

Idaho – 2007

Vi Rexford Idaho Extension Staff



Home: Emmett, ID
Nominated by: Idaho 4-H
Year Inducted: 2007

4-H Efforts: Oregon 4-H member 10 years; Dairy, Foods and Nutrition and dairy and livestock judging. State Fair Champion dairy foods demonstrator at age 17. Gem Co. Extension Home Economist, 1962. Charter member Idaho 4-H Endowment Board; 19 years executive secretary. Fellow, National 4-H Executive Institute for Fund Development. Charter member, Idaho Association of 4-H Agents; was Secretary, Vice-President, and President. NAE4-HA Western Regional Director, 1986-1988; Publicity Chair for 1991 NAE4-HA conference.

Honors: NAE4-HA Distinguished Service, NAEFCS Distinguished Service, Idaho 4-H Hall of Fame, Idaho Co-op Council Hall of Fame, ESP Outstanding Work Award, and Gem Co. Education Association Friend of Education.

Vi was an Oregon 4-H member for 10 years with major projects in Dairy and Foods and Nutrition. She was often a county dairy and livestock judging team winner. At 17 she was the Oregon State Fair champion dairy foods demonstrator. After receiving a Home Economics Education degree from Oregon State, she accepted the Gem Co. Home Economist position in 1962.

She recognized a void in developmental activities for junior high aged 4-H members and helped to create a junior high camp program, the Know Your Government conference and a District Camp Counselor certification program. Vi was instrumental in a district-wide program that involved teens as partners in camp and club programs. This more inclusive and child centered camping model still stands.

Vi believed in the value of volunteers and encouraged them to accept and be successful in leadership roles. She was instrumental in developing the first 4-H volunteer screening process in Idaho and helped set policy and trained faculty. Vi was a charter member of the Idaho 4-H Endowment Board, serving as the executive secretary for 19 years. She was a fellow of the National 4-H Executive Institute for Fund Development and provided statewide training for 4-H faculty and volunteers. Vi was a charter member of Idaho Association of 4-H Agents and held state and national leadership roles. Besides 4-H, Vi has been active in her church, serving as a nursery supervisor, clerk, treasurer, and by-laws chair; and as reporter for Gem County Retired Teachers Association.

Quote: 4-H encourages and empowers young people and adults to try new ideas and experiences, improve and develop skills in subject matter areas, relationships and leadership. For me, dairy showmanship and demonstrations gave me confidence and sparked the desire that became my career as a 4-H Extension Educator.



Teens lead a 1988 demonstration workshop, with Vi as the cow.



Vi worked with Speaker of the House staff on the first Know Your Government conference.



Vi as camp director for Mexican theme 4-H camp.