

Dr. Oliver C. McGhee



Dr. Oliver Claude McGhee graduated from West Virginia University in 1942, with a bachelor of science degree in Agriculture and a major in agriculture education. He was employed as a teacher of vocational agriculture in Preston County, West Virginia, and after a short interval, his teaching career was put on hold for World War II, while he served in the U. S. Navy.

After serving his country, he was discharged and assumed the position of vocational agriculture teacher at Kingwood High School, where he taught until 1961. More than 500 students in Kingwood High School profited from his instructional program.

He completed his Ph.D. degree in agricultural education at the Ohio State University, in 1968. Dr. McGhee taught a full complement of the professional agricultural education courses, advised both undergraduate and graduate students, conducted in-service workshops for active vo-ag teachers, supervised student teachers' training programs, served on College and University Committees and advised the Collegiate FFA Chapter.

During his tenure at WVU, he was also involved with the State Vo-Ag Judging contests held annually at WVU, which involved thousands of students from state high schools; state FFA convention; Vo-Ag Teachers Conference; state Vocational Conference; North Atlantic Regional Agriculture Education Conference; and, national FFA Conference.

Most of Dr. McGhee's research was by way of serving on and/or chairing the research committee of those teachers pursuing a master's degree. Dr. McGhee is credited with initiating a statewide professional experience program for prospective teachers of vocational agriculture. In this program, students were placed with highly successful teachers of vocational agriculture throughout the state where they received professional supervised experience during the summer. This was the first program of its kind in the United States, and many of today's vo-ag teachers profited from this program. He also conducted the first workshop for vo-ag teachers dealing with the "Use of Microcomputers in Vocational Education, with Emphasis on Agricultural Education."

Dr. McGhee received many honors during his professional tenure, such as Outstanding Teacher at WVU, 1976-77; Outstanding Service Award for Distinguished Leadership in Education, presented by West Virginia Vocational Association, 1969; Southern States Cooperative Leadership Award; Distinguished Service to Vocational Agriculture and Future Farmers of America, presented by State FFA Association, 1983; Certificate of Merit for Distinguished Services to West Virginia Agriculture, presented by West Virginia Chapter, Gamma Sigma Delta; and, VIP Award in Appreciation for Many Years of Outstanding Service to Vocational Agriculture and FFA, presented by the National FFA Association, 1988.

Dr. McGhee is a member of many State and National Organizations in the field of Vocational and Agricultural Education. He is a devoted husband and father, and active member in the Kingwood Baptist Church, serving the church locally and statewide in many capacities.