

Herbert Andrew Hopper

Professor of Animal Husbandry

— *November 26, 1937*

In the death of Herbert Andrew Hopper on November 26, 1937, Cornell University lost one of the pioneers in agricultural extension work in New York State and in the nation. Professor Hopper had served the University in his agricultural extension duties for twenty-seven years, having been the first extension specialist in the department of Animal Husbandry. In spite of ill health for the past several years, he had continued in his work with indomitable courage until only a few days before his death.

Professor Hopper was born on a farm in Tompkins County and was graduated from the New York State College of Agriculture in 1903, specializing in dairying and in bacteriology. From 1903 to 1907 he was instructor in dairy husbandry at the University of Illinois, and he received the degree of Master of Science from that institution. While he was in Illinois, Professor Hopper inaugurated a system of testing dairy herds for production which was one of the forerunners of the present-day system of herd testing.

From 1907 to 1908 he was extension dairy husbandman at Purdue University and went from there to the University of California, where he was assistant professor of dairy husbandry until 1911. At the University of California, Professor Hopper started a dairy course for butter and cheese makers and began a series of educational butter-scoring contests for buttermakers, which have been continued since that time.

In 1911 Professor Hopper returned to New York and operated his dairy farm near Ithaca, serving on the extension staff of the College of Agriculture during the winters as extension specialist and assistant professor of animal husbandry. Two years later he took up full-time duties as extension professor of animal husbandry, which position he held at the time of his death. He served as project leader in Animal Husbandry Extension until in 1928 poor health forced a reduction in his duties.

Professor Hopper exerted an exceedingly important influence in the development of the dairy industry of this State. He was one of the pioneers in conducting official production tests of purebred dairy cattle, and in 1915 he made one of the earliest studies on the cost of producing milk in New York. On account of his keen mind and sound judgment, his advice was valued highly by dairymen throughout the State and by his colleagues in this institution.

The Cornell University Faculty desires at this time to express its appreciation of the faithful and courageous service rendered by Professor Hopper.

Source: Fac. Rec. p. 2056 Resolutions of the Trustees and Faculty of Cornell University, June, Nineteen Hundred And Thirty-Eight