

# National 4-H Hall of Fame 2011

## National 4-H Council



**Theodore "Ted" Hutchcroft**  
Information Director, National 4-H Club Foundation

**Hometown:** Mediapolis, Iowa

**Nominated by:** National 4-H Council

### Major 4-H Accomplishments:

Iowa 4-H member, 1942-1950. IFYE delegate to United Kingdom, 1949; Life member, IFYE USA. Campus 4-H, Iowa State College, 1950-1953. National 4-H Club Foundation Information Director, 1959-1967. Director of Inter-American Rural Youth Program (PIJR), 1970-75. Authored World Atlas of 4-H and Similar Rural Youth Educational Programs.

**Honors:** Iowa State Univ., B.S., agricultural journalism, 1953; PhD, education, 1978; American University. M.A., communications, 1959. Public Relations Soc. of America, AR Chapter; Accredited, 1968; Fellow, 1994, Crystal Award, 1999. Agricultural Communicators in Education (ACE) Professional Award, 1990; International Award for Excellence, 1991.

### Biography:

Ted Hutchcroft was a Mediapolis Junior Farmers 4-H Club dairy project member. He was an IFYE to Great Britain in 1949. Ted was hired as Information Director of the National 4-H Club Foundation in 1959. He was active on several national 4-H public relations committees to shape the reputation of 4-H as a strong, highly regarded experiential youth development program. His previous work included USDA Information Specialist, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation director of a weekly radio station tape service, and associate in a weekly television film service. During undergraduate studies at Iowa State in Agriculture Journalism, he was Editor of Iowa Agriculturalist magazine, among the nation's top student-managed agricultural magazines.

When the Foundation assumed responsibility for the Inter-American Rural Youth Program, Hutchcroft was named Director. *PIJR* was a joint, cooperative program serving Latin America and Caribbean countries. Its purpose was to cooperate with national governments and institutions and private organizations to develop effective informal educational programs so the rural young people could contribute to increasing agricultural production and improving rural living conditions. Now retired, Hutchcroft recently donated his invaluable collection of National 4-H Foundation and PIJR publications to the National 4-H History Preservation Program.

### Quote:

4-H evolved in rural America is a unique informal educational method. Volunteer leaders - adults and youth - helped spark a revolution in agricultural production and improved rural life. I grew up in that system. Through *PIJR* I was able to share those values with rural youth throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Today there are countless leaders in these countries who benefited from the 4-H ideals and are working to see them available to coming generations.



Exhibiting a Guernsey heifer at the 1946 county fair.



Secretary of the 1970 Inter-American Rural Youth Leaders Conference in Argentina.



Greeting 4-F Club members in Ecuador.



## W. Francis Pressly

Director of Domestic & International Programs, National 4-H Council

**Hometown:** Stony Point, NC    **Nominated by:** National 4-H Council

### Major 4-H Accomplishments:

Iredell Co. 4-H member. National 4-H Congress, Report to the Nation team, and Thomas E. Wilson Citizenship Award scholarship recipient. Led National 4-H Foundation Brazil 4-S Peace Corps Project. Director of 4-H International Programs and later Managing Director of Programs, National 4-H Council.

**Honors:** NC 4-H Leadership Award, 1949; 4-H Public Speaking Award, 1949; Southern Region 4-H Dairy Production Winner, 1946. IFYE Fellowship, 1957-58. NC 4-H Hall of Fame, 2009. IFYE Association Meritorious Service Award, 2004. NC 4-H Development Fund Board of Directors and Executive Committee, 1987-89. NAE4-HA Distinguished Service Award, 1981. Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow, 2011.

### Biography:

Francis Pressly established his excellence early as an Iredell County 4-H member. He won numerous state project awards, attended National 4-H Congress, served on the Report to the Nation team, and was a Thomas E. Wilson Citizenship Award scholarship recipient. Motivated by his 4-H successes, Pressly extended his skills and development impact to NC 4-H, then Italy, Brazil and the world. Pressly was 4-H Agent in Davidson County and helped transition 4-H Clubs to community based settings. From 1962 to 1984 he devoted his talents to the National 4-H Foundation/Council, where his international interests firmly established him as a recognized authority on youth programming.

Beginning in 1962, Pressly led the National 4-H Foundation Brazil 4-S Peace Corps Project for the expansion of rural youth clubs. Its success motivated Peace Corps to fund similar projects in other countries. In 1965, Pressly became Director of 4-H International Programs overseeing 4-H international exchanges, development and training projects. He helped initiate the Youth Development Project in seven countries and was the prime force behind the Young Agricultural Specialist Exchange Program with the Soviet Union. He was later named Managing Director of Programs, covering both domestic and international programs. After retirement, he and his wife Sibyl restored and operated the Mast Farm Inn, Valle Crucis, NC.

### Quote:

For many who grow up in 4-H, the life skills learned influence everything they go on to do.

You take those lessons, that personal growth, that broadened perspective and apply it to your career. Any difference I may have made was in some way shaped by my experience in 4-H.

4-H for me, like for so many others, was the beginning of everything. It was the door to the rest of my life.



Pressly with "Report to the Nation" team presents to President Eisenhower in 1953.



Pressly at inauguration of new 4-S club in Rio Grande de Norte, Brazil in 1963.



Pressly with Taiwan representatives at National 4-H Center in the 1970's.