

Robert C. “Bob” Baird

Robert C. “Bob” Baird was born in Mason County September 13, 1933, and has lived his entire life within a five-mile radius of his birthplace. He attended Mason County schools and graduated from Point Pleasant High School in 1951. Shortly after graduation, he volunteered for the United States Army. After a tour of duty, he was honorably discharged from service and began farming with his father. This partnership lasted until 1971 when he bought the farming operation from his father.

During the next 30 years, he farmed 600 acres and kept 100-plus head of beef cattle. He also raised hay, corn, wheat, barley and soybeans. Most of the land farmed was rented, but he still owns a 90-acre farm, which he rents to a neighbor on a sharecrop basis. In the 1970s, Mr. Baird raised certified wheat, barley and soybean seed for Southern States Cooperative’s Huntington facility.

He served several terms on what was originally known as the A.S.C.S. committee, now the Farm Service Agency, and served on the old Farmers Home Administration Committee. He is a 51-year member of the Farm Bureau and served many terms as a director. He is currently serving his 18th year as a Supervisor on the Western Conservation District.

Mr. Baird was elected to a two-year term as President of the West Virginia Association of Conservation Districts as well as serving a two-year term as Vice-President. In 2001, he received the Carroll Greene Award as supervisor of the year for his exemplary service and dedication to the cause of soil and water resource conservation. He currently serves as Chairman of the Lime/Invasive Species Committee for the Association. Bob has been responsible for numerous activities that have benefited hundreds of FFA and 4-H members, including soil judging contests, field days, workshops, and other youth-oriented programs.

In 2001, Mr. Baird was elected County Commissioner of Mason County and is now serving his tenth year in that position. He serves on more than a dozen committees outside the Courthouse.

After becoming a Commissioner, he also became involved in the West Virginia Leadership Academy, which is sponsored by West Virginia University and conducts workshops for elected officials twice a year. This Academy offers four different certificates and he received the Certificate of the Highest Merit.

He served as a Director of the Mason County Fair for 27 years, and was active in livestock sales, auctions, educational programs and other events at the Fair. The 1995 Fair was dedicated in his honor.

In 2004, former Governor Bob Wise appointed Mr. Baird as Chairman of the newly formed West Virginia Agricultural Land Protection Authority Board of Trustees. He was reappointed by Governor Joe Manchin III in 2005, and still holds the position. In 2008, Governor Manchin appointed Mr. Baird to the newly formed Outdoor Heritage Conservation Fund which provides funding for the acquisition of farmland and forestland conservation easements.

In 2006, the Mason County Chamber of Commerce selected Mr. Baird as the recipient of the Community Service Award.

He is a charter member of the West Virginia State Farm Museum in Point Pleasant, and has been on the selection committee for the Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame for the past several years.

