

# John Peter Willman

*October 30, 1900 — September 8, 1963*

John Peter Willman came to Cornell in 1925 as a staff member in Animal Husbandry Extension in charge of the 4-H livestock and dairy programs. Following excellent success in this work he joined the Animal Husbandry resident teaching and research staff in 1929 in charge of the Sheep and Swine Divisions. He served in this capacity until he retired in 1957 because of illness. His dedicated service of more than thirty years to students in the College of Agriculture and to the livestock farmers of New York was widely recognized and respected.

Professor Willman was a native of Kane, Pennsylvania, where he was born October 30, 1900. He obtained the B.S. degree from Pennsylvania State University in 1924. The Master's degree was earned at Kansas State University in 1925 just prior to his employment at Cornell. His Ph.D. degree from Cornell University was obtained in 1933 while he was employed in the Department of Animal Husbandry.

His wife, Anna Rogers Willman, a graduate of Cornell, served for a number of years as Home Economics Foods Specialist in various extension and research programs. Their children, Mrs. J. C. Showacre of Ithaca; Mrs. Philip Bartlett, Nantucket, Massachusetts; and James R. Willman, Frederick, Maryland, obtained all, or part, of their college education at Cornell.

Professor Willman was a member of Alpha Zeta, Sigma Xi and the American Society of Animal Science. He was also active in various livestock associations in New York.

Professor Willman was uniquely successful in maintaining strong interests in the three fields of teaching, research, and extension. In his teaching he stressed a practical approach to educational and agricultural problems, giving strong emphasis to the art as well as the science of livestock production. He especially enjoyed helping with the problems of individual students or farmers, and there are many who benefited from this help. He also enjoyed visiting livestock farms as well as conducting students and farmers on a tour of the College sheep and swine barns. He attended as many fairs, sales, and other livestock activities as time permitted.

His concern for students was appropriately recognized in 1951 when he was given the Professor of Merit Award. He was a faculty adviser to the Round-Up Club for many years and national president of the Block and Bridle Club in 1940-1941.

His research projects generally were directed toward the solution of practical problems of current concern to sheep and swine producers. One such problem was the “stiff-lamb” disease. He worked on this problem throughout his career, aided by various associates in the Department of Animal Husbandry and in the Veterinary College. The many experiments contributed notably toward a solution of this problem. In 1953, Professor Willman received the New York Farmers’ Award for achievements in livestock production.

Professor Willman’s many writings on sheep and swine subjects and his close contacts with livestock producers resulted in a host of acquaintances among farmers. This relationship brought him much pleasure and satisfaction. He would note the accomplishments of such farmers and stress any direct or indirect aid that might have been contributed by Cornell.

His colleagues gave “J. P.” deserved respect for his dedication and thoroughness. These traits plus his droll humor and complete loyalty to Cornell University were trademarks of his personality.

*M. D. Lacy, G. H. Wellington, J. I. Miller*