

Walden F. Roush

As the offspring of farmer ancestors and raised on his family's farm, Walden Roush has always been imbued with a love and fascination for country life. Throughout his career as an educator and community development specialist, he continually counseled the youth of his community about their farming studies and endeavors, and assisted generations of 4-H Club members and Future Farmers of America, not only in agricultural technology, but in their character development as well. As he approached retirement, he realized the farm heritage of West Virginia



would soon be lost as modern methods and equipment were installed, and the old farm implements molded and rusted away in barn lofts and country attics. He resolved to create a museum to preserve and house these artifacts. Located in Mason County, the West Virginia State Farm Museum continues to grow and attract more visitors each year. Roush administered the operation of the museum from its creation through 1990. He remains its Honorary Director.

Other community efforts he has undertaken include, the acquisition of a 114-acre farm which became the Mason County School Farm. This farm, one of the first school farms in the United States, serves as a land laboratory for vocational agriculture students and is still in operation. During 1947-1948, he taught an adult On-The-Farm Training Course.

From 1937-1944 and again from 1959-1962, he was Superintendent of Mason County Schools. During his tenure, he built Mason County's outstanding vocational agriculture program. He has served on the Mason County Fair Board of Directors and as Vice-president and President. He was a member of the Gilmer County Agricultural Council during the late 1960s.

The Boy Scouts of America *Silver Beaver*

Citation for chairing World War II Mason County Savings Bond Committee

Certificate of Recognition for 4-H Leadership

FFA Honorary Life Member

West Virginia FFA *Honorary State Farmer*

Kentucky Colonel for civic leadership

Admiral, Cherry Creek Navy, for community development

Better Homes and Gardens Award for development of adult education programs

1964-1970 *Who's Who in Education* and *Who's Who In The East*

Point Pleasant-Mason County Chamber of Commerce 1976 *Man of the Year*

Mason Vocational FFA Chapter *Honorary Chapter Farmer Degree*

Nine-Valley Travel Council 1981 *Distinguished West Virginian Award*

Sammy Kistler Award for outstanding tourism promotion

1983 *West Virginia Volunteer of the Year*

West Virginia Historical Society 1993 *Virgil A. Lewis Award*