

2019 Honorees Jim and Torri Morell

Torri was born in Plano and Jim was born in Houston. Jim and Torri are both currently retired. Torri worked as a Certified RN in Obstetrics for 30 years and Jim was with the Houston Fire Department for 33 years. Since 1979, Jim has been a life member of the Spring Fire Department. Torri is a Spring Tri-Club Alumni and graduated from Spring High School in 1983. She loves horses, the outdoors and crafting when the weather keeps her inside. Jim is a graduate of Spring High School the class of 1980. According to Jim, Torri met the man of her dreams in 1982 and they have been married for 31 years. They have two daughters – Taylor and Morgan, who are also Spring Tri-Club Alumni and both girls graduated from Spring High School.



As parents, Jim and Torri became involved with Spring 4-H in 2000 when Taylor was in 4th grade. Tracey and Brannon Hershey first met Jim and Torri when Taylor was showing at the Harris County Fair. The Hershey's suggested they join Spring 4-H, and that is where their story as Tri-Club volunteers begins! Over the years, Jim and Torri have helped out with Spring 4-H; Jim has been the swine and poultry advisor and they both still help out with the 4-H Mahaffey Scholarship. Jana Gonzales shares that Jim and Torri have always been so willing to assist any family with their projects. The Morell's have had a huge impact on her family, personally. Even though their children were usually competing against each other, with swine or poultry, Jim and Torri were always there to answer any questions they had. Jana says that the Morell's are valuable to 4-H as well as the Spring Livestock Show.



Between Taylor and Morgan, they raised everything *except* cattle and goats for Tri-Club. Morgan shares that “on show day, Mom did the washing and Dad did the feeding because they didn’t want either of us messing up our official dress.” On show day, the Hershey’s enjoyed watching Jim running multiple directions, sometimes seemingly directionless, sweating, with white towel around his neck, over his shoulder or in his back pocket . . . while Torri was calm and collected (they think) watching it all come together. As parents they wanted the best for their daughters and with their collective efforts, they succeeded.

Tri-Club Alumni, Dillon Anders remembers when he first joined 4-H and meet the Morells, they immediately offered to help him get started in the program. “Jim and Torri always looked for ways to help us kids. I remember many times they helped me and my projects. Whether it was getting me to the barn to tend to my animals, helping with my Calf Scramble scrapbook or helping me with feeding plans for my chickens, they were always there. Jim and Torri have always treated me like a son of their own and are always willing to help the youth of Spring Tri-Club!”

Jim and Torri have helped with a few Tri-Club committees over the years. With the help of Taylor, Jim continues to run the Private Sale. And he has done a great job, including selling all livestock projects for three years in a row. Jim chairs the Sponsorship Committee and will educate

exhibitors *at length* on the importance of finding a sponsor before the show. Torri has been on the Awards Committee for many years and has done a great job keeping everything organized.

Jim and Torri are part of the founding members of the Dirty Dozen Buyers Group. The idea started when they sponsored a student with the help of Tracey and Brannon Hershey, Elizabeth Williams and Mark Vasquez. The next year they decided to form a more formal group in the hopes of helping more students. The Dirty Dozen has been a Top 10 buyer for a few years and were the number one buyer in 2017.

According to the Hershey's, Jim and Torri Morell are the ultimate volunteers. Jim is always there with the tools, truck, trailer, 4-wheeler or whatever is needed to get the job done. Torri is always there with her smile, organizational skills, superb decorating ability and compassion to get the job done right. These two continue year after year to make sure the Spring Livestock Show goes as smoothly as possible. Getting the arena ready, helping with the awards, animal freezer sale, etc. No matter what help is needed, they are there. They are the role models for volunteering parents to follow here at Spring Tri-Club. They truly deserve the recognition as Spring Tri-Club Honorees.



James Turner met Jim and Torri in high school so he's known the Morell's for about 41 years. They ran around together until graduation and then Jim became a firefighter and JT joined the sheriff's department. Both couples raised their kids in Spring 4-H. JT and Jim continue to hunt and fish together and have tried to help Tri-Club members with their projects. JT says this award could not go to a better couple than the Morell's.

Jim says he and Torri just work behind the scenes. They got involved with Tri-Club because of their kids and have stayed involved because it's in their blood.

The Spring Tri-Club Officers and Board of Directors are honored to have Jim and Torri Morell as the Spring Tri-Club 2019 Honorees. And we thank you both for your 19 Years of Service!