

## Ohio

### Albert Belmont "A. B." Graham - Founder of 4-H



Founded 4-H in 1902, Clark County OH. Started youth Agriculture Experiment Club. Superintendent of Schools in Springfield Township. Superintendent of Extension in Ohio in 1905. Became Federal Extension Director in 1915 in Washington, DC, enabling him to spread his dream throughout the US.

During 50th anniversary of 4-H, a 3-cent U.S. stamp was released in Springfield, OH. Ohio 4-H Hall of Fame inductee.

Graham exhorted students' parents to "please give the children your everyday problems arising from the selling of produce and purchasing groceries." He was firm in the conviction that "all learning is not in books".

Hometown: Columbus, Ohio

Nominated by: Clark County 4-H  
and State 4-H Office of Ohio

Year Inducted: 2002

On January 15, 1902, A.B. Graham started the first organized meeting of the agriculture experiment club. This experience encouraged youth to use scientific methods making learning applicable to their home situations, and teaching parents new research methods and better farming practices. Through Mr. Graham's diligent efforts, 4-H was started.

A.B. Graham's dream started in Clark County Ohio 100 years ago and continues today throughout the state, country and world. Graham's original philosophy of developing youth strongly encouraged them to become responsible, caring, contributing citizens in their home societies.



Graham viewing an exhibit with a 4-H member.



Graham with teen members at Ohio State Fair Portrait Ceremony.



Graham celebrating his 90th birthday with his 4-H cake.



Bea Cleveland - Associate State 4-H Leader, Emeritus

Member of the State 4-H Staff and Faculty of The Ohio State University for 32 years.

Honors: Inducted Halls of Fame for Ohio

4-H, Ohio Women's, Ohio State Fair and Ohio Agricultural. Recognized for Strong Service to 4-H at 2000 "Celebration of Youth", Everett D. Reese Medal of Philanthropy (University's highest recognition awarded to fund-raising volunteers), OSU College of Human Ecology Diamond University Award. Served on the National 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees. Chaired ECOP National Teenage Nutrition Committee.

Hometown: Columbus, Ohio

Nominated by: State of Ohio

Year Inducted: 2002

"4-H opens doors of opportunity for members. It broadens their horizons, helps them grow and expands their current limits. 'Real life' projects, participation in on-going programs, having fun and working with others are important for individual development. Volunteer leaders are the real 4-H heroes with the teaching, guidance and inspiration they provide."

Bea Cleveland served as a state 4-H program leader and Associate State 4-H Leader. Her duties included overseeing the International 4-H Youth Exchange program, Jr. Leadership Camp and Ohio State Fair non-livestock activities. After retiring, Bea raised more than \$1.5 million for Ohio 4-H. Cleveland founded the A.B. Graham Club for the Ohio Foundation and personally contacted and solicited more than 75 charter members who each gave at least \$10,000 over a 10-year period.

Bea has contributed to Ohio 4-H yearly since 1951. The Bea Cleveland 4-H Scholarship Fund awards \$1000 scholarships to high school students. She supports county 4-H advisor training with grants of \$25 - \$1400 yearly.



Bea, Gabe and Sandy Campbell at an Ohio 4-H Camp lodge ground-breaking ceremony.



Bea at Celebration of Youth in her honor surrounded by alumni of her 4-H International Program.



Charles W. Lifer - Retired Assistant Director for Youth Development and State 4-H Leader

Retired Assistant Director for 4-H Youth Development and State 4-H Leader; Ohio 4-H member 3 years.

4-H Projects: Vegetable Gardening and Tractor

Honors: Chaired ECOP subcommittee on 4-H; Served on *4-H in Century III* Task Force; Chair of Charting 4-H's Future conference; Selected to the Ohio 4-H Hall of Fame; Served as Co-Director, National 4-H Professional Research and Knowledge Workshop; Co-Facilitator of OSU College \$65 Million Kick-Off Campaign; Director, National Grant-PRK Curriculum Development; National 4-H Council Board Member and member of the Executive Committee.

Hometown: Columbus, Ohio  
Nominated by: The State of Ohio  
Year Inducted: 2002  
Internet: [clifer@aol.com](mailto:clifer@aol.com)

"The only thing better than ice cream is 4-H. For more than 40 years, I've been involved in 4-H professionally. I have always felt that the best investment is 4-H. My efforts as State 4-H Leader for 17 years and leadership at the National and International levels were to improve the curriculum for 4-H (PRK)."

Chuck Lifer made tremendous contributions to 4-H across the state and nation. He headed the research & development of the 4-H Professional Research and Knowledge Base (PRK). Under his leadership, every county in Ohio hired an agent for 4-H Youth Development and a 4-H program assistant, doubling 4-H membership over 200,000. Lifer led the restructuring of the Ohio 4-H Foundation to involve more key executives such as Bob Evans & Dave Thomas, which quadrupled the endowment fund. Lifer initiated the first 4-H Center on a land-grant university at OSU. He served on numerous state and national committees that recommended directions and thrusts that kept 4-H strong and growing.



Lifer with President Ronald Reagan representing National 4-H.



Bob Evans, Dan Cowdrey, Chuck Lifer and OSU Vice President, Roy Kottman establishing the 4-H Elizabeth Evans Outdoor Education Center.



Lifer, Art Dannecker, President-Ohio 4-H Foundation, and James Rhodes, Governor at unveiling of a Statehouse plaque honoring the founding of 4-H.