

French W. Armstrong

French W. Armstrong was born at Rock Cave, Upshur County, West Virginia, on May 13, 1926.

Educated in the public schools of Upshur County, he served in the United States Army during World War II and joined the West Virginia State Police (1948-1981) shortly after his discharge. Early in his career as an officer, he began to seek knowledge about the Christmas tree industry and to establish Christmas tree plantations, first in Mineral County and later on his farm in Upshur County. His great interest and innovative approach led to his being named on two occasions as Christmas Tree Farmer of the Year. He has been an active member of the West Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association for over 30 years, serving as vice-president and president and multiple terms as a member of the board of directors where he is well known for sharing his years of acquired knowledge with other members and for his trees winning blue ribbons in contests. He represented West Virginia growers at the national Christmas Tree Association for several years and has been an active member of the Upshur County and West Virginia Farm Bureaus.



Although Christmas trees are the major forest commodity, Mr. Armstrong has acquired woodlands which are highly praised as excellent examples of good silvicultural management. As an original member of the West Virginia Forest Stewardship Committee, he is known for his practical suggestions.

As a civic leader, Mr. Armstrong served six years as an Upshur County commissioner, and member of the Buckhannon-Upshur Chamber of Commerce, Upshur County Development Authority, Central Upshur Lions Club and Masonic Lodge.

He and his wife Lois were married in 1955 and have three children.