

Alfred L. Barr

Dr. Alfred L. Barr has had a long and productive career in support of West Virginia agriculture as a teacher, researcher and administrator in the West Virginia University (WVU) College of Agriculture, Forestry and Consumer Sciences (CAFCS).



After a brief stint as an agricultural economist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C., he returned to West Virginia in 1961 to join the CAFCS as an associate professor of agricultural economics.

In 1969, the professor played a major role in developing the Allegheny Highlands Project, which was funded by the Rockefeller Foundation for more than \$1 million over 10 years. This outreach effort assisted farmers in Randolph, Upshur and surrounding counties to improve their beef, sheep and forage production.

Barr was named director of the CAFCS Division of Animal and Veterinary Sciences in 1970. The Division's strong faculty and strong research programs, particularly those in reproductive physiology and ruminant nutrition, were nationally recognized. In this position, Barr was instrumental in obtaining funding for the bull performance test facilities in Wardensville and for new buildings following a fire at the WVU Dairy Farm.

As associate director of the West Virginia Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station between 1980 and 1997, he insisted that researchers address problems of West Virginia agriculture and communicate their findings to the state's producers. His work with the Congressional Delegation resulted in an appropriation of more than \$3 million in federal funds for construction of new poultry facilities at WVU farms in Wardensville and Morgantown.

West Virginia is stronger today because Barr, one of the state's outstanding human resources, stayed home to make a difference in the lives and livelihoods of the state's agricultural producers. Since his retirement in 1997, he has worked to improve his family farm in Rig (Hardy County), bringing his role in West Virginia agriculture full circle.