The Alabama 4-H Wall of Fame

November 12, 2009

Alabama 4-H Environmental Science Education Center

Alabama 4-H Center
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The Alabama 4-H Wall of Fame recognizes individuals and organizations that have had a significant impact on the 4-H Youth Development program, its members and leaders. The Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc. and Alabama 4-H honors, remembers and pays tribute to those who have influenced the lives of Alabama youth by their commitment “To Make the Best Better.”

Master of Ceremonies
Ryan Sprinkle
Alabama 4-H Alumnus

Welcome
Dorman K. Grace
Chairman
Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc.

Recognition of National 4-H Hall of Fame Inductee
Dorman K. Grace

Recognition of Inductees
Ryan Sprinkle

Closing Remarks
C. Lamar Nichols
Assistant Director, 4-H Youth Development
Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Alabama 4-H Wall of Fame Inductees

Alabama Cattlemen’s Association
Alabama Farmers Federation
Alabama Power Company Foundation
Joe Ann Arthur*
**Ann Barr**
Helen Bauer*
Roger H. Bedford Jr.
Tom Burnside*
Patricia Bryant
James A. Byars
Thomas M. Campbell Sr.*
David Carpenter*
George Washington Carver*
Barbara Cherellia
Boyd Christenberry
Malta F. (Scooter) Conners*
Michelle L. Craig
Marjorie S. Day
Debter Farms
L.A. “Tony” Dozier
Drummond Company, Inc.
Luther Duncan*
Betty H. Duncan
James R. Edwards
W.A. “Dub” Ellis Jr.
Guinn Ezell
Junior “Wimpy” Gillespie
Thelma & John Gottler*
Addie Green
Audrey Grunesewald
Terrell and Anne* Guthrie
Enniece Hagler
Alice Heard
Angela G. Hughes
Glenda Kelly
Rosalee & Earl Kennemer*
Vicki Linley
Bertha M. Jones*
John E. Jones
Rodger Dale Jones
W. D. (Demp) Jones
Ronnie Lane
Louise Littlejohn*
Hanchey E. Logue*
Cecil Mayfield*
John D. McCrorie*
John D. McLean*
George D.H. McMillan
Jack Mitchell
Charles Moody
Lem Morrison*
Carolyn Moseley
Katlin Mukansky
Jack Odle
Gene Ragan
Donna Riddle
Lydia Sexton
Sandy Shepard
Dan Smallley
Jack Smith
Ryan Sprinkle
Deborah Stabler
Ann Thompson
Thompson Tractor
Barbara Thorne*
John M. “Bubba” Trotman
Annette Mehurg Wardrup
Milton A. “Buzz” Wendland
Bob Whittenburg
Ronnie Williams*
Sue Wills
Beverly Mays Young

*Deceased

Bold - National 4-H Hall of Fame Inductee.
Tommy and Carol Williams  
Marshall County 4-H Volunteers

In a speech made several years ago at the Southern Region Leader Forum at Rock Eagle, Carol Williams said she and Tommy were the highest paid 4-H volunteers in the United States. They are paid in something that money cannot buy—the love, the smiles, and the admiration of children.

Tommy’s involvement in 4-H began in 1956 with a little bluebird house. Carol’s involvement started in 1955 with a fourth place win in the apron contest, never mind that there were only four entrants. They knew from experience that 4-H was an excellent youth program.

Their service and awards are widespread: years of local involvement, a five-year presidency of the Alabama 4-H Volunteer Leaders Association, the first Salute of Excellence winner, a top 10 winner in the International 4-H Volunteer Award, and the winners of the Alabama 4-H Lifetime Achievement Award.

“It all boils down to love and self esteem,” says Carol, adding that her most prestigious award in 4-H is a tiny (erased and used) valentine that she received from a 4-H’er. “I hope in some small way that I have taught the world to sing in perfect harmony and opened a child’s eyes.”

The Williamses have been 4-H volunteers in Marshall County for more than 30 years. They have judged everything from demonstrations to woodworking to Chicken-Que. They have represented Alabama and Marshall County at national conferences, have helped to organize fish and wildlife camps in Marshall County, and have helped to plan hundreds of volunteer leader retreat activities on both a state and regional level.

