

# National 4-H Hall of Fame 2017

## Oregon



**Nellie Joan Van Calcar Oehler**  
4-H Leader / Retired Extension Educator

Home: Corvallis, OR      Nominated by: Oregon 4-H

### Major 4-H Accomplishments:

52+ year 4-H leader, 10 year 4-H member, Junior leader, Club Congress Delegate, Collegiate 4-H President, IFYE to Jamaica. 10 year 4-H Agent for two counties and 40 years OSU Extension Educator. Oregon State Fair 4-H "Dorm Mom" and Herdsmanship Judge for 20 years. 4-H FCS judge, County Fair Sheep Superintendent.

**Honors:** Oregon 4-H Leader of the Year, Oregon 4-H Hall of Fame, Livestock and FCS County Leader of the Year, Experienced Faculty Award, Extension Excellence in Teaching Award, ESP National Distinguished Service and Continuing Service Award, FCS Distinguished Service Award, Oregon Home Economist of the Year.

### Biography:

Nellie was a 10 year member, Junior Leader, Camp Counsellor, 4-H Club Congress Delegate and President of the OSU Collegiate 4-H Club. She was an IFYE Delegate to Jamaica where she used her 4-H skills to train 4-H members to compete in the Caribbean Islands competition celebrating Jamaica's 25 4-H anniversary. Her family has been a strong supporter of 4-H international programs and has hosted delegates from around the world. Nellie served as a 4-H Agent and known for her youth leadership program and expertise in Home Economics. After 10 years she retired to raise her family, but stayed involved with 4-H as a club leader. She serves on advisory committees, sheep superintendent, and 4-H judge. For 20 years, she served as "Dorm Mom" at the Oregon State Fair.

In 1980 Nellie returned to work with Extension to develop the statewide Master Food Preserver Program. She continues training and supporting a large cadre of volunteers and sharing her vast knowledge of food preservation/safety with others. She is an active Master Gardener, coordinates a vibrant afterschool garden, and provides farm tours for school and 4-H groups. Nellie developed the food safety part of the National Outdoor 4-H Cooking Curriculum and has presented at several State and Western Regional 4-H Leader Forums. In her 52 years of leadership she is now teaches children and grandchildren of the generations who have been fortunate enough to experience her enthusiasm and leadership.

### Quote:

4-H is Nellie's lifestyle...her enthusiasm, dedication, and expertise is unmatched. She is a great teacher and mentor. Generations have been fortunate to experience her leadership and knowledge as she shares her love of 4-H.

Linda Gould Nierman PhD, Michigan State University



4-H Livestock Club, Ram Ewe Downs, started 30 yrs. ago and still going strong.



4-H members and 4-H International exchange students learn Food Preservation.



Nellie Van Calcar Oehler showing her Grand Champion Jersey Cow.

