

# Glenn Wilbur Hedlund

*June 11, 1909 — June 24, 1976*

Professor Glenn W. “Swede” Hedlund died at age sixty-seven at his home, 110 Homestead Road, Ithaca, following a brief illness. He had joined the staff of the New York State College of Agriculture in 1933 and was associated with Cornell until retirement in 1974, except for five years, 1941-46, when he was professor and head of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology at Pennsylvania State University. During sixteen of the thirty-one years that he spent on the Cornell faculty, he was head of the Department of Agricultural Economics.

Professor Hedlund received his B.S. degree from the University of Nebraska in 1930 and his Ph.D. from Cornell University in 1936. Reared on a wheat farm in Nebraska, he had a deep interest in extension education essential to the growth and development of agriculture. At Cornell his teaching responsibilities were focused on agricultural cooperatives, farm finance, and marketing. He was an effective teacher, interested in students and their problems, and provided the same quality of leadership in research and extension in his field of business management and marketing.

Hedlund’s positive influence on agricultural cooperatives was one of his most important professional contributions. Over four decades his leadership directed cooperatives toward improved business management and was of tremendous importance in building the strong cooperative institutions that serve the agricultural economy of the state and nation.

Instrumental in the formation of the New York State Council of Farmer Cooperatives, he provided program leadership for the organization from its inception. He served both as secretary of the council during most of its existence until his retirement in 1974 and as a trustee of the American Institute of Cooperation for some years, participating in many of the educational programs of the institute.

Professor Hedlund served mankind and Cornell in many ways, acquiring depth, knowledge, and understanding of people, situations, and conditions far beyond the Cornell community. While a graduate student he participated in extension education in Nebraska and New York State. As an agricultural economist on the faculty of the University of Nanking, China, during 1936-37, he traveled in the Near East and Far East. Over the next sixteen years, Hedlund served on various committees, engaged in studying the agriculture of Bermuda for the Bermuda Government in 1939, studying and reporting on the organization and operation of the Farm Credit System for the

Farm Credit Administration in the 1940s and acting as chairman of a group studying cooperatives in relation to the milk marketing orders during 1952-53.

During the academic year 1956-57, Professor Hedlund worked in the Philippines on the University of the Philippines—Cornell contract (ICA-AID) toward the rehabilitation of the College of Agriculture at Los Banos. He served as chairman of Governor Nelson Rockefeller's Committee on Milk Marketing from 1961 until 1964, when he became a consultant for the Ford Foundation relative to education for employees of cooperatives in India. His sabbatical leave in 1972 was spent lecturing, consulting for the Agricultural Development Fund of Iran, and traveling in Europe and the Mideast. In the fall of 1975, Professor Hedlund served as a member of a five-man team (U.S. AID) requested by the government of Bangladesh to evaluate the total plant protection program of that country.

In 1953, Professor Hedlund was cited by the Farm Credit Banks of the Northeast in Springfield, Massachusetts, for his "outstanding service to agriculture in the Northeast." Upon his retirement from Cornell, the cooperative organizations concerned with agriculture in New York State initiated the establishment of the Glenn W. Hedlund Scholarship Fund in recognition of Dr. Hedlund's contributions to agriculture in the state and nation.

To his colleagues and to agricultural leaders with whom he worked, Professor Hedlund was not only a trusted and loyal friend but also an objective and honest observer and critic, able to separate educational activity from giving advice or proposing decisions for others. He thought first of the welfare of the Department of Agricultural Economics and the College of Agriculture as a whole and of their service to commercial agriculture and its institutions. His selflessness and concern for the welfare of his colleagues was one of his lasting legacies to those with whom he worked.

Professor Hedlund is survived by his wife, Helen Howard Hedlund; a son, James Howard of Washington, D. C; two daughters, Mrs. John (Jean) Sullivan of Seattle, Washington, and Mrs. Peter (Mary Beth) Marks of Brooktondale, New York; and three grandchildren.

*Olaf F. Larson, Robert S. Smith, Maurice C. Bond*