

National 4-H Hall of Fame 2006 Tennessee



Martha Jo Tolley **State Specialist & State 4-H Leader**

Hometown: Decatur County, TN

Nominated by: Tennessee 4-H

Major 4-H Efforts:

Extension career spanned 33 years: county 4-H agent, State 4-H Specialist, and Interim State 4-H Leader. Founding member of the Tennessee Association of Extension 4-H Workers. Served on numerous national committees, including several National 4-H Congress committees, National 4-H Record Evaluation Committee, Citizenship Washington Focus Extension Planning Committee, National 4-H Fashion Revue Committee, National Extension Task Force on Competition in 4-H, National 4-H Awards Task Force, National 4-H Conference Planning Committee, and 4-H Presidential Tray Selection Committee.

Biography:

Martha Jo Tolley's extension career spanned 33 years: 4-H agent in Anderson and Hawkins Counties, State 4-H Specialist, and 4 years as State 4-H Leader before retiring in 2001. She helped to establish the Tennessee Association of Extension 4-H Workers 25 years ago. Her work with Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF), All Star High Council and State 4-H Council provided opportunities for growth and development of many young people. She counseled younger employees working on advanced degrees, hired former 4-H members to be student workers at the state 4-H office, and mentored young agents and collegiate students.

Martha Jo served on numerous national committees, including several National 4-H Congress committees, Southern Regional Invitational 4-H Congress Design Team, National 4-H Record Evaluation Committee, CWF Extension Planning Committee, National 4-H Fashion Revue Committee, National Extension Task Force on Competition in 4-H, National State 4-H Staff Curriculum Workshop, National 4-H Awards Task Force, National 4-H Conference Planning Committee, Southern Regional Development Committee, National 4-H Presidential Tray Selection Committee. She currently serves as secretary of the TN 4-H Foundation.

Quote:

"Every time I make a presentation or balance my checkbook, try a new recipe, sew on a button or make a decision, I use a skill that was developed as a 4-H member. My goal as a 4-H professional has been to help young people to develop those same skills to become the best they can be. I have been fortunate to have experienced a career as a county extension agent, 4-H curriculum specialist and as a State 4-H Leader which allowed opportunities for service at local, state and national levels to foster the continued development of life skills and stimulate life-long learning."

Photos:



Martha Jo (right) as a delegate to Tennessee 4-H Congress in Nashville.



Martha Jo (left) celebrating the 20th Anniversary of TAE4-HW.



Martha Jo helps a 4-H'er prepare to do a demonstration.

