

# Henry W. Beard



Henry Washington Beard, a native of Hillsboro, in Pocahontas County, West Virginia, attended local schools and West Virginia University (three years). He began farming in the earnest when he became 21, joining his father on a 4,000-acre farm that produced sheep and beef cattle. In the 1940's, the operation was changed to producing and marketing yearly cattle.

Mr. Beard was one of the first to regularly use lime and fertilizer to top-dress pastures, and he was a pioneer in cooperative livestock marketing in West Virginia, having built grading pens for use in shipping lambs cooperatively to markets in Pittsburg, Jersey City, and Baltimore. He was

also one of the organizers of the Eastern Cooperative Livestock Marketing Association in Baltimore, another outlet for West Virginia farmers to market their livestock cooperatively.

Mr. Beard was a member of the West Virginia Farm Bureau and was an active participant in formulating some of the early policies and suggested legislative positions affecting agriculture. He was one of the architects in the formation and approval of the "Ten Year Program" in 1931, which had the objectives of helping livestock farmers adjust production to meet market demands and efficiently merchandising their commodities and assisting 4-H livestock project members.

Mr. Beard was a life member of the West Virginia Livestock Association, was an active participant in all of its programs, and served as president in 1933, 1934, and 1935. He volunteered the use of his farm for demonstrations, and he assisted county agricultural agents in getting the USDA Agricultural Adjustment programs established and accepted during the depression years. He was most helpful in advising farmers in regard to seed loans and production loans necessary to keep their farms in production.

Elected in 1936, he served four years as assessor of Pocahontas County.

From 1926 to 1940, Mr. Beard was involved in a joint research project with the West Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station and the Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, dealing with lamb and wool production in the Appalachian Region as affected by breed of sire. Mr. Beard and his father provided the 120 ewes from their flock for use in this work, which was conducted under typical Appalachian farming conditions. This research was later used in developing the "Make the West Virginia Market Lamb Supreme Program" that became a key part of the sheep extension program in West Virginia.

Mr. Beard was appointed as a fieldman for the Farm Credit Administration out of Baltimore for West Virginia and Virginia in 1942. His work with farmers in developing plans for use of credit in their operations was outstanding. He continued to work until 1947 and at the same time he continued to actively manage his farm operation.

Mr. Beard was a leading farmer who strove constantly to improve his farm practices and was a faithful and dependable leader of others. He was also active in fraternal, civic, and farm organizations, both local and statewide.