

Leland Eugene Weaver

October 16, 1888 — March 7, 1974

Lee Weaver was a native New Yorker — born at Findley Lake, New York. He received his B.S. degree in Agriculture at Cornell in 1918.

After receiving his degree from Cornell, Lee taught vocational agriculture at Greensville, Kentucky, from 1918 to 1920. While in Kentucky he also managed the Kentucky Hatchery at Lexington.

In 1920 Lee returned to Cornell as instructor in Poultry Extension. He was later appointed assistant and then associate professor of poultry husbandry in 1945 and held this position until his retirement in 1951, at which time he was made professor emeritus. Professor Weaver obtained a Master of Science degree in genetics from the University of Wisconsin.

Lee Weaver was a member of the poultry extension staff at Cornell for thirty years. He was a kind and considerate individual with a warm spot in his heart for the small flock owner. Farm flocks of limited size, often housed in a variety of farm buildings that had been renovated to accommodate chickens, received his support and enthusiasm. His down-to-earth approach was also characteristic of his contribution at the “Farm and Home Week” programs at Cornell, at regional trade shows and fairs, as well as in his many contacts at poultry meetings throughout the state. His contact with graduate students always evolved around his basic interest in the chicken as an agricultural animal.

Those who knew Lee, even briefly, remember his ruddy checks, twinkling eye, constantly moderate disposition, and contagious warmth and kindness.

In 1945 Lee was appointed supervisor of the Western New York Egg Laying Test at Stafford, New York. He continued as supervisor of this test until his retirement in 1951.

Lee was chairman of the Chicken of Tomorrow contest in New York State in 1948. This was a program that was very instrumental in developing the broiler as we know it today.

After his retirement in 1951, Weaver accepted a federal appointment supervising the Point Five Program in Egypt to develop the poultry industry in that country. This was a personal highlight of his career because of his strong feeling for the family-type operation and helping the natives develop the poultry industry.

Included in Professor Weaver's many activities were the operation of the 300-acre Lick Brook poultry and vegetable farm in Inlet Valley with his brother; service as poultry editor of the American Agriculturist; work as coordinator of the Northeastern Poultry Producers Baby Chick Show; and membership in the American Poultry Science Association.

While on sabbatic leave in Hawaii he arranged for a shipment of rare native East Indies jungle fowl to Cornell University. Descendants of these birds are still being used in genetic research.

Lee never married.

He passed away Thursday, March 7, 1974, near Phoenix, Arizona.

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