

# National 4-H Hall of Fame 2008

## Illinois



**George Daigh**  
**Univ. of Illinois Extension 4-H Youth Development Specialist**

Hometown: Urbana, IL

Nominated by: Illinois 4-H

### Major 4-H Accomplishments:

Illinois 4-H Youth Development for 33 years, including 4-H Youth Development Specialist and President & Director of the Illinois 4-H Foundation. Introduced first public sector direct mail campaign and concept of living wills and financial legacies in 4-H fund development. Developed first 4-H dog care and obedience project, later adopted nationally. Created "Helping You Help Youth" vinyl sound sheets and workbooks for home volunteer learning. Pioneer in computerizing 4-H livestock judging. Charter member of Habitat for Humanity, served on Urbana School Board, held leadership roles in church, and formed an Angel corps helping widows, widowers, and shut-ins with household repairs, transportation, and outside work.

### Biography:

As a University of Illinois Extension 4-H Youth Development Specialist, George Daigh put his creativity to work in 4-H that left a mark nationally. He became President and Director of the Illinois 4-H Foundation in the early years and introduced the first direct public sector mail solicitation campaign. It was most successful in Illinois and was quickly adopted by other states. He launched "\$4 Million for 4-H" campaign - an ambitious project in the early 1980s. Daigh has always been a dog lover. He developed the first 4-H dog care and obedience training project in Illinois and spear-headed its nationwide adoption. Nearly 50 years after introducing the 4-H dog project, Daigh remains a loyal donor to it and other 4-H programs.

The need for quality 4-H volunteer training opportunities has been a priority to Daigh. In the 1970s and 80s, he saw the need for training 4-H volunteers in ways other than meetings, so he pioneered a home training concept. He developed "Helping You Help Youth" vinyl sound sheets played on a record player and work books that volunteers completed while listening to the mini-lectures at home. These were later recorded on cassette tapes. Another cutting edge development was the automating of 4-H livestock judging at the state and national levels. He designed a computerized system and tested it in Illinois in the 1970s. Daigh is active in Habitat for Humanity and in his church, and served two terms on the Urbana School Board.



George Daigh receiving Illinois Friend of 4-H Award.



George Daigh with Champaign Co. 4-H junior leaders at an officers' training school (ca. 1963).