

# Dr. Russell C. Butler



Dr. Russell Clark Butler provided leadership as a teacher and administrator in Agriculture Education for 45 years. He has been credited with developing the “total program” concept for Vocational Agriculture in West Virginia; that is, courses of study in one package or design for both high school students and adults. This concept has been studied by numerous officials from other countries while visiting the United States.

A graduate at West Virginia University and Cornell University, Dr. Butler was a high school teacher of vocational agriculture; served as Assistant, Associate, and Professor of Agriculture Education at West Virginia University from 1955-1972; and was appointed Professor Emeritus of Agricultural Education when he retired in 1972.

In addition to his teaching experiences, Dr. Butler has had broad farming experiences, including being reared on a farm and consultant work in buying farms and settling estates.

Because of his outstanding contributions to agricultural education in West Virginia, the nation, and internationally, Dr. Butler has received many awards. The national FFA organization awarded him its honorary member citation for distinguished service, and the National Vo-Ag Teachers Association awarded Dr. Butler its “Outstanding Service Citation” in appreciation of distinguished service. He was also recognized by the West Virginia Farm and Home Electrification Council, the Sears Roebuck and Company Foundation, and the Southern States Cooperative for distinguished service in agricultural education. He also served as a member of the Foundation Board of Trustees of the National Association of Future Farmers of America.

Dr. Butler served his profession in many ways. For 22 years, he was Editor of the monthly WEST VIRGINIA VO-AG NEWS AND VIEWS, a publication pertaining to professional work in agricultural education in West Virginia and the nation. For a number of years, he handled publicity for the National Association of Teacher Educators in the North Atlantic Region. He contributed articles to the WEST VIRGINIA SCHOOL JOURNAL and the AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION magazine.

He was a member of several honorary groups, including Alpha Tau Rho, professional honorary agricultural education fraternity; Phi Delta Kappa, professional honorary education fraternity for men students; and Gamma Sigma Delta, honor society for agriculture. Dr. Butler was also a member of various university and civic organizations and groups. He was active in Wesley United Methodist Church.

A colleague had this to say about Mr. Butler:

“Dr. Butler is an educator who is genuinely interested in both youth and adults. Through his interest and through the promotion of psychical, mental, emotional, and spiritual maturity, his teaching and dedication to service have contributed to a productive agricultural clientele associated with the growth and development of both rural and urban America.

“The field of education—and particularly agricultural education and vocational methods, and structure to meet the demands of an ever-changing society, Dr. Butler has generated a great enthusiasm for the promotion of community activities that involve people, thus making the community a better place in which to live.”