a board member of the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture and the North American Farmers Direct Marketing Association.

An organic farmer since 1984, DeVault, with his wife, Melanie, own and operate a diversified vegetable, blueberry, flower and livestock farm near Emmaus, PA. The farm is permanently preserved. At its peak, they fed 100 families through their Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) service. In 2004, the DeVaults were honored as Conservation Farmers of the Year by the Lehigh County (Pa.) Conservation District.

Active in community affairs, DeVault is a past president of the Emmaus Farmers' Market, Inc. and the Emmaus Fire Department. A volunteer firefighter since 1982, he now serves as Fire Chief of his township fire company. DeVault is 57. He and his wife have two children, Donald, a farmer and specialist in Latin American affairs, and Ruth, a kindergarten teacher. The children will be continuing the family farm in Pennsylvania.