

National 4-H Hall of Fame 2018 Kentucky



George Duncan, Extension Professor Emeritus Ruth Duncan, Retired Educator & Seamstress

Home: Lexington, KY

Nominated by: Kentucky 4-H

Major 4-H Accomplishments:

Dr. George Duncan introduced "portable" microcomputers in the early 1980s, developed the first national 4-H computer project books, a new 4-H electronics project book, and served as judge and officer in the National 4-H Engineering, Science and Leadership event and state contests. Ruth Duncan served for decades as 4-H sewing leader and produced six winners in the national Make It With Wool contest. Serving on County, Area and State Councils, she developed the 4-H Council training series. She created the Ruth H. Duncan Endowed Scholarship, benefitting 27 former 4-Hers. George and Ruth Duncan provided outstanding leadership, citizenship, character, and service to 4-H and communities.

Biography:

Dr. George and Ruth Duncan made meaningful contributions to 4-H at the local, state and national levels. Dr. Duncan devoted his career to serving farmers and youth. Unlike most departmental specialists, Duncan recognized that reaching farm families included the children. His work with 4-H engineering programs is exemplary, particularly because he never held a 4-H appointment. Duncan and colleagues introduced 'portable' microcomputers to 4-H'ers in the early 1980s and developed the first national 4-H computer project books. He helped develop a new 4-H electric project book series and served as judge and officer in the National 4-H Engineering, Science and Leadership event for 15+ years. Duncan served as Asst. Director of Extension for 4-H Youth Development (2002-03).

Ruth Hatchett Duncan devoted her career to teaching sewing and tailoring. Eventually, many of her former 4-H members and students launched their own businesses in fabrics, sewing centers, tailoring, clothing, retailing and design. She served as a 4-H sewing leader for decades, with six state winners in the national Make It With Wool sewing contest. She served on County, Area and State 4-H and Extension Councils and collaborated to develop a 4-H Council training series. She created the Ruth H. Duncan Endowed Scholarship (1992), benefitting 27 former 4-Hers. George and Ruth's career accomplishments attest to the countless lives that have benefitted from their leadership, citizenship, character, and service to 4-H, their professions, and community.

Quote:

George: 4-H is certainly the world's premier youth development organization. With an extensive combination of literature, agents, educators, volunteers, and parents, youth have many opportunities for development. We have been blessed to be part of the 4-H program for over 50 years and experience the growth of youth to become leaders and make the best better in their lives.

Ruth: 4-H was very meaningful to me whether it was training dairy and beef calves for show day or laying out patterns on fabrics to make garments. Those early commitments taught me to sacrifice, to commit, and to do my best. I tried to impart that to the 4-H'ers. My Mother had been an outstanding 4-H'er and I had ambitions acquired through observing her. I surely could do the same!



George Duncan conducting computer training with 4-Hers.



George and contestants at National 4-H ESL Event.



Ruth with 4-Hers studying fashions at a local mall.