

# Larkin B. Ours



Larkin B. Ours, a native of Grant County, has devoted his adult life to serving the rural people of West Virginia. A student of farming and state government, he became known as “Mr. Farmer” because of his participating in many local and state organizations and as a member of the West Virginia Legislature. One of the most progressive Polled Hereford breeders in West Virginia, Mr. Ours owns and operates a woodlot. He also manages extensive acreages of farmland for his brother.

Mr. Ours has participated in the West Virginia Beef Cattle Performance Testing Program, Bull Feeding Test and the Performance Tested Bull Sale since their inception. He has been a Polled Hereford breeder since 1942 and currently is using artificial insemination to breed to some of the highest performing sires in the United States. During his 40 years of breeding Polled Herefords he has produced some of the performing bulls in West Virginia.

In 1954, Mr. Ours was elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates and was reelected every two years thereafter until his retirement in 1974. He served as a member of the Agricultural Committee for 20 years, the Finance Committee for 16 years, the House-Senate Budget Conference Committee for 16 years, the Joint Committee on Government and Finance for 10 years, the Interstate Cooperation Committee for two years, and the all-important Rules Committee for 12 years.

Many pieces of legislation and current programs bear the mark of Mr. Ours’ legislative efforts and the accomplishments. He was instrumental in the passage of the Shell Egg Law, the Feed Law, the Lime and Fertilizer Laws, the farm truck license laws, and the State Tax Laws as they relate to agriculture.

Through his encouragement the Joint Committee on Government and Finance funded the study which resulted in the State Vocational Education program being made available to all high school students in West Virginia. He was instrumental in legislative activities involving Air Pollution Control, preferential taxation of farmland, funding of vocational-technical programs through the State School Aid Formula, obtaining funds for construction of the Bull Feeding Station at Wardensville, and for numerous other facilities operated by West Virginia University and the West Virginia Department of Agriculture.

He was active in both 4-H and FFA as a young man and has maintained this interest through his adult life. He was the West Virginia State Champion 4-H Livestock Judge in 1935 and placed 7th in national 4-H competition that same year. He was also a member of the winning State FFA Livestock Judging team. Because of his lifelong support of these youth organizations, Mr. Ours has received the Friend of 4-H Award, was made an FFA Honorary State Farmer, and received a special citation from the West Virginia Department of Education for his support of Vocational Education.

Mr. Ours has been President of the Grant County Farm Bureau for the past 16 years, is Chairman of the Pendleton County ASCS Committee, and Chairman of the Southern States Cooperative Board of Directors at Petersburg. His community activities have been included membership on the Grant County Nursing Home Committee, the State Commission on Aging, the Ruritan Club, and Chairman of the Finance Committee for the construction of the Grant County Hospital.

As well as being one of West Virginia’s most outstanding farmers, Mr. Ours has been outstanding representative for farm people and farm programs.