

Gerald "Gerry" Gast
County 4-H Youth Agent, WI &
Extension Specialist, 4-H/Youth, IL



Home: Pardeeville, WI
Nominated by: NAE4-HA
Year Inducted: 2012

4-H Activities: 4-H member 7 years, Manitowoc Co., WI. Co. 4-H Youth Agent, Green Lake & Kenosha, WI, 1962-79. Extension Specialist, 4-H/Youth, U of IL, 1979-91. Chancellor's committee to create Academic Department of Youth Development in WI, 1971. Interim State 4-H Program Leader, IL, 1991. Served on five ECOP sub-committees, 1978-85. Chaired first NAE4-HA Urban sub-committee, 1975-76.

Honors: NAE4-HA President, 1980-81; NAE4-HA Regional Director, 1976-78; NAE4-HA Distinguished Service Award, 1974. Full Professor, Youth Development, U of WI, 1977. Review Board, Journal of Extension, 1976-77. Kiwanis Appreciation Award for Farm-City Relations, 1978.

Gerald Gast was a 4-H Youth Development professional who fostered the evolution and expansion of NAE4-HA and the profession. Gerry started his career as a County 4-H Youth Agent in Wisconsin in Green Lake and Kenosha from 1962-1979. In 1971 he served on the Chancellor's Committee to create the academic department of Youth Development, and in 1977 he was one of the first faculty members to be granted the academic rank of Full Professor of Youth Development at the University of Wisconsin. He became an Illinois Extension Specialist for 4-H Youth Development in 1979 and remained in that position until he served as interim State 4-H Program Leader in 1991 prior to his retirement that year.

Gerry's dedication to professional development and the youth development profession led to various state and national leadership roles. In 1975 he chaired the first NAE4-HA Urban Sub-Committee. He chaired the North Central 4-H Parent and Family Education Task Force from 1988-1990. He was elected North Central Regional Director in 1976, Vice President in 1979, President-Elect in 1980 and NAE4-HA President in 1981. A major accomplishment was initiating and guiding the "Definition of the 4-H Professional" which was adopted by ECOP. Gerry served on the National ECOP Agent Associations Committee when they developed the "Report To America" that was used with stakeholders, including state and federal legislators.

Quote: Many people have difficulty answering the question. "What's life all about?" To me, it's been easy to answer that question because my life has included: a) faith in the triune God, b) being surrounded by family and c) the opportunity to be involved in 4-H as a member and as a career (job). It's easy to love your job (4-H) because it involves helping people to 'become.' I've been surrounded by wonderful colleagues, both professionally and as true friends. And my job (4-H) always challenged me to continue learning from others. Thanks to those who nominated me to the National 4-H Hall of Fame, my professional family, my wife Betty, my children and thanks be to God.



Gerry with his dairy project animal as a 4-H member in Manitowoc Co.



Gerry addresses the NAE4-HA 1981 conference as president.



Gerry conducts a 4-H workshop.

NAE4-HA – 2012

Jim Johnson

County 4-H Agent and NAE4-HA President



Home: Alderson, WV
Nominated by: NAE4-HA
Year Inducted: 2012

4-H Activities: 4-H agent for 32 years, managed a county program of 1650 members in 65 clubs. Served eight years on the NAE4-HA Board: Treasurer (1967-68), Vice President and Membership Chair (1969), President (1971).

Honors: NAE4-HA Distinguished Service Award, 1968 and 25 year Service Award, 1971. WVU Off-Campus Educator, 1976; State Friend of Extension, 1998; WV 4-H Hall of Fame, 2003; WV Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame, 2003; inducted into WV 4-H Hall All Stars, 2004. Other leadership positions include President, WV 4-H Association; President, WV Extension Workers Association; Epsilon Sigma Phi member and, President, Greenbrier County Extension Service Committee.

Probably no one in NAE4-HA history worked as hard as Jimmy Johnson to make 4-H work a profession. At a time when the "club agent" was considered by many as an entry-level position, he toiled to make 4-H a recognized and valued profession. Jimmy served as a 4-H agent for 32 years and as a mentor to countless 4-H agents. With the help of good volunteers and staff, he managed a county program of 1,650 members in 65 clubs. As NAE4-HA Vice

President and Membership Chair and as President, Jimmy traveled over 9,000 miles in an airplane he jointly-owned to visit 4-H Agents and Extension Directors to start new state 4-H associations. In 1969, largely thanks to him, NAE4-HA reached the goal of over 1,000 members.

Jimmy served eight years on the NAE4-HA Board. As Treasurer, he instituted a new accounting system. In 1970, Jimmy served as President-Elect and Program Chair of the national meeting at Purdue. The first commercial exhibits were added largely due to his efforts. To transform the annual meeting into a "first class" professional development conference, tabletop discussions and seminars were instituted. As the Silver Anniversary president in 1971, Jimmy wanted conference participants to leave on a "high note" with a "Cap Sheaf" speaker to close the program, a tradition that continues today. Jimmy received many honors during his career including NAE4-HA Distinguished Service Award in 1968 and 25 year Service Award in 1971.

Quote: NAE4-HA has made a BIG difference in the world of 4-H/Youth work, and the professionals doing it.



Jim makes presentations as NAE4-HA President at the silver anniversary conference in Atlantic City, 1971.



Jim's well known buckboard with two 4-Hers in their town parade.



The 4-H dairy judging team ready for their trip to national contest with wife Betty (right) also as chaperone.