

National 4-H Hall of Fame 2006

Kansas



Maynard Coe **State 4-H Leader**

Nominated by: Kansas 4-H

Major 4-H Efforts:

Began his 4-H career in Minnesota. Served as Kansas State 4-H Leader in 1925-1945. Expanded 4-H to all 105 Kansas counties, supported by his vision to have youth workers in the counties. In 1945, he became the Director of the Farm Division of the National Safety Council.

Biography:

Maynard Coe began his 4-H career in Minnesota. He worked with local school teachers to establish 4-H clubs, but had difficulty recruiting local parents to serve as club leaders. Undeterred, he carried this idea to Kansas as State 4-H Leader. Although extension staff was skeptical, parents embraced the idea of community clubs, and they became a successful reality. Under Coe's leadership from 1925-1945, 4-H expanded from 75 counties to all 105, reaching nearly 23,000 youth by 1939. Coe stressed the complete development of youth beyond the agriculture and homemaking content.

To improve club meeting, he created the Model Meeting contest. This grew to include public speaking, short plays and musical performances. This has continued for 81 years and is now known as Kansas 4-H Club Days. Other innovations guided by Coe were Kansas State Collegiate 4-H, a weekly radio program on University Radio and a published 4-H yearbook. Coe was a member of Rotary, Farmers Clubs, Eastern Star and Alpha Zeta. Coe was influential in many national 4-H events and served on a committee that created an Extension subcommittee on 4-H Club work by ECOP.

Quote:

"To me, 4-H Club work always meant much more than raising calves and pigs or making garments or bread. I looked upon it as a vehicle for serving young people and through them the farm family and agriculture in general. This seems so important that I worked aggressively to change the whole philosophy of the program and the maximum benefits. There were so many changes that I felt were desirable that at times it was most discouraging because of the slow progress that we were able to make."

Photos:



Maynard observes a 4-H youth with his pigs.



Maynard and the Kansas delegation at National 4-H Club Camp in Washington.



Maynard examines a 4-H dairy animal.