

Arizona 2004



Hometown: Canton, Illinois
Nominated by: Arizona 4-H
Year Inducted: 2004

Beryl Jeanne Burt

Program Director, 4-H and Rural Development

4-H Statistics: County 4-H Agent: Yuma (1956-61, 1975-76) and Maricopa (1967-70). State 4-H Specialist, 1970-75. State EFNEP Coordinator, 1976-83. Program Director, 4-H and Rural Development, 1983-88. NAE4-HA American Spirit Award, 1989. Consultant, 4-H/4-S Program, Costa Rica & US-AID, Nicaragua; Program Leader, Women in Agriculture; Member, National 4-H ECOP Staff Development and Training Subcommittee; Chair, National Workshop for New State 4-H Faculty; Member, 4-H International Curriculum Development Committee; Member, National Committee to Identify Strategic Initiatives in 4-H; Member, Committee to write ES/USDA Implementation guidelines for Title IX, Civil Rights Act.

Beryl worked as 4-H Agent in Yuma Co. and later Maricopa Co. She initiated programs in teen leadership, home economics programs, and volunteer leadership. Her inner-city 4-H program model is still used today. As State 4-H Specialist, Beryl developed the entire 4-H Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) program - curriculum, training plans, materials and policies. She helped set the example that ALL youth in Extension Programs are 4-H members. As Program Director, 4-H and Rural Development, Beryl established certified volunteer programs, 4-H Japanese Exchanges, and discussions of community issues using the National Issues Forum model.

Beryl's involvement in "Experiment in International Living" in the early 1960's impacted her work in 4-H. She brought the 4-H Japanese Exchange to Arizona. Being bi-lingual, she built alliances with counterparts in Mexico and was consultant to Extension Programs in Mexico, Central and South America. After retiring in 1989, Beryl received the NAE4-HA American Spirit Award. Beryl challenged agents to reach out to under-served audiences and examine practices that may keep some children out. She directed 4-H faculty to focus on issues important to all of Arizona, such as Youth Suicide, Teen Pregnancy, and poverty. Beryl continues to be a role model, sounding board, and friend to Extension after nearly 50 years.