

Joseph N. Yeager



Joseph N. Yeager has distinguished himself with nearly 40 years of public service to West Virginia University, the state of West Virginia and the forestry profession. Through his outstanding achievements during his career, he is known as a friend of farming, forestry and the improvement of our rural state. His ability and performance in promoting West Virginia's natural resource potential are highly respected and many colleagues regard him as the state's ambassador for forests and conservation.

Mr. Yeager was raised on a farm in Randolph County and worked at his father's sawmill. He was a 4-H member for 12 years and won numerous project and leadership awards.

Mr. Yeager attended Davis and Elkins College, Michigan State University and WVU, where he earned a bachelor of science in Forest Management, 1960, and master of science in Extension Administration, 1967.

Mr. Yeager's contributions to forestry began during college through the Alpha Gamma Rho, Forestry Convocation and student chapter of the Society of American Foresters. He spearheaded forestry club projects and originated Foresters Conclave, which today typically includes five colleges/universities.

Mr. Yeager's career, though primarily devoted to the WVU Extension Service and College of Agriculture and Forestry, has also included roles as a consultant in private industry and the West Virginia Division of Forestry prior to his current position as an international forestry project administrator.

Mr. Yeager has received numerous awards, honors and citations, including the International Award of Distinguished Service to Agriculture and Forestry, 1995; West Virginia chapter nominee and Distinguished Service to West Virginia Agriculture and Forestry, Gamma Sigma Delta international honor society of agriculture and forestry; Distinguished Forester Award, International Paper Company and national 4-H Council; Elk Soil Conservation District Award, Elk Soil Conservation District; West Virginia 4-H All Star; and Friend of 4-H award.

The national 4-H Forestry Invitational, the only national 4-H event held in West Virginia, evolved from Mr. Yeager's master's degree project on Forest Evaluation Contests and grew from six participating states in 1980 to 28 in 1995. He secured financial support from the International Paper Company and national 4-H Council for this nationally-recognized youth educational effort that became International Paper's 1993 flagship program. This highly acclaimed program has been held at Jackson's Mill since its inception. He remains intimately involved today and has been given Chairman Emeritus status. The Joseph N. Yeager National 4-H Leadership Award was established in 1978 by the national 4-H Forestry Invitational and is presented each year to the outstanding participant in the national 4-H Invitational.