

# Nestor Carl Hardin



Carl Hardin grew up on a farm in Barbour County. He was active in 4-H and attended Alderson Broaddus College from 1939-1940. He served as a captain in the U.S. Marine Corps, then finished his B.S. degree in Agriculture at West Virginia University (WVU) in 1949. From 1949-1958 he was the Tucker County Agricultural Extension Agent. In 1958, he was appointed Extension Specialist of Horticulture at WVU. He completed a master's degree in 1961 and continued post-graduate work in 1967.

Hardin is a West Virginia Farm Bureau member. He is author and co-author of many horticultural publications that were distributed to the citizen of West Virginia. The most popular was the "West Virginia University Extension Garden Calendar," – 100,000 of which were distributed each year. He was responsible for more than 100 bulletins, research reports, etc., that related to strawberries, vegetable gardening, blackberries and other horticultural crops. He was published in several national magazines including: Progressive Farmer, Vegetable Messenger and Good Fruit Growers.

In 1962, he began to devote a major portion of his program to developing a strawberry industry in West Virginia. Under his leadership from 1962-1985 the strawberry industry evolved to the large pick-your-own operations direct marketing throughout West Virginia – a multi-million dollar industry. He also worked with potato, tomato and bean growers in the State. In 1964, he started the development of programs to offer economic opportunities for low income rural families who has surplus labor but very limited capital and land resources. Other programs included home gardening projects. He used mass media extensively, wrote a regular news column called "Mountaineer Gardener," developed radio tapes for use during the gardening season and was a pioneer in the use of television for disseminating agricultural information.

The excellent quality of Carl Hardin's work is verified by the fact that he was the first full-time extension employee to receive the rank of full professor at the College of Agriculture and Forestry. The work that Carl Hardin did during his career built a solid foundation for the current direct marketing programs. As Professor Emeritus, he still is available for consultation with the current faculty members of WVU.

West Virginia Assoc. of Future Farmers of America 1969 State Farmer Degree  
1979 West Virginia County Agents Association of Distinguished Service Award  
Gamma Sigma Delta 1983 Senior Faculty Certificate of Merit  
WVU Cooperative Extension Service 1985 Outstanding Performance Award  
WVU 1985 Outstanding Teacher Award  
WVU Division of Plant Sciences 1986 Professor Emeritus  
West Virginia 4-H All Star