

Todd, Furney Albert ^[1]

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by Maurice Toler, 1996

3 Oct. 1921–3 Mar. 1991



"Extension professor, Furney A. Todd, lecturing in a tobacco field." Black and white print photograph, circa 1970 to 1979. Item ID 0016834, Univeristy Archives Photographs, Living Off the Land, Special Collections Research Center, North Carolina State University Libraries.

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^[2]Furney Albert Todd, plant pathologist and broadcaster, was born in Wake County ^[3], the son of Willie D. and Mayne B. Todd. In 1943 he was graduated from North Carolina State College ^[4], where as a student he worked in the Plant Pathology Department laboratory. He entered graduate school but decided that he preferred to work with tobacco ^[5] rather than continue to study. In 1945 he accepted a position with the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a tobacco pathologist at the McCullers Research Station south of Raleigh involved in plant bed disease control, breeding, rotation studies, and chemical soil treatment. In 1955 he took a newly created post as extension tobacco disease specialist at North Carolina State College and began an on-farm applied research program that became known as "Extension-Research on Wheels." In that position he developed a successful pest management program called R-6-P (Reduce Six Pests).

For a number of years Todd recorded a daily farm broadcast for the Tobacco Radio Network that was heard in South Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, Kentucky, and Florida, as well as North Carolina. He also appeared on a monthly farm show broadcast over WRAL-TV in Raleigh. In 1960 he visited Germany, Switzerland, and France to help tobacco growers combat widespread field outbreaks of blue mold and spent three weeks there assisting in planning control measures. In 1970 he was named "Man of the Year in Service to North Carolina Agriculture" by the *Progressive Farmer* ^[6] magazine. *Tobacco International* magazine picked him as one of eight Men of the Year in 1977, and in 1978 he became one of the first two "Philip Morris Extension Specialists." In the latter year he also was named a Fellow in the American Phytopathological Society ^[7]. Todd was the author or coauthor of more than six hundred scientific articles, extension bulletins, circulars, and leaflets.

He married Anne Liles of Zebulon, and they became the parents of Furney A., Jr., Richard, Anitra, Elizabeth, and Judy. A member of Wendell Baptist Church, Todd was buried at Greenmount Cemetery, Wendell.

References:

Raleigh *News and Observer*, 3 Apr. 1977, 4 Mar. 1991.

Furney A. Todd file (Archives, North Carolina State University Library, Raleigh).

Wall Street Journal, 26 Mar. 1980.

Additional Resources:

"Extension professor, Furney A. Todd, lecturing in tobacco field." Photograph. circa 1970 to 1979. Agricultural Extension and Research Services Collection, Special Collections Research Center at NCSU Libraries. <http://d.lib.ncsu.edu/collections/catalog/0016834> ^[2] (accessed March 27, 2014).

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Authors:

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Origin - location:

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Raleigh ^[13]

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