

William E. “Pete” Walker

William E. “Pete” Walker has spent most of his adult life as an active leader and spokesman for the West Virginia dairy industry.

Walker served an important leadership role in the Eastern Panhandle Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA) and in the formation of the West Virginia DHIA. He has



served as president, vice president and director of the West Virginia Holstein Association. He has also been the promoter of the West Virginia Dairy Heifer Replacement Program and creator of West Virginia Holstein Day.

He was a committee member of the Mid-East Milk Testing Laboratory for three years, which worked to create a laboratory for DHIA members in West Virginia and Maryland. He has allowed his herd to be used for field trials, judging workshops, and dairy farm tours. He was one of the first cooperators in the Integrated Pest Management Program.

He readily gave his time and experience to dairymen throughout the state who sought his advice. He credits the Extension Service with providing him with the basic knowledge needed to be a successful dairyman.

Walker initiated the development of the West Virginia Dairy Show and Festival at WVU Jackson’s Mill, serving as president for 25 years. He has been active in many community groups and events including the Jefferson County Fair Association, County Farm Bureau, Camp Frame 4-H Association, County Chamber of Commerce, Solid Waste Authority, Planning Commission, Jefferson County Extension Service Committee, and the Southern States Board.

Walker has been honored with a Special Certificate of Merit for Distinguished Service to West Virginia Award by the WVU chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta, State Friend of 4-H, Friend of the Jefferson County 4-H Program, coach of the West Virginia State 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Team, Friend of West Virginia Extension, and several DHIA and Holstein Association Production awards.

Walker started the state’s first Dairy 4-H Club in 1966. More than 50 young people learned about the dairy industry through this organization. Even though the group folded in 1988, he remains the county’s dairy project leader.