

Dr. Warren G. Kelly



Dr. Warren Kelly began his professional career in July 1945 as a vo-ag teacher at Masontown High School. During his 12 years, he developed a program that was a model to all vocational agricultural programs. It included an outstanding all-day secondary program and FFA chapter and a post secondary Adult Farmer Program that included 25 outstanding farmers. During this time he also served as a supervising teacher for the College of Agriculture and many of the students he supervised have become outstanding teachers all over West Virginia.

Dr. Kelly's influence became more statewide when he became a member of the faculty at West Virginia University in 1958 and later department chairman of Agricultural Education from 1972-1984. Due to his leadership and motivation for vo-ag teachers, it is estimated that he has impacted the lives in excess of 180,000 agriculture students and an additional 20,000 adults involved in agriculture education in West Virginia.

These students and adults have impacted agriculture in West Virginia nationally and internationally.

Dr. Kelly has served on 31 boards and commissions, including state and national committees. He served on the Advisory Council for the first Academic Secondary High School Center to be developed in West Virginia, with emphasis on mathematics and science. He continues to serve in an advisory capacity in both the local and state school systems. The result of this work is that West Virginia is among the leading states in developing agricultural science and technology education.

Dr. Kelly has been awarded five state awards related to teaching and support to vocational agriculture and FFA.

He has received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association FFA, Honorary American Farm Degree and FFA V.I.P. citation. He is listed in 'Man of Achievement' and 'Leaders in Education.' All of the above awards are presented to persons who have exhibited outstanding leadership in the area of agricultural education and vo-ag.

For 50 years of his life, Dr. Kelly has been devoted to West Virginia agriculture. He believed that the high school student must be a good family member, active in church and give support to the community.

A quote from a vo-ag teacher and former student says it all: "A pebble thrown on a pond makes an outwardly spreading ripple. Dr. Kelly is like that pebble. His teaching career is the center of a circle of men and women who continue to reach out to improve farming in this state."