

# Russell G. Ellyson



Russell G. Ellyson, a native of Gilmer County, attended Glenville Normal School, taught school, and then graduated from West Virginia University in 1930 with a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture. Following graduation he was employed as a county agricultural agent in Webster and Braxton counties and in 1934 became an Assistant Extension Economist.

Beginning in 1935, Mr. Ellyson led the Farmers Home Administration and predecessor agencies in the establishment of a strong supervised credit program for family-type farms. He served a total of 19 years as state director of these organizations. Under Mr. Ellyson's leadership, the program grew continuously – from a few hundred farm families in 1935 to more than 12,000 families at the beginning of WWII.

Following the war, his efforts were devoted to streamlining and solidifying the FHA program to provide a reliable source of supervised farm credit, supplementing commercial sources of credit, and helping young farm families to become established and established farmers to improve their farming operations.

In 1954, Mr. Ellyson became chief of Agricultural Credit and Adviser to the Agricultural National Bank in Peru, South America. There he established and directed a supervised agricultural credit program. He also worked in Costa Rico for four and one-half years. He retired from federal employment in 1961.