

Lawrence S. Cavendish



Lawrence S. Cavendish graduated in 1940 from the West Virginia University (WVU) College of Agriculture. Mr. Cavendish began his teaching career at Sandstone High School in Summers County, West Virginia. After a successful two years, he was called into service in World War II and spent three years in the U. S. Army.

From 1946 to 1951, he taught vocational agriculture at Ripley High School in Jackson County, West Virginia, where he developed an outstanding vo-ag program and FFA chapter that received a state and national Gold Emblem rating in 1950 and 1951. Mr. Cavendish received the Honorary State and Honorary American Farmer degrees in 1950. In 1949, he served as co-chairman of the first West Virginia Land Use Day. A farm of 150 acres located at Cottageville, Jackson County, was completely set up with conservation practices to make it more productive and self sufficient on a permanent basis.

In 1951, Mr. Cavendish was appointed supervisor of development and construction at the State FFA-FHA camp, known as Cedar Lakes at Ripley, West Virginia. During this time, Cedar Lakes saw many new developments, such as a campaign to raise \$1,000,000; contracts were awarded for construction of two lakes, construction of water and sewage treatment systems; water, gas and sewer lines were laid; Mill Creek bridge and two Mirror Lake foot bridges were built; construction of a main lodge and FFA cottage, eight cottages, assembly hall, art and craft building and office building began; FFA organization purchased an additional 130 acres; several thousand trees and an arboretum of native trees were planted by State FFA chapter members; and, the first FFA and FHA members camping program was held. Mr. Cavendish also helped organize and operate the first Mountain State Art and Craft Fair, which continues to be one of the largest and best in the United States.

Mr. Cavendish went with the WVU Cooperative Extension Service in 1964 in Raleigh County. In 1965-66, he worked with the West Virginia Department of Education as assistant supervisor of vocational agriculture. He continued with the Extension Service from 1966 to 1973, when he became director of Jackson's Mill state 4-H camp where he did an excellent job scheduling and supervising camps for youth and adults, as well as other agricultural and educational meetings. From 1981 to 1992, Mr. Cavendish served on the 4-H Club Foundation Board of which he was chairman for five years. From 1985 to 1998, he served as a supervisor for the Southern Soil Conservation District.

While with the Raleigh County Extension Service, Mr. Cavendish organized the Appalachian Art and Craft Festival at Beckley and later started the Stonewall Jackson Jubilee at Jackson's Mill. Over a period of 48 years, Mr. Cavendish has helped organize and conduct many FFA and 4-H youth and adult activities in West Virginia.