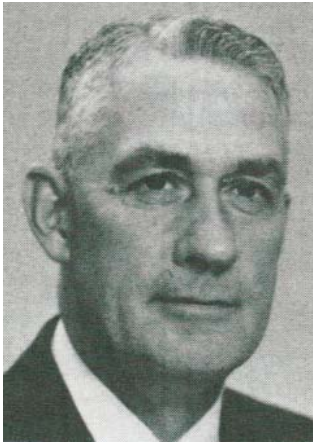


Cornelius Jett Cunningham



Cornelius J. Cunningham was born at Gladys, Virginia, where he grew up on a farm that was devoted primarily to the raising of tobacco. After graduation from High School in 1928, he entered Virginia Polytechnic School at Blacksburg, where he majored in Vocational Agriculture, receiving a B.S. degree in 1932. His first occupation was as manager of a Southern States store, but he soon accepted a teaching position as Vocational Agriculture Instructor at Hedgesville High School in Berkley County, West Virginia. In 1943, he moved to the West Virginia University Agriculture Station as Farm Superintendent of the Reymann Memorial Farms. He remained here until his retirement, with rank of Professor Emeritus in 1974.

During his 32 years at the Reymann Memorial Farms, Mr. Cunningham worked with ensilage, economic benefits and costs of producing fall feeder calves versus

feeding the calves and selling them for slaughter, the economic value of artificial insemination in beef cattle, synchronization of estrus in beef cattle, comparing cow calving in winter barns versus those calving on pasture, the value of crossbreeding beef cows, testing bulls kept under the same conditions and fed the same ration (the first major bull testing program), comparison of West Virginia ewes with western ewes, attempts to produce three lamb crops in two years, control of internal parasites of sheep, controlling foot rot in sheep, artificial insemination of sheep comparison of floor space requirements of broilers, the economics of insulating broiler houses, sod seeding of corn, reclaiming abandoned crop and pastureland, etc. Mr. Cunningham's practical work on these problems, nearly all of which are commonly accepted agricultural practices today, led to more than two dozen scientific articles, circulars, and bulletins. Mr. Cunningham was named Progressive Farmer's "man of the Year in West Virginia Agriculture" in 1959.

The Station, under Mr. Cunningham was very successful in imparting new knowledge to farmers through annual field days, which attracted farmers from all parts of West Virginia and adjacent states. Actual counts have shown as many as 2,000 people have attended on particular days.