

Neil Aberegg

Neil Aberegg and his wife, Hazel, have farmed 700 acres in Earnshaw, W.Va., since 1946. He still operates his tree farm using selective harvesting to cut timber that he dries and uses in his wood shop.

Mr. Aberegg has served agriculture at the local, county and state levels through various organizations. He is very active in farming and conservation and is highly regarded by his peers. He has served two terms as President of the Wetzel County Farm Bureau, along with numerous years of service to the county's Farm Bureau Board of Directors. He serves as chairman of the county insurance committee and has given his time to numerous other organizations.



Mr. and Mrs. Aberegg have been West Virginia Farm Bureau members for more than 50 years, attending all annual meetings. Mr. Aberegg has also sold farm insurance for six years. He has served on the Wetzel/Tyler Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) board for 42 years, is a member of the Upper Ohio Valley Soil Conservation District, and has served as a board member for the Hundred Farm Supply Southern States for more than 20 years.

He has represented Wetzel County in meetings with the Division of Natural Resources on deer damage and clean water, and remains heavily involved in both issues. Mr. Aberegg was twice named Conservation Farmer of the Year and has been repeatedly recognized by the ASCS for outstanding service. He is an Honorary Farmer of the Hundred and New Martinsville FFA chapters, has received the Southern States Service Award, and many others.

He rents out pasture to a neighbor who runs 50 head of cattle. Mr. Aberegg has raised beef cattle, sheep and White Rock chickens, selling the eggs to a hatchery in Clarksburg. He has made furniture, paneling and other wood products from trees harvested on his farm, and in 2003, he planted 110 new trees.

West Virginia Division of Forestry Service Forester Shaun Kuhn said, "Mr. Aberegg and his tree farm are shining examples of what can be accomplished through Timber Stand Improvement, harvests based on current silvicultural practices, dedication and a basic conservation mindset."