

Edward Alexander Livesay



Edward A. Livesay was raised on a farm near Lewisburg, Greenbrier County, and attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute, the University of Missouri, and Harvard University. He was employed as a graduate assistant at VPI and as an Assistant County Agent Leader at the University of Missouri prior to coming to West Virginia University in 1919 as Professor of Animal Husbandry. Except for the period 1925-1928, when he attended Harvard University, he was head of the Animal Husbandry Department until he retired in 1956. From 1956 to 1959, he was director of marketing for the West Virginia Department of Agriculture.

Dr. Livesay came to West Virginia University at a time when erosion of farm lands had become a problem. He recognized the need for a change in the farm production pattern and the value of farm demonstrations. He urged the change from producing primarily grains to the production of grass on livestock farms. He was an advocate of the use of fertilizer and lime.

Field days were held on livestock farms and many farmers who saw the development of the livestock farm changed their methods of farming. He carried his ideas of grass land farming to the field. In the late 1930's, he was an advocate grass silage. In the late 1940's, he was active in the Greener Hills Program and was a member of the Greener Hills Policy Committee.

During his tenure at West Virginia University, he built one of the strongest departments at the institution. His department attracted more students than any other department in the College of Agriculture. His students recognized Dr. Livesay as a dynamic and inspiring teacher.

Dr. Livesay had a national reputation as an outstanding cattle and horse judge. He judged many of the cattle shows in the Eastern part of the United States. His students always ranked high in judging competition. As Director of Livestock Marketing for the State Department of Agriculture, he improved the marketing of livestock which resulted in greater profits to West Virginia agriculture. He took an active part in all breeds and associations. He served as Secretary of the West Virginia Angus Association for 35 years and was instrumental in the promotion of this breed in the East. He was a director of the West Virginia Hereford Association at the same time.

Dr. Livesay was an active member of the American Society of Animal Science and served on the Morrison Award, Hoblitzell Award, Instructional, and Educational Committees. He served on the Interassociation Council.

He served as an active in community affairs and served as Chairman of the Monongalia County Red Cross Chapter for many years. He served as Mayor of Westover and was President of the Westover Community Association. He was active in wildlife conservation.