Tennessee Agricultural Hall of Fame

Tennessee was the first state to honor its agricultural leaders with an Agricultural Hall of Fame, established by the state legislature in February, 1937.

Members of the Hall of Fame have shown distinguished and exemplary service to the art and science of agriculture. Each member is honored with their likeness on a bronze plaque. All plaques are on permanent exhibit in the Hall of Fame at the Tennessee Agricultural Museum.

From 1937 to 2011 there have been thirteen inductees.
William Neal (1849-1934)

*Wilson County*
*Inducted 1937*

He began field selection of corn in 1898. By 1914 he had developed “Neal’s Paymaster” corn, a variety that produced two ears on one corn stalk.

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Mark R. Cockrill (1788-1872)

*Davidson County*
*Inducted 1944*

“Wool King of the World.” Cockrill imported the first Merino sheep into Davidson County in 1815. He won first prize for the finest wool in the world at London’s 1851 Crystal Palace Exposition. Queen Victoria presented him the gold medal.
Dr. Marion Dorset (1872-1935)

*Maury County*  
*Inducted 1949*

He discovered the hog cholera virus and developed the serum. Developed the tuberculin for bovine tuberculosis. Perfected control methods for poultry pullorum. Dorset served as Chief of the USDA Biochemic Lab from 1904-1935.

Goodlettsville Lamb and Wool Club

*Davidson County*  
*Inducted 1950*

In 1877 a group of Goodlettsville farmers organized the first cooperative livestock marketing association in the United States. The farmers were: Capt. J.O. Bass; J.M. Cantrell; J.B. Cartwright; R.A. Cartwright; W.A. Cartwright; William Connell; J.N. Crosswy; I.W. Cunningham; S.L. Draper; W.H. Draper; G.W. Jackson; William Luton; John Bell Mathes; Jim Peay; J.M. Shivers; M.L. Roscoe; Capt. J.W. Roscoe; Dr. W.S. Roscoe; and T.H. Williamson.
Dr. Harcourt A. Morgan (1867-1950)

Knox County
Inducted 1951

As director of the University of Tennessee Ag Experiment Station, he established a modern state-wide research system. Established the Ag Extension Service while dean of the University of Tennessee School of Agriculture, 1913-1919. Served as president of the University of Tennessee from 1919 to 1933. Morgan was one of the first directors of TVA and served as chairman from 1938 to 1941.

Dr. Tait Butler (1862-1939)

Shelby County
Inducted 1957

He was responsible for the first systematic eradication of cattle tick. A pioneer in agricultural journalism in the South and editor of Progressive Farmer. He was an aggressive champion of rural progress for 30 years.
Governor Andrew Johnson (1808-1875)

*Greene County*

*Inducted 1957*

Tennessee governor and seventeenth U.S. president, he founded the Tennessee Department of Agriculture in 1850. Father of the National Homestead Act of 1862 and author of the agricultural survey.

Joseph Buchner Killebrew (1831-1906)

*Montgomery County*

*Inducted 1972*

Became the first commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture in 1875. He was editor of the *Southern Farm* magazine, a noted author, educator and agricultural pioneer.
Joseph Frank Porter (1880-1951)

*Maury County*
*Inducted 1972*

He became the first president of Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation in 1921 and served for the next 25 years.

Dudley M. Clements (1889-1950)

*Henry County*
*Inducted 1974*

The first vo-ag teacher in the nation. Organized Future Farmers of Tennessee and Future Farmers of America. He was the founder of “Camp Clements” located in the foothills of the Cumberland Mountains.
Harry Purple Ogden (1888-1940)

*Knox County*
*Inducted 1974*

As a scientist, he worked to vastly improve crop production. While at the University of Tennessee, he researched soybean breeding and improvement. His “Ogden Soy Bean,” released in 1938, was number one in the South for 30 years. Strains of the “Ogden” are found in modern soybean stock.

Mrs. Ethel Mayo Bond (1881-1967)

*Madison County*
*Inducted 1987*

The first chairman of the Tennessee Farm Bureau Women from 1924 until her death in 1967. She also served as the southern regional chairman of the American Farm Bureau Women. Her efforts guided farm women to gather and share ideas for better living, citizenship and telling the farm story to their city neighbors. In 1945, the Progressive Farmer magazine named her “Woman of the Year in Tennessee Agriculture.”
Ed Jones (1912-1999)

_Gibson County_

*Inducted 2011*

Commissioner, Congressman and Gentleman. Innovator of the state Department of Agriculture, voice for rural America, promoter of dairy genetics, champion for conservation, architect of national crop insurance, and guardian of the farm credit system. “Always a farmer.”
From Union Station to the Hall of Fame

A copper statue of *Mercury* topped the Commerce Building at the 1897 Tennessee Centennial Exposition in Nashville. Designed by Baxter James Hodge of Nashville, the hollow copper statue weighed 200 pounds and stood 16’ tall.

After the Centennial Exposition was dismantled, Major Eugene C. Lewis, director of the exposition, salvaged the statue. When Union Station, Nashville’s premiere railway station, was formally dedicated in 1900, the statue of *Mercury* was placed atop the 220’ tall clock tower. A Nashville landmark, it remained there until March 22, 1952, when a gusting wind toppled it. Officials gave the crushed figure to Oscar L. Farris, Davidson County Extension Agent and charter member of the Tennessee Agricultural Hall board of directors. In 1955, the statue was melted down and cast into plaques honoring Hall of Fame inductees Dr. Harcourt A. Morgan and the Goodlettsville Lamb & Wool Club.

Suggested readings:

