



**Candidate: Jeff and Jolene Stewart**

**Business: Stewart's Aronia Acres**

**Website: [Website](#)**

Jeff and Jolene Stewart, owners of Stewart's Aronia Acres in Wagner, SD have a proven track record as community leaders in agriculture policy and education in South Dakota. Jeff and Jolene have been heavily involved in growing berries and promoting their health benefits for many years. They have been very active in SDSPA, their Catholic Church, and many local community projects.

Jeff served on the SDSPA board of directors for many years. Jeff helped conduct many producer on-farm tours and held three tours on their own farm where they openly discussed techniques for planting, harvesting, storing, and marketing fruiting shrubs.

Jeff has also served as chairman of the SPA Legislative Agriculture Committee. Jeff worked to address pesticide drift, the cottage food laws and agritourism liability, and other issues important to South Dakota producers.

Jeff and Jolene have been SPA sponsored vendors twice at the Value-Added Agriculture tent at the South Dakota State Fair and twice at the Legislative Day Ag Fest event in Pierre. They were also past speakers at the Governor's Agriculture Summit in Spearfish and delivered their "How to Grow Fruiting Shrubs" presentation in Huron at the SD State Fair and at a workshop sponsored by SDSU Extension on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

The Stewarts are also champions of research and development in the state. They have provided resources to SDSU for research on the antioxidant properties of aronia berries and developing more uses for ripe and unripe aronia berries. The Stewarts are currently working on developing two new edible berry products with the goal of having these products on store shelves within three years. Currently you can find their berries or berry juice in some SD honey, kombucha, beef/buffalo jerky and fine wines.