The two are presently certified in the Air Rifle and Shotgun discipline. They are in their third year of the newly formed Marshall County 4-H Sharpshooter’s Club. The club has 10 members including their grandson, Trey, who is president.

They embody the old saying that Carol uses in speeches, “Volunteers are good for nothing, they are priceless!”

_Nominated by Kerry Quinn and Amy Burgess_
Milton Williams
Mobile County 4-H Volunteer

4-H volunteers come from all walks of life. They can be entrepreneurs, artists, photographers, teachers, horticulturists, or writers, to name a few. Milton Williams is one who is all of these.

The 4-H Volunteer Leader program has been fortunate to have Williams serve as a Classroom in the Forest: Forest in the Classroom volunteer for the past 16 years. A native of Mobile, Williams lived in New York and worked as an artist. After retiring and moving back to Mobile County, he became interested in the Alabama Master Gardener Program. It was there that he started volunteering to help bring the Classroom in the Forest: Forest in the Classroom program to thousands of 5th grade children in the Mobile County Public School System.

Not only does he volunteer to go into the classroom to speak to children about environmental education, but he also volunteers to take them to forests and private landowner’s property to teach them about the importance of trees.

Williams used his artistic ability and created educational visual aids to help the students better understand the carbon dioxide cycle, the layers of a forest, and the roots systems of trees. These visual aids proved to be so effective, he reproduced them and donated them to the 4-H Classroom in the Forest: Forest in the Classroom program. They are now being used across Alabama as teachers and other volunteers share the message of the importance of trees and Alabama forest lands.

Williams teaches young people to treasure the legacy of the forests that have been left to our care and he is truly a volunteer that takes youngsters by the hand, helps them stand a little taller, walk a little prouder, and be the best they can be.

Nominated by Maranda Marks

J. O. Conway
District 4-H Agent

J. O. Conway’s career in ACES started while he was a vocational agriculture teacher at Dadeville High School when he met Oscar Strickland, who encouraged him to work with ACES. He began his career in north Alabama working with the ACES cotton quality program, and later became the assistant county agent in Blount County with 4-H responsibilities and agriculture assignments.

Nominated by Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc.
“Some of my most successful programs were local 4-H club meetings, junior leadership, county livestock clubs that included judging, local livestock shows, wildlife and forestry camps, and volunteer development for 4-H,” says Conway. “I felt my leadership development for 4-H youth and adults was my most successful effort.”

As the district agent for 4-H in 22 north Alabama counties, Conway continued to work with 4-H with help from Cecil Mayfield and Ann Barr, state 4-H leaders, and some 50 agents. At the district level, he was involved in organizing the Alabama 4-H Agents Association.

His achievements include organizing a youth environmental resource conference patterned after a regional conference for southern states and supporting the start of the Alabama Master Gardener Program in Madison County, growing with five other counties. He completed his career with administrative duties as the north Alabama district Extension coordinator.

The Conway family is involved in 4-H: sons, Jay (now a regional Extension agent for 4-H in north Alabama) and Lee were active in livestock programs and collegiate 4-H, and wife, Angie, was 4-H Queen at the Chilton County Peach Festival. Conway continues to volunteer in Master Gardener and 4-H Environmental Science programs.

Nominated by Alabama 4-H

Elizabeth Sykora
Baldwin County 4-H Volunteer

Elizabeth Hovark Sykora is the daughter of descendants from Czechoslovakia who eventually settled in Robertsdale and became farmers. From an early age, she was taught the responsibility of home and family management by making her own clothes, helping plant, harvest and preserve vegetables, and doing housework. When her children became involved in 4-H, she became a 4-H volunteer.

She helped the members of the Robertsdale Cloverleaf Club write their demonstrations, practice speeches, and helped with clothing projects, outings, and 4-H camp. She judged the baked and canned goods each year at the Robertsdale Fair.

Daughter Linda Gilmore, says, “Besides being my 4-H leader, she was my mother and biggest supporter. With the help of my mother and county Extension agent, Ms. Marvel Gwaltney, my 4-H record book and bread demonstration won state in 1968 and allowed me to see the big city of Chicago and to take my first plane and train rides.”

