

National 4-H Hall of Fame 2014

New York



Mary Lou Brewer
State 4-H Leader

Hometown: Oneida, NY

Nominated by: New York 4-H

Major 4-H Accomplishments:

Agent and later Staff Chairman in Madison County, New York, from 1954-1974. Served as 4-H Program Leader and then as Executive Director in Oneida County Cooperative Extension from 1974-1982. Joined State Staff at Cornell University and in 1983 became the State 4-H Leader until 1992 when she became Assistant Director for all programs of the Cornell Cooperative System including the 4-H Youth Development Program. Following retirement promoted planned giving initiatives for the New York State 4-H Foundation.

Honors: National Association of Extension 4-H Agents Distinguished Service Award, 1970.

Biography:

As a Livingston Co. 4-H member from 1943-51, Mary Lou participated in camps, fairs, and State 4-H Congress. After graduating from Buffalo State College, she became an Agent and later Staff Chairman in Madison Co. from 1954-74. In 1973, she earned in M.S. in Education from Syracuse University. She served as 4-H Program Leader and then Executive Director in Oneida Co. from 1974-82. Mary Lou joined the State Staff at Cornell University and became the State 4-H Leader from 1983-92, when she became Asst. Director for all Cornell Cooperative System programs including the 4-H Youth Development Program. After her retirement in 1994, Mary Lou promoted planned giving initiatives for the Foundation.

Throughout her career, Mary Lou demonstrated her commitment to innovative program and resource development, collaboration, and professional development. She was involved in the National Youth at Risk Initiative and toured the Soviet Union in 1990 in the U.S. design team for youth programs. She was Secretary (1965), 2nd and 1st Vice President (1973, 1974) and President (1975) of the New York State Association of Cooperative Extension 4-H Educators. She was active in the North East Agent Association, the National Association, and as State 4-H Leader representative on the National ECOP. She was dedicated to enhancing the capacity of the New York State 4-H Foundation to expand program resources.

Quote:

4-H Programs have made a significant impact in the lives of many people. It has been my pleasure to be part of the 4-H movement in this country.



Mary Lou Brewer with a 4-H member, program supporters, a chicken and eggs, 1955.