

Wayne W. Hughes



Wayne W. Hughes, a Jackson County dairy farmer and former county school teacher, was area director of the West Virginia Dairymen's Association for 12 years and president of the organization from 1950 to 1957. Recognized as a leader in agriculture as long ago as the 1930's, he often spoke to the public about the benefits of conservation and soil stewardship. After teaching elementary and secondary school for 15 years in Ravenswood, Hughes left teaching to devote his time to his 650-acre farm, which soon became a showplace and model for farmers in the Ohio Valley.

He served in the West Virginia House of Delegates in 1959 to 1960. As a legislator, Hughes continues his efforts in support of the State's agriculture industry, including modifying the license requirement for farm-use vehicles.

Hughes is perhaps best known for his efforts in soil and water conservation. He became chairman of the Western Soil Conservation District in 1949, served for 35 years and remained as a supervisor after 1984. Under his leadership, the dis was selected as outstanding in the State in 1958, 9168, and 1980.

In 1982, Hughes was selected as outstanding district supervisor in the State, a result of the wide variety of services that he provided to the agriculture community. His work with the Mill Creek and Pocatalico Watershed Projects especially noted. These projects, sponsored by the Western Soil Conservation District, have protected hundreds of acres of agricultural land from frequent flooding and have had tremendous impact on Ripley. They have provided public water supply and recreation benefits, as well as prime development sites because of lowered floodplain elevations. In 1987, he became the first person to receive a 40-year service award from the State Soil Convention Committee.

Hughes was appointed to the Jackson County Planning Commission in 1975, where he dealt with zoning issues and protection of agricultural lands. He is a member of the Little Kanawha Resources Conservation and Development Board of Directors.