

## There's No One Like Jim B!

Adapted from "There's Nothing Like the Bean!"  
for December 2009

Jim Byford is retiring  
As we have come to hear  
And looking back, we now applaud  
His long, unique career.

From humblest beginnings  
To the famous Dean of Ag  
His life is full of stories  
And lots of room to brag!

***Yes, three cheers for Jim Byford  
Here at UTM  
He's made this world a better place  
We owe so much to him.  
Right here at UT Martin  
And throughout Tennessee  
When it comes to folks, my friend  
There's no one like Jim B!  
(Jim B, Jim B, Jim B...)***

Now, Jim was born in Trenton  
Way back in '43  
And then in 1966  
He got his UTM degree.

From there he went to Auburn  
And a doctorate was earned  
Then on to UT Knoxville  
'Til in '87 he returned.

He's a writer, he's a teacher  
He's a singer with a song  
His lyrics are enlightening  
You want to sing along.

For nature and conservation  
The message he did share  
To bring us understanding  
And teach us all to care.

He stood against the tyranny  
Almost a decade past  
A role he did not look for  
But he rose up to the task.

He stood for truth and justice  
And when the smoke had cleared  
The chancellor had packed his bags  
And Byford still was here!

For over 20 years now  
He's served as us as a dean  
4-H as well, and FFA  
And the Wildlife Society.

For numerous Advisory Boards  
On Byford they did call  
And the founding board of governors  
For the cause of Ethanol!

In community, he's been involved  
In case you did not know  
He founded Martin's Lion's Club  
Some 33 years ago.

In Rotary since '95  
He's lived the 4-Way Test  
And when it comes to leading songs  
Jim Byford is the best.

Yes, Byford is retiring  
And that is why we're here  
To reminisce, and now applaud  
His long, unique career.

And as he changes gears now  
We wish him all the best  
God bless you, Jim, as you enjoy  
A well-deserving rest!