

# Ronald L. Stump



Ronald L. Stump was born at Stumptown, West Virginia, in Gilmer County, on July 3, 1921. He received B.S. and M.S. degrees in Agriculture from West Virginia University in 1948 and 1964.

Upon graduation in 1948, Mr. Stump joined the West Virginia Cooperative Extension Service; and as an agent for 14 years, he worked in Pendleton, Doddridge, and Ohio Counties. From 1962 to 1965, he was State Extension Program Leader for Rural Development; and from 1965-1973, he was Director of the Cooperative Extension Service and Dean of the Center for Extension and Continuing Education.

Mr. Stump, as Extension Director, emphasized the involvement of volunteer leaders in planning and carrying out extension programs; increase country financial support from 17 to 15 percent of overall extension budget, thus greatly increasing the number of agents; supported the formation of specific program committees and for agriculture, forestry, home economics, 4-H, and rural development in each county so as to increase people involvement; provided leadership for physical improvements at the Jackson's Mill Center, including cottage renovation, street lighting, off-street parking, development of the Dorsey Resource Center and restoration of the Old Mill; established the position of full-time Extension Program Leader for Agriculture and Forestry; and reestablished the position of Extension Leader for Home Economics.

Mr. Stump belonged to and was active in numerous professional and civic organizations. He is Dean Emeritus Center for Extension and Continuing Education and Professor Emeritus of Agricultural Economics. He has received the Senior Faculty Member Award of Merit from Gamma Sigma Delta, a Certificate of Appreciation from the USDA for contributions to Rural Development, the Distinguished Service Award of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents and the Outstanding West Virginian Certificate from the Governor.

Mr. Stump's concern for rural West Virginia has, throughout his career, been translated into ideas, plans, and action to guide social, cultural, and economic advancement. He has served on numerous State and national agricultural committees, the Governor's Advisory Committee on Housing (1978-1980), and as a Salvation Army Advisory Board Member (1968-present).