Sykora has given her head, heart, hands, and health to 4-H clubs and the community of Baldwin County. She attends the Southern Jumpers 4-H Club meetings where her daughter is now the 4-H volunteer and her granddaughter shows horses.

She was presented the 4-H Centennial Volunteer Certificate of Appreciation for all her years of 4-H service in Baldwin County as she celebrated her 90th birthday. Her purpose in life has been to love, teach, and care for others “To Make the Best Better.”

Nominated by Linda Gilmore

Jack and Judy Davis
Pike County 4-H Volunteers

When the 4-H Horse Club and 4-H Horse program are mentioned in Pike County, two people’s names come to the forefront—Jack and Judy Davis. Both were instrumental in forming the Pike County 4-H Horse Club in 1976. Having two boys who dearly loved horses and anything to do with showing horses made their interest in this 4-H program a natural for the whole family.

They opened their home and farm and hosted the District 4-H Horse show for many years. While serving on the State 4-H Horse Show Planning Committee, Jack and Judy were the driving force in starting roping classes for the State 4-H Horse Show. They spent much time, energy, and financial resources to get this part of the state show on solid ground. Bob Whittenburg, retired 4-H livestock specialist, said that the Davises “provided stock for the roping classes, set up and arranged everything related to this part of the show, and did this long after
their children were no longer involved. Jack and Judy were the keys to Alabama having a successful 4-H Horse Show, especially the roping classes.”

A Pike County native, Jack was in 4-H, showing cattle and working on several projects and activities. Judy is a Louisiana native from a military family and met Jack at Troy College.

Jack and Judy Davis have made a significant contribution to not only the Alabama 4-H Horse program but also to the lives of many Pike County and Alabama 4-H’ers.

Nominated by Tammy Powell

Anna Dyer
Madison County 4-H Volunteer

Anna Dyer is a 4-H volunteer leader for the Snowy Owls 4-H Club in Madison County. The unique quality that she brings to this club is her ability to incorporate 4-H as a resource and educational component for special needs students. She works with the students in the areas of improving hand-eye coordination, fine and large motor skills, critical thinking, and academics.

The members of the Snowy Owls 4-H Club have conducted many hands-on/minds-on activities, including camps, county round up, many local and regional 4-H events, and community service projects for military youth. Early on, Dyer noticed 4-H programs helped address the skills necessary for work with special needs youth. The advantages of becoming a 4-H volunteer leader gave her the opportunity to share with her club the skills most classrooms don’t address.

The impact Dyer has on the youth she encounters is phenomenal and goes deeper than most can imagine. She is a special 4-H volunteer leader with a kind heart.

Nominated by Wanda Pharris

Prucnal continued to organize and conduct 4-H programming after her promotion to county Extension coordinator. Her love of 4-H continued with her retirement in 2002. She continues to volunteer at various 4-H events around the state.

The 4-H lady, as she is described by her 4-H’ers, has shaped the 4-H program in Shelby County and across Alabama.

Nominated by Ricky Colquitt and Shelby County 4-H

Scott Skelton
Mobile County 4-H Volunteer

If there was a 4-H dictionary, the name Scott Skelton would appear after the words dedication, service, sponsorship, and ethics. Skelton has been the Mobile County 4-H Animal Science club volunteer leader for the past 15 years, touching the lives of many families participating in the market steer and heifer programs.

Skelton began serving as a volunteer leader for 4-H as a way to involve his younger sons in a program that he believed would teach them many life skills while giving them the foundation to become productive citizens. His sons have grown and moved to other productive activities, but Skelton is still the foundation that holds together the Mobile County Steer program.

Skelton started with just a few members in the club and now he meets with approximately 50 club members and hundreds of parents, grandparents, and guardians throughout the year.

Skelton performs many services for the club including chaperoning for overnight and weekend trips to cattle shows and providing transportation to meetings and events for 4-Hers and their cattle. He has contributed not only his time but also his money to provide sponsorship and supplies for this club.

For the past 15 years, Skelton has donated a week of his time away from his business and family to help with the organization of the Steer Show & Sale and Animal Science exhibits for the Greater Gulf State Fair. His intense attention to details has led him to donate many meticulous hours drawing show ring layouts and planning safety ideas and time management plans for the Greater Gulf State Fair.

