

Leland Booth



Leland Booth, born of a small farm in Barbour County, was a person of great influence in agriculture in West Virginia for more than half of a century.

Mr. Booth graduated from West Virginia University in 1924 and was employed jointly by the Extension Service and by the fledgling West Virginia Farm Bureau. He was the Managing Editor of the West Virginia Farm Bureau's "Farm News" newsletter, a position he occupied for 32 years (1924-1956). In 1926, he was also elected as Secretary-Treasurer of the Farm Bureau organization, a position held for the next 37 years. During his career, he filled several allied positions concurrently. These included being Secretary-Treasurer of the West Virginia Congress of Agriculture (1926-1963). Farm Bureau Legislative Representative (19 years), Secretary-Treasurer of the West Virginia Farm and Home Electrification Council, Secretary-Treasurer of the 13-state Northeast Regional Conference of the American Farm Bureau Federation (13 years), Vice-President of the West Virginia Highway Users Council, field agent for Pennsylvania Farmer magazine (1929-1943), member of the Board of Directors of West Virginia University Council on Economic Education (10 years), President of the National Farm Bureau Editors Council (1955), and was either a part-time or full-time agent for the State Farm Insurance Company for 41 years (1930-1971).

Mr. Booth, as befitted a man of his experience and influence, was presented with dozens of awards. In addition to his Farm Bureau work, he was especially proud to be associated with 4-H. In this capacity, he was a member of the 4-H All-Stars for 50 years and was a (charter) member of the West Virginia 4-H Club Foundation for 38 years.

Leland Booth was a good friend of Nat T. Frame, Director of the West Virginia Agricultural Extension Service, and this was an important factor in the cooperation that existed between and in the development of the two organizations. After retirement, he continued to devote much of his time to agricultural and civic activities. The great service that he rendered to the State is almost beyond comprehension. All segments of the West Virginia citizenry are in some way indebted to Mr. Booth for his dedicated efforts in their behalf.