



1999 Inductees



Virgil Fodness

Virgil Fodness has been an active proponent of cooperation for much of the time since 1940 when he began farming in the Lennox area.



He was elected to the Lincoln-Union Electric Cooperative board in 1957. Over the years, he has held every position on the board including president for 14 years.

In 1970, Fodness was selected to represent Lincoln-Union on the board of East River Electric Power Cooperative and served as board president for 16 years. In 1984, he was elected to the Mid-West Electric Consumers Association board and served as the group's president.

His cooperative service record also includes time as a director of Western States Water and Power Consumers Conference. In 1987 he was a member of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Study Committee and helped develop recommendations to chart a course to move the REA program into a new era.

He served Consumer Federation of America board of directors and was vice president. In September 1989 he was awarded East River Electric's highest award, the Eminent Service Award.

He has also been active in his local community as a member of local telephone co-op, township and school boards. He has been a member of the Lincoln County Planning and Zoning board and the Southeast South Dakota Experimental Farm. He is a former 4-H leader.

Raymond Judy

In 1949 Raymond Judy and other residents of Sanborn County decided that they needed reliable telephone service. In an era of computers, the Internet and cellular telephones its



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hard to believe that just a half century ago many rural citizens did not have telephone service of any kind and most who did were still using the old "crank and holler" magneto phones. In Sanborn County there was no service at night or on Sundays.

In the spring of 1950, Judy began serving as secretary with a committee intent on beginning a rural telephone cooperative in the Forestburg and Woonsocket areas. The committee spent five years meeting with Rural Electrification Administration representatives and in 1954, Sanborn Telephone Co-op was born.

Judy served as coordinator for the project for four months and was hired as manager in 1955. He held that position until he retired in 1985. Under his leadership, the co-op moved from eight-party aerial lines to one party, buried cable and the co-op expanded to include six more communities. Cable television services were also added.

Judy was a member of the board of directors of the Forestburg Farmers Elevator, was president of the Forestburg School Board, treasurer of the South Central Community Action Program at Lake Andes, director of the local Resource Conservation and Development organization and chairman of the Forestburg Improvement Association.