Due to his hard work, determination, outstanding leadership abilities, and personal commitment, Skelton has helped shape the lives of many future cattle producers in Mobile County and Alabama.

Nominated by Maranda Marks
The Maples Family
Limestone County 4-H Volunteers

Four generations and more than 70 years of 4-H club involvement mark the Maples family of Limestone County. When Mack and Doris Maples began farming, they relied heavily on the Limestone County Extension office for help and advice. Involvement with 4-H for their son, Billy, was the natural next step for their family. Four daughters (Anne, Emily, Susan, and Jane) followed Billy and became 4-H members. Mack and Doris spent their life enjoying the 4-H activities of their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Billy’s first 4-H club work was in 1946 while attending 4-H meetings at Friendship School in Limestone County. His first project was three beef calves. He entered his calves in the county and district shows and came away with a County Champion ribbon and a District Reserve Champion ribbon. The next year, Billy had two calves and one highly fertilized acre of corn—yielding 66 bushes, more than three times the county average. His calves won Champion Middle Weight, Champion Angus, and Grand Champion of the state show. Using the money he made from the sale, he bought four registered Angus heifers and one registered Angus cow, the foundation for his herd today and the source of funding for his college education. In 1949, speaking to the Birmingham Kiwanis Club, Billy said 4-H taught him how to meet people and how to stand on his feet and talk to people.

Billy and Nancy encouraged their children, Dave, Diane, and Tommy, to participate in 4-H. They had 4-H beef projects with heifers and steers in shows until they graduated from high school and earned national 4-H trips to Chicago for the National 4-H Congress, to Fontana and Washington, D.C. Billy also involved neighborhood youth, teaching life-long skills because he mentored them. This generation continues to support 4-H activities on several levels.

The next generation of Maples children continues the family involvement in 4-H. Six of the seven grandchildren have been 4-H members with projects from beef to baking. And this year, two have lambs and swine projects.

The lessons learned in 4-H have helped the Maples family impact agriculture across the Southeast as they continue to be involved in the livestock industry as a way of life and as partners with organizations strengthening farming in today’s economy.

Nominated by Limestone County 4-H

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Dan J. Presley
Coffee County Extension Coordinator, and Board Member, Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc.

Dan J. Presley has had a lifelong commitment to Alabama 4-H and ACES. Most of his 30 year career was in Coffee County, where he provided leadership in all areas including 4-H, livestock, community resource development, administration, row crops, and family and individual well-being. Currently, he is one of the longest serving members of the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc.

As an ACES employee, he developed a special love of 4-H. He promoted leadership and was a good example for all 4-H’ers. He was interested in the educational development of a young person.

Today he is chair of the foundation’s Facilities Committee, working with 4-H Center staff to ensure it offers the best facilities in the Southeast. He is ever mindful of 4-H and continues to clip 4-H articles from local newspapers and send them to the state 4-H office for display.

Presley received the Extension Award for Excellence in 1991 and the Outstanding Extension Employee Award. He continues to volunteer for YMCA Day, Farm-City Week, 4-H county events, Red Cross, and is a member of the Enterprise High School Agri-Science Department Advisory Committee.

Nominated by Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc.

Peggy Prucnal
Shelby County Extension Coordinator

Peggy Prucnal served as a county Extension agent for Shelby County for 33 years. Prucnal did not grow up as a 4-H’er but her love and passion for working with youth became apparent soon after she started her career. During her tenure, Prucnal helped influence thousands of 4-H’ers. Many of these youth have had successful careers as a direct result of her guidance.

Prucnal had many state winners in Record Book competition, Chicken-Que, Public Speaking, and Meats Judging. She was instrumental in organizing district 4-H events at the University of Montevallo, developing that partnership of more than 30 years.

Nominated by Shelby County 4-H
Neel donates his time and skills so that a child will benefit. Whenever asked to assist in a 4-H event he accepts the opportunity gladly, whether a cake sale or an auction to raise money for livestock judging teams.

