

Montana 2004



Hometown: Shawmut, MT
Nominated by: Montana State 4-H
Year Inducted: 2004
Internet: jfs@bigsky.net

Jim Sargent

Montana State 4-H Leader

4-H Statistics: First county agent in Liberty County. Started a two-county camp, which then expanded into an incorporated camp. Instigated the building of a 4-H Community Center in Lewis & Clark County. Instituted state Steer of Merit program with Bill Harrer and Beef Options program. State 4-H Leader from 1977 to 1988. Started the Montana State 4-H Foundation. Held weekly radio program/talk show with a Pat Sias, a fellow agent. Started leadership development camps and State Leader Forums. Instituted Family Adventures project. Developed 'Million Pennies Campaign' which became nationally known. Worked with Geraldine Fenn to coordinate the visibility of the IFYE program and on People Partner Grant.

Jim was the first Montana county Extension agent in Liberty County. He was later an agent in Helena and held various state 4-H positions, including State 4-H Leader from 1977-1988. Jim was instrumental in founding the Montana 4-H Foundation and the "Montanans for 4-H" group that conducts the 4-H legislative breakfast. He helped launch the state "Steer of Merit" program that incorporates carcass quality into 4-H market beef projects. Jim developed the Montana 4-H Foundation 'Million Pennies Campaign.' He was a member of the state and national 4-H Agent associations. Jim led an adult study-travel program, sponsored by the Kellogg Foundation and Extension, including a two-week program to China in 1976.

Due to his lifelong dedication to 4-H, Jim was one of the first people contacted to be featured in the 1999 Western region 4-H marketing campaign, "Discover the World Together," that is now used in over 20 states. Jim wrote and published a book, "Too Poor to Move, But Always Rich: A Century on Montana Land" that recounts "the unfolding of the twentieth century as lived by his parents, the Norwegian and the Honyocker, who struggle through decades of phenomenal change on a dry-land ranch." Among his numerous awards and recognitions, Jim received Professor Emeritus status from the Montana Board of Regents and was one of the first inductees into the Montana 4-H Hall of Fame.

Quote: "I think 4-H is important for youth today because of the skills they can learn in subject matter areas. But, maybe more importantly, in skills they learn in getting along with one another, working with groups, and working toward solutions to problems in their communities. All are lifetime skills."



Jim gets a young start with a calf.



Jim Sargent with 4-H teens.