

National 4-H Council



Charles "Dean" McNeal
Chairman, National 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees

Home: Boyle, KS

Inducted: 2005

Accomplishments and Honors:

Graduate, Kansas State University
Group Vice President, Pillsbury Company
Director, American Feed Manufacturers Association
President, Greater Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce
Charter Member & Chairman, Millers' Nat. Federation Committee on Agriculture
Trustee, Kansas State Endowment Association
Chairman, National 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees

Charles "Dean" McNeal was a key player and contributor in the successful merging of the National 4-H Foundation and the National 4-H Service Committee into National 4-H Council.

In 1972, McNeal was Group Vice-President of Pillsbury Company and Chairman, National 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees. He joined with Grant Shrum, Executive Director, National 4-H Foundation, Norm Mindrum, Director, National 4-H Service Committee and Blaine Yarrington, Chairman, National Service Committee to discuss merging the two organizations.

On April 24, 1975, the Joint Committee decided to create National 4-H Council, an organization that would share the fund-raising functions of the two organizations. The Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP) created an ad hoc committee to further develop and study the merger.

On February 1, 1977, National 4-H Council became operational and began its efforts at the National 4-H Center in Washington, DC. McNeal continued on as a contributor to the 4-H movement after the merger. He passed away in 1998.

"My father started life on a farm and was proud to have ties to farming and agriculture throughout his life. He always believed in the importance of 4-H, its principles, and how it prepared many for a productive, meaningful life. He always felt his association and work with National 4-H Council was one small way he could contribute back for all he had received." - Jerry McNeal, Charles McNeal's son



The McNeals



Thomas E. Wilson
First Chairman, National Committee on Boys' and Girls' Club Work

Home: Chicago, IL **Inducted:** 2005

Major 4-H Efforts & Honors:

President of Wilson and Company meatpacking company. One of the founders and first chairman of National Committee on Boys' and Girls' Club Work. Helped to establish the National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago. Provided college scholarships to outstanding 4-H members. Thomas E. Wilson fund established in 1948 to provide training for development of skills to 4-H members that contribute to achieving good citizenship.

Thomas Wilson was president of Wilson & Company, which during his tenure became the 3rd largest meatpacking company and included Wilson Sporting Goods. At the 1918 International Livestock Exposition in Chicago, he met farm boys and girls - 4-H members - who impressed him with their knowledge and enthusiasm for farming. He decided to support the 4-H mission. In 1919, Guy Noble, an Armour Packing Company employee, asked publisher E.T. Meredith and Wilson to form the National Committee on Boys' and Girls' Club Work. Wilson became the first chairman, working tirelessly to get the attention of executives, bankers, and others to help support and expand 4-H Club work.

Wilson helped to found the annual National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago that showcased outstanding club members, leaders and Extension workers. He often invited 4-H Congress youth to dine with him and discuss their 4-H experiences. He funded college scholarships to assist 4-H members. In 1939, Wilson, Meredith and Noble worked with the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP) to merge the National Committee with the larger 4-H organization. To honor his legacy and commitment to 4-H, the Thomas E. Wilson Fund was established in 1948 to provide training for development of skills to 4-H members that contribute to achieving good citizenship.



The Wilsons visit with 4-H members at 4-H Club Congress



Wilson speaks to 4-H members and dignitaries.