

Isaac (Ike) Fetty



Isaac Nicholas Fetty, a native of Core, West Virginia, earned a degree in Agriculture at West Virginia University in 1935. He took his county agent training in Pocahontas County and for seven years was county agent in Gilmer County.

In 1943, he became Agricultural Representative for Monongahela Power Company. He helped organize the Farming for Better Living program in 29 counties in West Virginia.

There were intermittent meetings and dinners in the various counties and annual Farming for Better Living Roundups in Clarksburg. He was the project leader for the program in six central, West Virginia counties until the program was terminated in 1970. Through this program, he provided leadership for advancement of agricultural concepts.

In the mid 40's he was the main leader for the organization of West Virginia Artificial Breeders Cooperative located on Brushy Fork, Harrison County. He served on the Board of Directors Bull Selection Committee. When frozen semen technology was developed, he helped form the West Virginia-Maryland Bull Stud to serve the West Virginia industry more efficiently, and was still active when the West Virginia-Maryland and Pennsylvania associations formed Sire Power. With his leadership, these organizations provided an outstanding approach for herd improvements and a financial boost to farmers.

He was manager of the West Virginia Dairy Cattle Show at Jackson's Mill for 31 years and secretary for 12. He helped dairy people enjoy this activity and provided direct agricultural assistance to the people involved.

He was appointed to the West Fork Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors on April 4, 1963. He was elected chairman of the Board in September 1968, and served in this capacity until his death in 1976. He helped the District pioneer the production of crown vetch seed. The seed was planted on surface-mined areas and the crowns were sold to the West Virginia Department of Highways.

While Mr. Fetty was chairman of the WFSCD and an employee of Monongahela Power Company, the district conservationist of Lewis County suggested he invite the company to join with the local sponsors to construct the large impoundment on Stonecoal Creek. He apprised the officials of the power company and they joined the SCS engineers in a cooperative and successful project resulting in a 100-foot-high dam and 600-acre impoundment essential to prevent thermal pollution of the West Fork River.

Mr. Fetty was a part-time farmer and good steward of the soil. His technical and practical knowledge made him an excellent teacher and leader. Quiet in manner, he knew agriculture well and farm owners and workers liked and respected him. He loved his work, especially working with youth in the dairy enterprise.

West Virginia Friend of 4-H

West Virginia Dairy Cattle Show program was dedicated to him in 1969.

Recognized by area Chambers of Commerce for his assistance.

Honorary State Farmer Degree, Future Farmers of America.