Nominated by the Tri-States 4-H Program

Roland Oliver
4-H Resource Volunteer

Roland Oliver was an agricultural engineer for the Alabama Power Company. However, he probably spent as much time helping ACES constituents as he did with the power company. Oliver worked closely with Extension agents and rural people throughout the state. He served as the chairman of numerous committees in ACES and was involved at state 4-H round-ups, particularly in the electrical projects. He worked closely with county leaders to develop 4-H winners on the local, district, state, and national levels.

He was a genius in helping utilize electrical teaching tools. His wisdom was appreciated by Extension agents; he provided insight into better ways to highlight 4-H exhibits in fairs all across the state. Whether the exhibit needed lighting or movement, he could always think of a way to better display the exhibit.

Oliver was directly responsible for designing and installing all outside lighting at the Alabama 4-H Center. He assisted in designing and installing 126 storm windows on the Terrell Guthrie Lodge. According to Terrell Guthrie, retired manager of the Alabama 4-H Center, “Roland Oliver married the 4-H Center. He is a dear friend who did so much for the success of the center. He never turned down a request.”

Oliver grew up in Cullman County where he as an active 4-H’er in projects such as row crops, gardening, livestock production, and home improvement. He held several offices including vice-president and president of his 4-H club. He received the National Rural Engineer of the Year Award in 1983, is listed in the National Who’s Who in Engineering of America, and has received a patent for teaching fundamentals of electric motors.

He has received the Tuscaloosa County Friend of 4-H Award, the 4-H Leadership Award, and due to his appreciated efforts at the Alabama 4-H Center, the Roland Oliver room was named in his honor.

Nominated by Wayne Ford
Farrington helped train several Extension 4-H agents including Marjorie Day and Judy Brown. At Emmett Farrington Day in Cleburne County this past July, Brown recalled when he sent her to meet her first 4-H club. Never having been a 4-H member, Brown expected only to observe the 4-H club, but instead was asked to lead the 4-H pledge.

Because he was so loved by all, Heflin Mayor Anna Berry presented Farrington with the key to the city during the Alabama 4-H Centennial celebration. Probate Judge Ryan Robertson presented a proclamation from the Cleburne County Commission naming July 29, 2009 as Emmett Farrington Day.

In addition to 4-H, Farrington also worked with Cleburne County adults on poultry and beef cattle production, pasture development, and hay and grain crops.

Nominated by Ann Cobb

Benjamin B. Fields*
Tuscaloosa County Extension Coordinator

Benjamin Belton “B. B.” Fields began his ACES career as an assistant county agent in Lawrence County, transferred to Hale County for five years, and then spent the rest of his career in Tuscaloosa County. As a 4-H agent in Tuscaloosa County, Fields had the privilege of carrying the first group of 4-H’ers to the Alabama 4-H Center when it opened for service in 1980.

The majority of Fields’ career was spent doing 4-H work. He established active 4-H club councils and worked with youth who were county, district, and state winners in wood science, plant and soil science, home gardens, poultry, forestry, tractor driving, automotive, and conservation of natural resources.

Fields worked with countless homeowners and farmers, helping answer their varied yard and garden questions. He developed educational agricultural programs concentrating on improving production and marketing techniques. He promoted the local farmers market and encouraged producers to become active members.

As an Extension professional, Fields was a charter member of the Alabama Association of Extension 4-H Agents and served as the president in 1985. He received the first 25 Year Service Citation given by the association in 1980.

* deceased
Lynn McMillen  
*Houston County 4-H Volunteer*

As a youth, Lynn McMillen was a member of the Perry County, Pennsylvania 4-H Horse and Pony Club, serving as president and delegate to County 4-H Council. He was selected as 4-H Boy of the Year and received the Wm. H. Danforth I Dare You Award for Outstanding Leadership. He also was a member of the County 4-H Dairy Club and the Kistler Clovers Community 4-H Club. All three clubs are still active in Pennsylvania.

McMillen currently is a science teacher and 4-H club sponsor at Dothan High School. He recruited teens and initially held club meetings before school. They now meet monthly. He has directed teens in writing club by-laws, electing officers, hosting a 4-H booth at the annual School Club Fair (for three years), and promoting 4-H to more than 400 students each year. The club has a photo in the school year book and sponsors a float in the Homecoming Parade.

