

J. W. “Bill” Wilhelm



J. W. Wilhelm, born and reared on a farm near Wheeling, West Virginia, in Ohio County, has been a lifelong dairy and poultry farmer. A 58-year member of the West Virginia Farm Bureau, he has served as President of the West Virginia Holstein Club, the Dairy Herd Improvement Association (two terms), the Ohio County Farm Bureau (three terms), and the Northern Panhandle Holstein Club.

Mr. Wilhelm pioneered numerous conservation methods in the Northern Panhandle and was named Conservation Farmer of the Year for 1966 in Ohio County and again in 1971. As examples of his foresight, he was the first in the area to adopt “Tennessee Valley Authority Sod Seeding Planting of Corn,” currently called “No-Till”, was one of the first to develop a pond to provide water during drought, and was also one of the first to have caged layers. For nearly 50 years, he maintained a weekly retail egg route.

He has been honored with the Outstanding Award of the Northern District Holstein Club, as Outstanding 4-H Parent by the Ohio County 4-H Leaders Association, various awards from DHIA for milk production in a given year, and a certificate of Appreciation from the West Virginia University for participation in the 4-H Dairy Genetics Project.