



1998 Inductees



George Hargens, Jr.

George Hargens Jr. lasting contributions in building and developing rural electric cooperatives. He was elected to the board of Ree Electric Cooperative in Miller in 1961. He continued to serve as president, vice president, secretary and treasurer until the co-op merged with Beadle Electric Cooperative in 1995.

He continued to serve the newly established Dakota Energy Cooperative for four more years. He also served on the board of East River Electric Power Cooperative for 25 years – from 1973 until 1998.

Hargens was also a member of the board of Basin Electric Power Cooperative at Bismarck, North Dakota, from 1979 until 1997. His service included six years as Basin president. One of his most important achievements was in negotiating the purchase of the Great Plains Synfuels Plants – which have proved vital in maintaining stable electric rates for rural consumers.

He was also a director of the South Dakota Rural Electric Association and the Dakota Coal Company, a subsidiary of Basin.

In addition to his rural electric cooperative commitment was also an active member of the South Dakota Farmers Union and served as an officer and director of the Orient Farmers Oil Co-op and the Orient Co-op Elevator Association.



1921-1999

J.D. Lynd

A native of Kansas, J.D. Lynd has devoted most of his adult life to advancing the cause of cooperation. He became manager of the Osborn County Co-op in 1960. Four years later he joined the staff of the Kansas Cooperative Council. Lynd came to South Dakota in 1968 when he was named as executive secretary of the South Dakota Association of Cooperatives. Early on he recognized that cooperatives needed to be active participants in drafting legislation, rules and regulations. He became a founding member of the South Dakota Ag Unity in 1968 and served as chairman for 29 years. He played a critical role in holding together a coalition that included organizations that did not always agree on all issues.

Lynd and Ag Unity played a vital role in the state purchase of the core lines of the bankrupt Milwaukee Railroad – a decision that paid real dividends for South Dakota farmers and their cooperatives.

As a co-op promoter, J.D. was instrumental in helping to establish the first program in ag business at Lake Region Technical Institute in Watertown. He coordinated the scholarship quiz contest with Vo-Ag Chapters to select winners and sponsor their expenses to the National Institute of Cooperative Education.

He has been the recipient of numerous awards including the South Dakota FFA Farmer Award, the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association's Leader of Unity award, the Agribusiness Man of the Year award from South Dakota State University and the Honorary American Farmer Degree from the National FFA.

