



2000 ARKANSAS COTTON ACHIEVEMENT AWARD ROBERT L. MCGINNIS

The 2000 Arkansas Cotton Achievement Award was presented to the Honorable Robert L. (Bob) McGinnis in recognition of his numerous contributions to the Arkansas cotton industry and support for the research and extension programs at the University of Arkansas. Bob McGinnis is a native of Lee County, where he grew up on a cotton farm and where he continued to produce cotton until his retirement last year. He graduated from Marianna High School and received his bachelor's degree in agriculture from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. He was elected to serve in the state legislature as representative of District 97 (parts of Lee and St. Francis counties) beginning in January 1979. He was popular with his constituency and highly respected in the legislature to which he was re-elected for nine additional terms until 1999, when a newly enacted term limitation act made him ineligible for re-election. In the legislature, he was a member of the Joint Budget Committee, Agriculture and Economic Development Committee, and Higher Education Oversight Committee, and he served as vice-chair of the Education Committee. Bob McGinnis has been a strong supporter of Arkansas cotton and agriculture in general, and he has consistently pursued the best interests of the University of Arkansas research and extension programs. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Soil Testing Review Board, which oversees the state soil testing program, and he continues to serve as a member of that board. While in the legislature, he introduced and sponsored the legislation authorizing the state boll weevil eradication program. He has also served as chair of the Cotton State Support Committee since its inception. This committee is responsible for allocation of the cotton checkoff research funds that are returned to the state from Cotton Incorporated. He is a member of the Cotton Board and is chair of the Research Committee. He is also advisor to the National Cotton Council on federal regulatory matters. In addition, Bob McGinnis is known and recognized for his integrity.