The teen club members entered, designed, and constructed a booth at the National Peanut Festival, which won first place. One of McMillen’s teens was state winner in Project Green Thumb. This student had never received any type of recognition before and he was more than elated with the success of participation.

McMillen attended state wildlife judging volunteer training and is certified in ATV and Fit to Ride. McMillen received recognition as 2009 Centennial Volunteer with his nomination from Houston County.

**Nominated by Sheila Andreasen**

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**Red Eagle Skeet & Trap**  
*4-H Shooting Sports Volunteers*

Red Eagle Skeet & Trap has been instrumental in the Alabama State 4-H Shotgun Championship since its inception. In 2000, Red Eagle Skeet & Trap hosted the first State 4-H Shotgun Championship and has hosted this event every year since. The 2009 championship was its largest with 76 shooters.

James Finn, Red Eagle Skeet & Trap president in 2000, was important in bringing the state 4-H Shotgun Championship to Red Eagle. He convinced the membership that hosting the championship would be a great way for the club to teach young people what the club loves—shooting. Finn has assisted in every championship since 2000.

Members of the Red Eagle Skeet & Trap have donated thousands of dollars worth of volunteer hours to Alabama 4-H by assisting with this championship. They spend hours cutting grass, cleaning the club house, providing safety briefings, assisting with instruction, loading skeet and trap machines, pulling for the contestants, scoring, refereeing, serving lunch, and, most important, showing visitors their wonderful hospitality.

Red Eagle Skeet & Trap members have had a great impact on the Shooting Sports program in Alabama.

**Nominated by Kim Good**

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**Dan R. Mims**  
*Chilton County Extension Agent*

Dan Mims is known for his friendliness, courtesy, willingness to help and consideration of clientele and coworkers. Born in north Autauga County, Mr. Dan (as he is now affectionately called) attended Billingsley Highway School and served in the U.S. Army for three years before returning home to enroll in Auburn University. Mims’ entire career as a county agent was spent in Chilton County.
Shelton Hawsey  
District 4-H Agent

Shelton Hawsey began his ACES career in Elmore and Lee counties with 4-H and agriculture responsibilities. These years provided him opportunities to learn the day-to-day responsibilities of ACES field staff and fully equipped him for his responsibilities as the district 4-H agent covering the Southwest counties in Alabama.

Under his supervision, the 4-H staff looked for innovative programs for youth in diverse communities. Among these was the implementation of the 4-H Forestry Judging program with the assistance of county staff member Wayne Ford.

As state specialist for programs and events, Hawsey organized and secured adequate funding for 4-H Wildlife Judging and Environmental Stewardship programs. He continues to volunteer in those programs for state competition.

“My best moment in 4-H is seeing the joy, satisfaction, and excitement that achievement brought to the 4-H members and their families,” he says. “Now I see former members in their adult life become contributing citizens and successful in their life work, many of them involved in 4-H with their children.”

Nominated by Alabama 4-H

Sarah McDowell  
Chilton County Extension Agent

Sarah McDowell has positively influenced the lives of legions of Chilton County 4-H’ers with her quick wit, ready smile, and unwavering professionalism. Born in Clay County, McDowell graduated from Clay County High School and earned a bachelor’s degree in vocational home economics from Alabama College.

In her youth, she was a 4-H member in 6th and 7th grades, a member of the 4-H council, and was interested in sewing, handwork, and piano. These skills would serve her well in her career.

She spent most of her years of service with ACES in Chilton County after beginning her employment in the Fayette County Extension office in 1951. She was a charter member of the ALE4-HA, ALAEHA, NAEHA and ESP. She served on various committees with both associations and served as district director for ALE4-HA.

As a 4-H agent, she conducted in-school 4-H clubs in all 5th and 6th grades in the public school system. In addition, she worked with youth in special education classes, community and afterschool classes, and sewing classes. She efficiently planned and carried out 4-H programs on the county, district, and state levels. She later went on to work with adults in clothing, health, and exercise.

Her pleasant manner and encouragement helped many 4-H’ers as they worked toward county, state, and district awards. A former 4-H’er remembered McDowell instructing him in preparing his record books and coordinating the details of trips to events such as Citizenship Washington Focus, District Roundup, and State Congress. According to the 4-H’er, the leadership and social skills and the confidence he gained through his participation in 4-H helped him in his career in private business.

