

LeRoy Paul Stevens



LeRoy Paul Stevens was one of the most trusted researchers in the West Virginia University College of Agriculture and Forestry. He directed the college's hands-on research projects and applied exacting methods and personal integrity to each assignment.

His reputation came from a deep-seeded responsibility to doing quality scientific research and worked with the College's students to provide accurate scientific knowledge for the State's farmers. Stevens' precise data collection methods reflected his high standards and gained the college staff's confidence.

He was appointed farm manager of the Reedsville branch of the West Virginia Experiment Station in 1962, then later transferred to Wardensville. He recognized that basic scientific research was the only solid foundation for agricultural advancement in West Virginia.

Stevens' interest in assisting students has reaped benefits around the State. Many have become some of the best vocational agriculture teachers and Extension agents in the State, and several have earned national recognition. He also instructed farmers, county Extension agents and vocational agriculture teachers on the most modern scientific farming practices. Stevens wrote 19 general and 21 Extension publications.

He became assistant dean in charge of the University research farms. He unified the farm system, and reorganized the business and accounting systems, which brought the system out of debt and increased its efficiency. He retired in 1994 with 32 years of service to West Virginia University and the State.

He served on the West Virginia Livestock Association Board of Directors, was chairman of the Hardy County Vocational Education Advisory Council, judged crop exhibits and was an honorary parade marshal at the Preston County Buckwheat Festival. He was member of Gamma Sigma Delta, the Bylaws and Charter Committee of the West Virginia Chapter of the National Grasslands Council, Masontown Adult Farmer Class, West Virginia Farm Bureau and Society of Agriculture Engineers and Mechanics.