

S. B. Wells



S.B. Wells, a native of Wood County, spent 45 years working for the advancement of agriculture in West Virginia, particularly the dairy industry. Although he retired from active farming, he has continued his interest and activity in the dairy industry, particularly working with young people.

A review of the offices he held in many agricultural organizations make clear his intense and constant endeavors on behalf of the advancement of agriculture. For instance, he was one of the founders of the West Virginia Artificial Breeders Cooperative. He was active in the Dairy Cooperative Sales Association and served as President of both the West Virginia Dairymen's Association and the West Virginia Jersey Cattle Club. He was active in the Farm Bureau, serving as President of the Wood County Farm Bureau and later as President of the West Virginia Farm Bureau. He was also active in the West Virginia Dairy Herd Improvement Association.

The number of awards and honors received by Mr. Wells gave some indication of the esteem in which he was held by his peers in the agricultural industry. For instance, he was honored by the National Milk Producers Federation for contributions to the milk industry. In 1978, he was given an award by the Directors of the West Virginia Dairy Show for his years of service to the dairy industry. He was awarded an Honorary State Farmers Degree by the Future Farmers of America in 1968, and received awards from the West Virginia Association of Agricultural Industries, the West Virginia Farm Bureau, and the Dairy Cooperative Sales Association. He served on the Visiting Committee for the West Virginia University College of Agriculture and Forestry.

One of his outstanding traits has been his concern for people, particularly young people. He has been active in youth programs of the Jersey Cattle Club. He has helped many young people with their 4-H projects, animals, and other programs, and has held many training schools in his community for people interested in the dairy industry.

A colleague has this to say about Mr. Wells:

“Mr. Wells has not given unselfishly of his time, his energy, and his knowledge. He has always been willing to help young people find themselves. He is a good listener as well as advisor. There are those who say that the future of many young men and women took a turn for the better because of time spent with Mr. and Mrs. Wells. Mr. Wells has always been an advocate for the agricultural industry and has given of himself to tell others about the business of agriculture.”