

John T. Johnson



John T. Johnson was a native of Wood County and owned and operated a 250-acre livestock and dairy farm near Williamstown prior to his appointment as Commissioner of Agriculture on January 1, 1956.

In addition to farming, Mr. Johnson served on several state and national agriculture committees. He served 12 years as State Master of the Grange (1942-1954) and eight years as one of the 16 national Grange officers. He was a charter member of Wood County Farm Bureau and served as its President and Secretary-Treasurer. He was also an active in the Parkersburg Farmers' Market.

Mr. Johnson has a great interest in soil conservation practices and served for eight years as a District Supervisor for the Little Kanawha Soil Conservation District. Later, as chairman of the State Soil Conservation Committee, he was recognized nationally for his efforts in behalf of soil conservation.

Immediately following World War II, he was a successful instructor for on-the-farm training.

Mr. Johnson advocated the separation of the Cooperative Extension Service from its legal ties to the West Virginia Farm Bureau. In 1953, the West Virginia Legislature passed legislation that changed this section of the law and provided for the establishment of County Extension Advisory Committees.

The conference room in the West Virginia Department of Agriculture is named the John T. Johnson Conference Room in memory of this outstanding individual.