

# Charles B. Boyles



Charles B. Boyles was born on January 10, 1925, in Barbour County, West Virginia. He graduated from Philippi High School where he was an outstanding member of the FFA, 4-H, and football team. He was co-captain of the North-South football game. Later, he played four years of varsity football as guard at West Virginia University, where he received B.S. and M.S. degrees in Agriculture. He was interrupted as an undergraduate by two years' service in the U.S. Marine Corps in the South Pacific, where he received the Purple Heart for serious wounds, and between degrees by four years' work managing Amherst Fuel Company's beef and dairy operations at Lundale Farms.

Mr. Boyles managed the West Virginia University livestock dairy, and poultry farms for 13 years before moving to Ohio State University to assume the responsibilities for the 2,300-acre Eastern Ohio Research and Development Center, where he, in 20 years, became internationally famous for his promotion and research in grassland agriculture, especially the use of round hay bales that enable cattle to be kept outside all year, thus avoiding the twin plagues of white scours and calf pneumonia.

Mr. Boyles was also renowned as a draft horse judge and served in this capacity at the West Virginia State Fair for 15 years, as well as at dozens of other shows.

Mr. Boyles was the recipient of dozens of awards for his innovative approach to agriculture, as well as for his leadership role in civic affairs. Among these are the honorary Doctor of Horseback Philosophy from the University of Kentucky, Ohio State Improvement Award in 1979, Ohio State Junior Cattleman's Appreciation Award in 1981, ABN Radio and Television Golden Boot Award in 1985, the Distinguished Service Award by the Production Credit Association in 1977, and many special awards for his service to FFA and 4-H. He was awarded the Centennial Medallion, struck in honor of the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of the Ohio Agriculture Research and Development Center in Wooster, and the Little Livestock International Show was dedicated to him in 1986.

Mr. Boyles was truly one of the best known and most liked people in agriculture circles. He was "practical" and his pithy comments about larger and larger machinery, "I don't think we need to have all of the frills. I'm not against progress, but the word I like is practical" are often quoted, as is his oft-stated philosophy of life. "Land should be loved. Land has life. Land will feed the hungry, clothe the poor, and give a man a place to stand. Land is life. Never let go."