

John M. Bailey



John M. Bailey, who owned and operated a 418-acre livestock farm in Mercer County for more than fifty years, was an outstanding farmer, livestock breeder, Farm Bureau supporter, and community activist whose service to agriculture spanned a period that was one of the most turbulent and fast changing in history.

Because of his integrity, progressiveness, and fairness, Mr. Bailey was constantly called upon for, and freely gave, many days of service to his county, state and nation through his work with farm organizations, cooperatives, commodity associations, youth groups, schools, and his church. His advice and counsel was valuable to the leaders of West Virginia University and its programs, the Cooperative Extension Service, the State

Department of Agriculture, and the American Farm Bureau Federation.

An outstanding leader and supporter of the Farm Bureau, Mr. Bailey was the recipient of the 1967 Award for Distinguished Service to the Farm Bureau. He had been a member of the Farm Bureau since 1921. He began service as a member of the Board of Directors of the Mercer County Farm Bureau in 1922, serving for 16 years. He was President of his County Farm Bureau for 11 years; member of the Board of Directors of the West Virginia Farm Bureau from 1935 to 1947; President of the West Virginia Farm Bureau, 1935-40; member of the Board of Directors of the American Farm Bureau for four years, 1944-48. He was also a member of the American Farm Bureau Livestock Advisory Committee for three years. Previously, 1954, he was awarded Farm Bureau's second annual Award for Distinguished Service to Agriculture.

Mr. Bailey also received the PROGRESSIVE FARMER MAGAZINE'S "Man of the Year in Agriculture Award" in 1958, an additional citation for his constant efforts on behalf of agriculture.

He was active in many agricultural commodity organizations, including service on the Board of Directors of the West Virginia Livestock Association; The Board of Directors of the West Virginia Hereford Association; Board of Directors of the West Virginia Sheep Breeders Association; and was a member of the American Hereford Association. He served as a Secretary-Treasurer of the Mercer County Fair Association from its beginning until it disbanded in 1937.

Instrumental in organizing the Farm Bureau Cooperative in Mercer County, which later became Southern States Cooperative; Mr. Bailey served on the local board for many years and on the Board of Directors of the Southern States Cooperative for 17 years as a Director at Large from West Virginia.

Mr. Bailey was just as active in his community as he was in state and national affairs. He was Mayor of Athens for four years; served on the Mercer County Board of Education for eight years. Another important interest was the young people of his county. He donated pure-bred Hereford calves to 4-H'ers for their beef projects, and was a leader in obtaining land and in establishing the present Glenwood Park 4-H Camp in Mercer County. He served on the Camp Committee from 1937, when the Camp established, until the late 1960's.

Those who knew Mr. Bailey well and worked with him, characterize him as quiet, supportive, unselfish person who helped develop many worthwhile projects and programs during his span of service. Many of the programs he helped start are successful on-going programs today. Much credit must go to this pioneer agricultural leader who "truly believed in the Land-Grant college system of education and service.