

Livestock veteran dies

ONE OF the stalwarts of Jamaican agriculture, and livestock in particular, Dr. Cleveland James Allen, died last Saturday, in Atlanta, USA, where he had gone for medical treatment. He was 76.

A specialist in animal genetics, the late Dr. Allen attended the Jamaica School of Agriculture, then Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, where he did the Bachelor of Science Degree. He went on to read for the Master's degree and later gained a Ph.D. in Animal Genetics from Michigan State University.

A prolific commentator on livestock genetics, Dr. Allen served as a lecturer at the Jamaica School of Agriculture, A&T University in North Carolina and North Carolina State University at Raleigh.

He was a close associate of the late internationally-acclaimed livestock breeder, Dr. Thomas P. Lecky, with whom he worked in livestock research at Bodles Research Station.

Among the things he believed in implicitly was that Jamaica's livestock breeding programme should aim at producing an animal (cattle) that could efficiently produce both milk and beef. Towards the achievement of this ideal, he directed his energies from the time he returned home from university in the late 1950's and joined the staff at Bodles.

In 1962, he was transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture at Hope and was appointed Director of Livestock Development a year later. At about that time, he was largely influential in introducing the Holstein-Friesian breed of cattle during the first five years of Jamaica's Independence. He believed that this breed, once acclimatised to Jamaica's warm weather, could be the answer to the search for an efficient milk producer which could also yield a good beef carcass.

He served as Head of the Department of Animal Production of the University of

the West Indies at St. Augustine in Trinidad in the mid-1960's.

And, quite apart from his work in Jamaica's livestock industry and at the UWI, Dr. Allen served in a number of countries as a consultant on livestock genetics with UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation.

His overseas assignments included Brazil, where he served as Livestock Adviser in the northeast states of that country. From Brazil, he went on to work in Kenya in Africa, for two years in the same capacity; then on to Malawi for two years and finally to Swaziland.

Dr. Allen returned home in 1980 and was

appointed Adviser on the government's Beef and Milk Policy, under former Agriculture Minister Dr. Percy Broderick.

Among the achievements of which he remained eternally proud, was his contribution to the Young Farmers' Programme (4-H Movement), in which he trained and prepared

youngsters for participation in the Royal Agricultural Show in Britain. Young farmers like Dr. Keith Roache, Fred Campbell (now of the Natural Resources Conservation Authority) and Dr. Richard Jones remained a source of great pride to him.

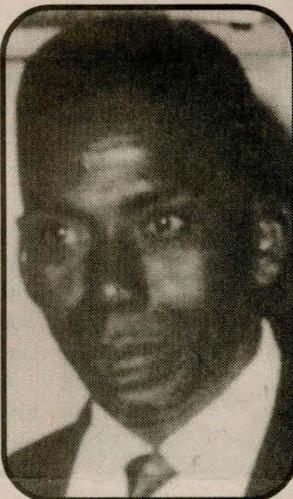
About 1981, the late Dr. Allen established a farm of his own at Godfrey Lands in Mandeville, where he reared quails, Pekin ducks and ornamental fish. He wrote prolifically in *The Gleaner* and advocated on the topic, 'Producing animal protein in your backyard.'

By the late 1980's failing health caused him to give up farming, and he retired to Kingston. He left Jamaica on January 5 for Atlanta to receive medical treatment.

The late Dr. Allen was married and had one son.

A funeral service for him will be held February 19, at St. Stephen's Church in Cross Roads. Cremation will take place at a later date.

S.L.



Dr. Cleve Allen ■