

George Walter Tailby

November 1, 1882 — December 23, 1965

George Walter Tailby, Professor of Animal Husbandry, Emeritus, died in Ithaca, New York following a long illness.

Professor Tailby was born in Ithaca and grew up on the Cornell campus. His father worked for Professor I. P. Roberts as farm superintendent, and Professor Tailby frequently talked of working, as a student, for Dean Liberty Hyde Bailey.

He graduated from the Ithaca High School in 1901 and from Cornell University College of Agriculture in 1906 and worked the following two years in the United States Department of Agriculture with the Soil Survey Bureau in South Carolina. In 1907 he returned to Cornell and was superintendent of livestock under Professor H. H. Wing until 1920. At this time he took over the supervision of New York Dairy Herd Improvement Associations which before 1920 were under the supervision of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets.

During the period 1909 to 1920 Cow Testing Associations, as they were then called, had increased in number from 1 to 20. Professor Tailby had the entire responsibility for the organization and operation of these Associations until 1929 when an increase in their number to 54 required additional help on the part of other members of the Department of Animal Husbandry. Professor Tailby trained association supervisors in two-week training schools held bimonthly at Cornell. A large part of his time was spent in the field, helping D.H.I.A. supervisors with their record keeping problems. The steady growth in the number of Associations and the service they rendered to association members was due in large part to the conscientious, capable, and understanding personal help Professor Tailby gave to both supervisors and members out on the farm. From 1925 to 1950 the Dairy Herd Improvement Associations increased in number from 24 to 201. During this same period the number of cows tested annually increased from 9,485 to 119,882 and the average yearly milk production of association cows increased from 7,475 pounds to 9,106 pounds. Professor Tailby's efforts after 1920 were confined mostly to the development of the D.H.I.A. record keeping program, and his contribution to herd improvement in New York State was very great. The production and feed records available from the large number of Dairy Herd Improvement Association cows were essential to the success of the breeding and feeding programs of the Extension Service.

Professor Tailby richly deserves the honors and recognition given him for the many years of service to the dairymen of New York State.

Professor Tailby was promoted to Assistant Professor in 1947 and was retired from the Department of Animal Husbandry as Professor Emeritus on August 31, 1950, after 43 years of continuous service.

Professor Tailby was a member of Sigma Xi, Epsilon Sigma Phi, Alpha Zeta, Masonic Order, and the American Dairy Science Association, and was active in the First Baptist Church of Ithaca.

His wife, Eloise L. Osmond Tailby, preceded him in death. He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Elvira Tailby Bossack, two sisters, and a brother.

Robert W. Spalding, Clarence G. Bradt, James D. Burke