

Thomas H. Brand



Thomas H. Brand was born in Kingwood, West Virginia in Preston County. His contributors cover a span of 36 years, beginning in 1939 when he graduated from Michigan State College and returned to his native West Virginia as Head Field Officer for the USDA-Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA). Although headquartered in Morgantown, Mr. Brand traveled extensively around the State in his job of overseeing the administration of the USDA farm programs in every county.

He was advanced to Senior Administrative Assistant and was responsible for the statewide delivery of the Agricultural Conservation Program, the Feed Grain and Wheat Program, and the Commodity Loan Program.

In 1943, Mr. Brand moved to Washington as head of the Conservation Materials and Service Unit. It was in this capacity that he pioneered the purchase of conservation materials and services from local manufacturers and suppliers instead of through a national contract, a system used nationwide for 35 years. In 1945, he became Head Agricultural Economist, responsible for developing agricultural conservations programs in the states. He returned to Preston County and entered private business in 1946. In 1954, he became county office manager for ADCS, the position from which he retired in 1983. He was instrumental in the development of many innovative projects during his assignment in Preston County.

Mr. Brand was a charter member of the National Association of ASCS County Office Employees, helped in organizing the West Virginia Association, and has received several certificates of merit from each. In 1968, he received a USDA Certificate of Recognition. "In recognition of his pioneering efforts and contribution to American Agriculture and the public interest during formative years of national farm policy."