

## Alton J. Anderson



Alton J. Anderson received a B.S. degree in Agriculture from West Virginia University in 1929 and an M.S. degree in 1966. He taught vocational agriculture at Hedgeville, Daybrook, and Ripley High Schools from 1929 to 1939, where his students consistently ranked high in West Virginia vocational-agriculture judging contests. His students at Daybrook High School received national recognition for their success in the 1930 National Livestock Judging Contest in Kansas City.

In Ripley, Anderson organized the Future Farmers of America Chapter and succeeded in getting media coverage of the vocational-agricultural department's work and accomplishments.

He served as a federal farm supervisor for the Farm Security Administration in Upshur County from 1939 to 1942. In this position, he made supervised loans to rural families who were unable to obtain credit from other lending institutions. He helped rural families make farm plans, and as a result of the loan program and Anderson's work, many families were helped in making a living from their farms. Anderson worked for the State Department of Agriculture from 1942 to 1953, becoming State Supervisor of State Aid to Fairs and Festivals and finally Director of the Livestock Division. In this role he insured high-quality and safe products for consumers and fair competition in the marketplace for West Virginia egg and meat producers. Livestock production and marketing programs developed during his tenure with the Department of Agriculture helped the State achieve a reputation as having the top purebred cattle and the best feeder calves in the East.

Anderson became a Cooperative Extension Service county agricultural agent in 1953, a position he held until 1970. During this time, he was instrumental in bringing the Kingwood Cattle Company to Preston County.

Mr. Anderson secured land, material, and money for building the first permanent Preston County 4-H Camp, and organized the Preston County Potato Association. He was instrumental in starting the Regional Demonstration Feeder Calf Sale, was instrumental in establishing the Preston County Planning Commission, and initiated a Preston County Air Pollution study, which resulted in changing processing techniques at a local manganese plant, thus, averting fluoride pollution of the environment. He served as President of the West Virginia University Agriculture Council, received the Distinguished Service Award of the National Association of County Extension Agents in 1970, and the West Virginia Agribusiness Award in 1967.