

## Massachusetts



Hometown: Attleboro, Massachusetts  
Nominated by: Massachusetts 4-H  
Year Inducted: 2002

### Sonny Almeida 4-H Volunteer

4-H Projects & Efforts: Teen Leadership, Horse, 4-H Salute to Excellence, 4-H Camp Director, Massachusetts 4-H Foundation Director, 4-H Records, Massachusetts 4-H State Advisory Council, 4-H Fairs.

4-H Honors: National 4-H Salute to Excellence, UMass Chancellor's Award, 4-H All-Star.

Sonny has given 40 years of service to the young people of Massachusetts 4-H. He began his involvement with 4-H at an early age, and by age 16 he became a horse club leader. As an adult, he has given up many vacation days to chaperon youth at state and national events such as State 4-H Teen Conference, National 4-H Congress and National Horse Round-Up. He is active in many horse events such as State 4-H Horse Bowl and Hippology and statewide horse competition. He was instrumental in establishing the Salute to Excellence program, which honors key volunteer leaders in the state.

Almeida continues his active volunteerism at the county, state and national levels. At the state level, he serves as a director on the Massachusetts 4-H Foundation and as past president of the State 4-H Advisory Council. Recently he served as President and Vice-President of Camp Farley in Mashpee. The State 4-H Horse Program and Teen Program have benefited from his work as a coach and advisor. His efforts have resulted in the Massachusetts' 4-HYFD program receiving national recognition at events in Louisville, KY, Chicago, IL and Chevy Chase, MD.



Hometown: Wayland, Massachusetts  
Nominated by: Massachusetts 4-H  
Year Inducted: 2002

### Phyllis Cox 4-H Volunteer

4-H Projects and Efforts: 4-H Horse Program, Massachusetts 4-H Foundation Director, Volunteer Leadership and Development, Visual Presentations, 4-H Fairs.

4-H Honors: Salute to Excellence, UMass Chancellor's Award.

Phyllis' accomplishments in support of positive youth development during her almost 50 years of volunteer service to the 4-HYFD program are numerous. She was the founder of the Massachusetts 4-H Horse Program, which is the largest project area in 4-H today with an enrollment of 1,800 youth from across the Commonwealth. She was instrumental in developing, reviewing and updating many of the resources used in the project area.

For the past 11 years, Mrs. Cox had been an active corporate member of the Massachusetts 4-H Foundation. Her belief in developing the entire youth through 4-H projects has led to the development of extensive leadership and citizenship programs at the local and state level. Visual Presentations, a communications project that focuses on public speaking and involves thousands of youth ages 6-19, is just one example of this.



Hometown: Foxboro, Massachusetts  
Nominated by: Massachusetts 4-H  
Year Inducted: 2002

Norman Lawton  
4-H Volunteer

4-H Projects and Efforts: Dairy, Poultry, Teen Leadership, Massachusetts State 4-H Advisory Council, 4-H All-Star, Camp Director, 4-H Fairs.

4-H Honors: 4-H All-Star, UMass Chancellor's Award.

Norman Lawton has given 63 years of service to both the 4-H program and the young people of Massachusetts. Norm started his own 4-H poultry club at the age of 16 and has served since as leader of the Norfolk County Livestock club. Over the years, he has been involved in almost every aspect of the 4-H program. He has chaired several committees locally and at the regional 4-H Camp Farley.

In 1996, the Lawton Pavilion was constructed on the campgrounds in honor of his service to thousands of young people. At the state level, Lawton was elected president of the Massachusetts 4-H All-Stars Organization (an honor society for 4-H volunteers) and to the State 4-H Advisory Council. Perhaps the greatest way that 4-H changed Lawton's life was that he met his future wife at the State 4-H Teen Conference at UMass.