Nominated by Gay West and Chilton County 4-H

Davis and Margery Henry  
Montgomery County 4-H Volunteers

Davis and Margery Henry have been involved in 4-H work for more than 65 years. Both grew up on dairy farms near each other in the Pintlala community in Montgomery County. They participated in 4-H as children, served as adult leaders and volunteers for local clubs, supported 4-H by volunteering their time, farm, and farm animals, and contributed financially by sponsoring youth programs and awards.

Margery served as president, secretary, treasurer, reporter, and participated in arts and crafts. She won ribbons and received an honorable mention in the Sears Roebuck garden contest. She was a 4-H camp junior counselor. Davis also held several club offices, showed steers, and participated in a chicken project. He won grand champion in dairy and was on the 4-H judging team. He
participated in the first livestock show in Garrett Coliseum. One of his cows gave birth to the first calf ever born inside the coliseum.

As volunteer leaders, they hosted livestock and dairy judging contests on their farm, sponsored grooming and showmanship clinics for Montgomery County, and encouraged hundreds of youth in their livestock projects. Lora Gail Henry Bagents says, “My parents encouraged me to be involved in 4-H. Whether I won or lost, hugs were given, tears sometimes wiped, but the memories made during my 4-H years will always be treasured.”

Montgomery County Extension recognized the Henrys with the 4-H Length of Service Award to celebrate the 2009 Centennial year.

Nominated by Jimmy Smitheman

Betty Holley
Alabama 4-H State Staff

A native of Tennessee, Betty Holley joined 4-H when she was 9 and was an active member until college. She was a 4-H All Star, the highest honor for a Tennessee member. She began her work with Alabama as a 4-H agent in Centreville, was an EFNEP program specialist, and, in 1986, joined the Alabama 4-H state staff until her retirement.

She was instrumental in the development of the 4-H State Council, who became true ambassadors. Under her guidance, they developed presentations to use when invited to speak to groups and developed their leadership roles as council members for camps, workshops, and district events.

Holley was involved in an Interstate Teen Retreat, which gave older 4-H’ers an opportunity to meet and work with teens from adjoining states. She also served as project director for “Meeting the Needs of High Risk Youth” with Lamar and Fayette counties. Dallas County joined the project to increase client diversity.

Holley continues to work with youth through the Alabama Envirothon, an educational, competitive, environmental program for grades 9–12. She continues to write grants and encourage her ACES colleagues to support the 4-H program.

Nominated by Alabama 4-H

Natasha Marable
Randolph County 4-H Volunteer

Natasha Kimble Marable of Randolph County is a truly outstanding 4-H volunteer. She serves the young people of Alabama with energy, enthusiasm, and a high degree of optimism and personal responsibility.

Marable began her 4-H life as a club member in Randolph County when she was 9. As a young person, she sought out every opportunity that 4-H had to offer through county, district, and state activities and by taking on leadership roles and increasing responsibilities as she grew and learned.

As an adult, Marable has continued her commitment to 4-H and to the young people of Randolph County. The mother of four, she believes it is important to make sure that Randolph County youth have the same 4-H opportunities that she had—and she has backed up her belief with hours of hard work.

Marable was one of Randolph County’s first certified overnight chaperons, and she helped organize and start the Handley Middle School Afterschool 4-H Club that has reached more than 500 youth in the past 5 years. As a member of the Randolph County advisory board, Marable was instrumental in developing the Randolph County Forest in The Classroom/Classroom in the Forest and Realty Check programs for 5th graders and Teen 4-H’ers. These two programs have been expanded to all schools in Randolph County, now reaching more than 700 youth each year.

Marable has made a wonderful contribution through the annual Alabama 4-H Midwinter Retreat. For 7 years, she has been a chaperone, and she has been crowned the 4-H Dancing Queen, leading young people through the intricacies of several dance moves and helping shy kids break out of their shells.

Marable connects with youth and has come to be a mentor and a much-loved role model.

Nominated by Christine Hardin and Randolph County 4-H