

# Earl Young Smith

*February 27, 1893 — August 8, 1972*

Professor Earl Young Smith, known to all of his friends far and wide as “E.Y.,” was born in Tunnel Hill, Illinois. He obtained a Bachelor of Education degree from Southern Illinois State Normal School and a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Illinois. He taught vocational agriculture and was director of the agriculture department of Herrin Township High School, Herrin, Illinois, for seven years before coming to Cornell as an extension instructor in poultry husbandry on November 1, 1931. He was an associate professor of poultry husbandry from 1941 until his retirement in 1955.

His professional duties at Cornell were divided equally between extension and research. Soon after his arrival at Cornell, he organized the First Annual Poultry Nutrition School, which was held on the Cornell campus in October 1934. This School, the first of its kind, was so successful that it soon became the annual Cornell Nutrition Conference for Feed Manufacturers. This Conference has attracted as many as seven hundred feed manufacturers, poultry- men, and animal husbandrymen from all over the United States and from many other countries.

E. Y. Smith’s major interest always dealt with turkeys. He was a leader in the development and promotion of the meat-type turkey. He directed the turkey exhibit at the Poultry Industry’s Expositions in New York City in 1935 and 1936. E.Y. was very active in the National Turkey Federation and helped to organize the New York State Turkey Growers Association. He arranged many educational programs, tours, and demonstrations. He was chairman for the Northeastern Poultry Producers Council, Inc. He was very instrumental in encouraging turkey breeders to improve their stock, to breed toward broader breasted turkeys, turkeys with greater livability and greater productivity. E. Y. helped organize and was very active in the New York State Dressed Turkey shows during the 1950s. These attracted large numbers of contestants and consumers and promoted the consumption of turkeys. Professor Smith was a pioneer in the artificial insemination of turkeys. He was superintendent of the Cornell Turkey Farm and conducted a turkey breeding research program which produced the Empire White turkey, the first truly broad-breasted white turkey.

E. Y. Smith was a member of the Illinois State Poultry Association, the Poultry Science Association, and the Illinois Academy of Science. He was the author or coauthor of several bulletins and technical reports.

Upon retirement in 1955, Professor Smith joined with his son, Donald E. Smith, in the operation of the Empire Turkey Farm in Genoa, New York. Two years later he and his wife, Lillian Mae, moved to Maitland, Florida. He

also had two daughters, Mrs. Vera Mae Netteland and Mrs. Lucille Alexander, eleven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Professor E. Y. Smith spent his professional career helping in every way possible to improve the American turkey and to promote the turkey industry. He had much to do with the development of the present-day turkey, which is so meaty and so economical that it is eaten not only at Thanks- giving but also the year around.

E. Y. Smith was one of the first of a new breed of extension workers. He not only informed and interpreted for the farmers the new findings of research, but he also conducted research of his own which supplied direct answers to many problems facing the turkeymen of his day.

*R. K. Cole, C. E. Ostrander, M. L. Scott*