

# J. Kenton Lambert



**J.** Kenton Lambert, a native of Tucker County, served as State Director of the Farmers Home Administration from January 1970 through December 1976. While State Director, he administered a \$113 million yearly credit program that encompassed rural housing, family farms, community facilities, and industrial loans.

Prior to his appointment as State Director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture credit agency, Mr. Lambert was a State Senator from the 15th District, a post to which he was elected in 1962 and reelected in 1966. A successful businessman, Mr. Lambert was instrumental in bringing forestry-related industries to Tucker County. His efforts helped develop a large charcoal plant in Parsons. He was also instrumental in bringing water systems and a waste disposal system to Tucker County.

As State Director of the Farmers Home Administration, Mr. Lambert emphasized service to farm families and the importance of the farmer and food production. Under his direction, the Farmers Home Administration program increased its services to rural families and their communities by about six times. The Agency served 400,000 West Virginians with an investment of almost \$362,000,000. He was a constant booster of farm organizations and agricultural activities and attended many meetings throughout the state devoted to improving the agricultural production of farm families.

Mr. Lambert was primarily responsible for the organization of the West Virginia Agricultural Hall of Fame Foundation and served as its President for several years. He also played a leadership role in the Future Farmers of America "Build Our American Community Program." He served as President of the Seneca Trail Highway Association, was a member of the Cheat Valley Development Association, and was a member of the Board of Directors of the Potomac Valley Association.

He is the recipient of many awards, including the Honorary State Farmer Award by the Future Farmers of America; the Legion of Honor Award by Kiwanis International; the Silver Beaver Award by the Boy Scouts of America; and was named West Virginia Wildlife Federation Agriculturalist of the Year. He also served as Chairman of the Mountaineers for Rural Progress.

A colleague described Mr. Lambert as a "Christian gentleman who is friendly, tolerant, considerate, talented, a recognized leader, and an outstanding speaker."