

Mr. Oral Francis

Oral Francis graduated from LaPlata High School in 1930. Upon finishing high school he used the G. I. bill to get his Agriculture Education degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Oral attended 20 weeks training at aircraft engine school in Kansas City, Kansas in 1940. From 1941-43 he was a group leader supervising 30 people in the final assembly of the B-26 medium bomber at the Glenn L. Martin Company. He also spent 20 weeks of training at gun sight and target school in Denver, CO and also spent time at Kelly Field in San Antonio, TX. Oral served in Japan after the atomic bomb had been dropped.

From 1950-55 Oral taught institutional and farm training classes that helped World War II Veterans get back into farming following the war.

From 1955-67 Oral taught vocational agriculture classes at Kirksville High School. While teaching, Oral was known for his outstanding winning agriculture mechanics teams. In 1967 his agriculture mechanics team won the state competition. He supervised a number of FFA members who received their State Farmer Degrees and also had one student receive the highly coveted American Farmer Degree.

Today, Oral is still actively engaged in agriculture on his farm just northeast of Kirksville. He is also a member of the Adair County Young Farmers Association, American Legion Post #20, is a member of the Senior Circle and has belonged to the Adair County Historical Society. Oral also is a FFA Alumni, has served on the OATS bus committee and has been a long-time Farm Bureau member.

Oral served on the Soils and Crops Conference planning committee and was known for helping northeast Missouri residents when he taught the very popular estate planning courses held at Northeast Missouri State Teachers College, now known as Truman State University.

Oral is the son of Edgar and Ada Francis and was born September 17, 1919. He married Ethel Beal on April 8, 1951. They have two sons, Howard of Kirksville, MO and Allen (wife Annette) of St. Joseph, MO. He has one grandson, Paul and two granddaughters, Ara and Olga.

On behalf of the Missouri Livestock Symposium, congratulations to Oral Francis and his family for all he has done and accomplished with his agricultural pursuits and in life.