

## **A Tribute to ESA Pioneers: Tribute to Charles Valentine Riley**

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**T**he systematic acquisition of food, clothing, and shelter was the earliest form of collective human activity, and it gave birth to civilization. Industry, art, and science are all products of a civilization founded on and supported by agriculture. Thus, agriculture, directly or indirectly, touches all aspects of human activity.

While much has been gained during the evolution of agriculture from the origins of hunting and gathering to the cultivation of settled crops and production of animals and thence to the complex modern systems for producing and distributing food, fiber, and shelter, much has been lost, also. Generally, throughout the developed world, agriculture is no longer recognized as central to human life and culture. However, over the long term, societies with unhealthy agriculture fail.

The aesthetic values and recreational opportunities provided by land, plant, and animal resources also involve much human activity and play an important role in maintaining the quality of life. These roles for agriculture are of particular importance in light of the increasing number of people living in high-density metropolitan areas.

The Charles Valentine Riley Memorial Foundation was formed in late 1985 to promote a broader and more complete understanding of agriculture as the basic human endeavor and to make secure the lever that is agriculture and its fulcrum, the natural environment, during this and succeeding generations. To this end, a major goal of the foundation is to facilitate the exchange of disparate views among