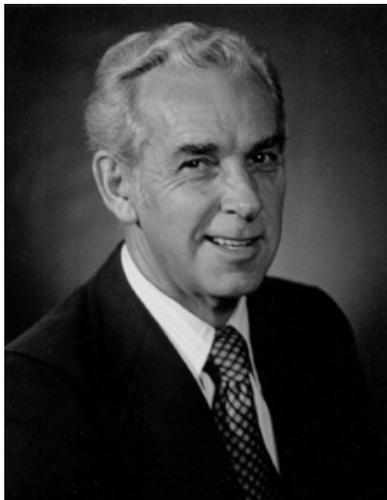


Delaware



James O. Baker
Delaware State 4-H Leader

Home: Newark, DE

Inducted: 2005

Major 4-H Efforts and Honors:

Delaware State 4-H Leader. A product of the WV4-H program, he developed Delaware 4-H overnight camping program. He was instrumental in bringing together a group of Delaware business leaders and 4-H supporters to form the Delaware 4-H Foundation, Inc. Since 1978, the Foundation has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for Delaware 4-H Youth Development programs. National 4-H Congress Headquarters Chair and National 4-H Conference Planning Committee for several years. Helped to establish NAE4-HA. Jim Baker Memorial Award is presented in his honor for distinguished service to Delaware 4-H.

Jim Baker served as a 4-H agent in WV from 1950-1958, then came to Sussex County, DE, as a County 4-H Agent for two years before becoming State 4-H Leader. He held that position until his death from cancer in 1981. He served on and often chaired many regional 4-H committees and National 4-H Conference and Congress Committees. At Thanksgiving he would be in Chicago handling some aspect of National 4-H Congress, often involved in program or headquarters. He was a fixture at National 4-H Conference, most often involved in the delegate's program. Jim was involved with other northeast colleagues in establishing the NAE4-HA and hosting the Atlantic City meeting.

Using his WV 4-H and overnight camping experience, Jim developed a Delaware camping program that focused on youth and developing teen leaders. For many rural campers, it was their first overnight away from home. He brought college-age camp counselors from WV to work with his counselors. Delaware 4-H teens attended WV Older Youth Conference to gain leadership skills and knowledge. He mentored new staff, encouraging them to develop close working relationships with volunteers, the backbone of the 4-H program. He brought together business leaders and 4-H supporters to form the Delaware 4-H Foundation, Inc., which has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for Delaware 4-H since 1978.