

Georgia



W.A. "Bill" Sutton (1905-75) - Founder, Rock Eagle 4-H Center

Georgia 4-H member for 12 years. Director, University of Georgia Agricultural Extension Service (1954-1963); Georgia State 4-H Leader (1942-1954); Georgia Asst. State 4-H Leader (1939-1942)

4-H Efforts: Rock Eagle 4-H Center and National 4-H Center

Honors: Served as head of the National Extension Subcommittee on 4-H Work

"One day we will have a 4-H center large enough to accomodate more than a thousand young people."

Hometown: Swainsboro, GA  
Nominated by: Georgia 4-H  
Year Inducted: 2002

W.A. "Bill" Sutton was the founder of Rock Eagle 4-H Center in Georgia and led the purchase of land for the National 4-H Center. Bill Sutton was intensely interested in the development of a state-wide 4-H Youth Center. In 1950, when he heard that the acreage at the Rock Eagle mound and lake may be available, he flew to Washington to secure the federally-owned area. After a visit with Rep. Carl Vinson, it was dedeed to the Univ. of Georgia for the 4-H Youth Center.

Ground was broken in 1951, and the largest 4-H center in the world was completed in 1955. Bill Sutton was born and reared in Emanuel County Georgia. He was a member of the 4-H Corn and Pig Club for twelve years. He graduated from the University of Georgia and became a County Extension Agent in Fulton, Twiggs and Irwin Counties. He became Georgia 4-H Assistant State 4-H Leader in 1939, State 4-H Leader in 1942 and Associate Director of Extension in 1954.



Signing transfer of deed for Rock Eagle 4-H Center



Bill Sutton and Hoop Eberhart celebrate 50th anniversary of 4-H.



W.A. Bill Sutton presents awards as State 4-H Leader.

## G.C. Adams - Professor and Founder of Georgia 4-H



Credited as "Founder of Georgia 4-H" through his work with farm product clubs that coordinated into the 4-H movement.

"Like a toy weighted at the bottom and laid on its back, Uncle Claud when pushed always came up smiling and more determined to carry on and start a new adventure. Like a tall oak, the mighty 4-H Club has grown from that small corn club started by G.C. Adams."

- From the Adams family history book

Hometown: Oxford, GA

Nominated by: Georgia 4-H

Year Inducted: 2002

Georgia and the South are indebted to Newton Co. native Prof. G.C. Adams, for founding the Newton Co. Corn Club in Dec. 1904. This club was followed by tomato and other farm products clubs, canning clubs, and ultimately the 4-H Clubs of Georgia in 1921. On Dec. 23, 1904, Prof. Adams announced the first corn contest in the Covington Enterprise, which 151 boys entered. Adams was principal at Palmer Institute at Oxford and the County School Commissioner.

Adams taught at Pine Grove School and was president of the 5th District Agricultural School in Monroe. He represented Newton Co. in the Legislature (1926-27) and was state Commissioner of Agriculture (1932). One of 16 children, he attended only 1 day of school. His younger brother Homer attended college and taught G. C. while they worked in the fields. Adams is credited with consolidation of schools and organizing the first oratorical association in the South.



The Georgia 4-H Center (Rock Eagle) historical marker states that Prof. Adams started GA 4-H Club work.



Sons of Prof. Adams with the first corn exhibit at the court house.



Winners in the first corn club (forerunner of Georgia 4-H) in Newton County (1904).



Herman Talmadge (1913-2002)  
Georgia Governor and U.S. Senator

Georgia 4-H alumnus.

4-H Efforts: Provided for matching funds to build Rock Eagle 4-H Center while Governor. As Senator, continued the 4-H Washington Intern program that enabled Collegiate 4-H'ers to work in his Washington office for college credit. 4-H Honors: The Herman E. Talmadge Auditorium was named in his honor at Rock Eagle 4-H Center. Received National 4-H Alumni award in 1953.

Hometown: McRae, GA

Nominated by: Georgia 4-H

Year Inducted: 2002

"4-H builds character. 4-H'ers who came to my staff were hard workers and good thinkers. They had integrity."

Herman Talmadge was a major influence in the growth of Georgia 4-H and the creation of Rock Eagle 4-H Center. While Governor of Georgia, he provided matching funds to aid in construction of Rock Eagle. The Herman E. Talmadge Auditorium as named for him because of his tremendous contributions to the 4-H Center. Talmadge was also honored as a National 4-H Alumni Award during his tenure as Governor. In 1972, Senator Talmadge continued the 4-H Washington Intern program begun by Senator Richard Russell. Through this program Collegiate 4-H'ers worked for Senator Talmadge in his Washington office for college credit.



Governor and Mrs. Talmadge host Georgia State 4-H Winners at the Governor's Mansion.



Senator Talmadge with 4-H Intern Bo Ryles, now GA State 4-H Leader.



Gov. Talmadge received the National 4-H Alumni Award in 1953.