

Ralph E. Krenzin

September 26, 1916 — November 7, 1984

Ralph E. Krenzin came to Cornell in 1959 as an associate professor of agronomy and extension agronomist. After thirteen years of distinguished work in 4-H agronomy and field-crop management extension with emphasis on New York State's corn crop, he retired in 1972.

Ralph was born in Kingsley, Kansas, on a wheat farm. As a farm youth he became active in the 4-H beef cattle program, exhibiting a steer that received first-place prizes in both the Kansas City Royal Show and the Chicago International Livestock Exhibition. In 1939 Ralph received his Bachelor of Science degree from Kansas State University. He met and married Esther P. Glanzer in 1941, while serving as a county agricultural agent of Sumner and Ellis counties, Kansas. He was a crop specialist and 4-H agent there from 1939 to 1944, organizing 4-H youth programs and, with the assistance of Mrs. Krenzin, women's home demonstration programs. In addition, Ralph established farmer field trials of corn and small grains, especially wheat. In a one-year period he organized sixteen new 4-H clubs and attended eight hundred agricultural meetings. Ralph also initiated the corn and small-grain field days at the Fort Hays, Kansas, experimental station.

In 1944 Ralph undertook graduate study. After serving as a sergeant major in the chemical warfare corps in World War II, he received his master's degree from Kansas State in 1947. In that year he became an extension specialist in forage crops and youth programs at Iowa State University, and he continued to study part-time for his Ph.D. degree, which he received in 1958.

At Cornell Ralph directed extension education activities in field-crop management and was team leader of the agronomy 4-H program. Ralph worked diligently in his friendly and genial manner to instruct, to guide, and to assist young people in their efforts to explore and understand the world and themselves. He spent many happy days as a judge for the 4-H program at county fairs.

In the early sixties Ralph took the leadership in revitalizing the forage-crop exhibit at the New York State Fair in Syracuse, serving as division superintendent for many years. He initiated the annual Corn Congress farmer and industry educational meetings, which continue as a feature extension activity each winter. From 1963 to 1965 Ralph was extension project leader for the Department of Agronomy. In the late sixties, on a sabbatical leave for the United States Department of Agriculture as an extension and crop specialist in Brazil, he developed forage test field trials and crop experiments emphasizing new technologies. Upon his return he served as faculty liaison

officer for the Cornell Peace Corps Training Program in Agriculture and Human Ecology, in which capacity he helped many students through the transition from college to Third World missions.

Ralph Krenzin was a contributor to the interdepartmental publication *Cornell Recommends for Field Crops*, which is released each year at a series of regional educational field-crop dealer meetings throughout New York State. Ralph developed publications on forage crops and was a regular contributor to many agricultural newspapers. His service as extension specialist and leader was recognized by membership in many agricultural and honorary societies. He was an active and much-sought-after community and church leader.

Ralph was a dedicated and loving family man. Surviving family members are his wife, Esther Glanzer Krenzin, of Ithaca, and his daughter, Kathryn E. Moore, of St. Louis, Missouri.

Madison Wright, Willard Cronney, Reeshon Feuer