

Richard K. (Dick) Waybright



Richard K. “Dick” Waybright has enjoyed a long and distinguished career as executive director of the West Virginia Forestry Association and has reached many young lives as an Extension 4-H agent, assistant principal, teacher and coach. As executive director, he has played a major role in the adoption of several state forestry-related laws, most notably the Logging Sedimentation Control Act, recognized as National Legislation of the Year. Other important pieces of legislation included the Managed Timberland Act and the Worker’s Compensation Safety Program for loggers. Some laws have been used as models for other states.

Waybright worked to reorganize the Division of Forestry’s budget so the Forestry Association could use severance tax money to stabilize funding and provide more services to the state’s citizens. As an active collaborator in many WVU Extension Service programs, he advanced many agriculture and forestry education programs. He was also instrumental in organizing industry support for fire mobilization and forest fire protection procedures that allowed for using an aerial tanker.

Waybright’s interest in forestry and agriculture started as a 4-H club member in Randolph and Webster Counties. After college, he became a teacher and assistant principal at Wahama High School. He returned to his 4-H roots as Kanawha County Extension agent and director of Camp Virgil Tate. He directed many summer county 4-H and Youth Opportunity camps, and the Oddfellows’ Youth Camp at Camp Caesar.

He has served as vice president of the West Virginia Business and Industry Council and treasurer of the West Virginia Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame. Waybright has been honored with the West Virginia Forestry Association’s President’s Service Award; West Virginia 4-H Club Foundation’s Green Clover Award; West Virginia Future Farmers of America’s Honorary State Farmer Degree; and the “Friend of Extension” Award.