

Montana – 2007



Hometown: Blaine Co., MT
Nominated by: Montana 4-H
Year Inducted: 2007

John C. Taylor County Agent and Director of Extension

4-H Efforts: Employed as the third county Extension agent in Montana on April 1, 1914, serving Dawson, Wibaux and Fallon counties. Named assistant county agent leader on January 1, 1917. Carried the work of the county agent leader in 1920 and assumed the office April 1, 1921. Became acting assistant director of Extension July 1, 1924 and became Director of Extension on July 1, 1925. Retired as director on January 1, 1946. One of the founding members of Epsilon Sigma Phi (Montana's chapter is known as the "Alpha" chapter) and one of the original recipients of the ESP Ruby Award.

Jack Taylor was raised on a wheat farm in Blaine County and received his degree from Montana State College in 1912. He was hired as the third county agent in Montana, serving Dawson, Wibaux and Fallon counties. He was named assistant county agent leader on January 1, 1917 and became the county agent leader on April 1, 1921 following M.L. Wilson. Taylor became acting assistant director of Extension on July 1, 1924 after the resignation of Extension Director F.S. Cooley, inheriting a broadly based and progressive program. In his annual report of June 30, 1925, Taylor listed 69

projects in progress, and particularly cited 4-H beef, sheep, swine and gardening projects. On July 1, 1925 he was named Director of Extension.

The Depression caused Extension and 4-H to emphasize frugality, and Taylor made sure that 4-H clubs continued to provide hope to local communities. WWII had devastating consequences on 4-H club work. In 1945, Taylor reported that 4-H work had been almost completely abandoned during the war, although youth in large numbers had been involved in active club work. Some projects were revived in 1944-1945, and Taylor recommended that 4-H be given high priority in postwar planning. He retired as director on January 1, 1946. Taylor was one of the founding members of Epsilon Sigma Phi and was one of the original recipients of the Ruby Award.

Quote: "[Following WWI] I doubt if any Extension Service rendered greater emergency assistance to the farmers and to the agriculture of the State than was the case in Montana. Through the time of those troubles, there was always that sound, well-organized, integrated extension approach involving 4-H Club work, home demonstration work and county agent work which reached the farms and homes of the State. Your leadership during these years has been outstanding. This is attested by the high regard in which you are always held not only by the farm people of Montana and by the staff of the Extension Service but by the Directors of Extension in other States as well." - In a letter from M. L. Wilson, Director of Extension Work, USDA, 1945



County Agent J. C. Taylor at work
circa 1915.



County Agent J. C. Taylor at work
in Custer County, March 1916.



County Agent J. C. Taylor with youth
in Wibaux County.