

Oregon



H. C. (Harry Case) Seymour - Oregon State 4-H Program Leader, 1916-1947

4-H Efforts:

Graduated from Dallas College in Dallas Oregon in 1900 and taught school in several Oregon Communities. He became Polk County School Superintendent in 1907 and organized many Boys and Girls Industrial Clubs. In 1916, Oregon Agricultural College President Kerr asked him to join the College and take charge of 4-H Club Work.

Hometown: Corvallis, Oregon

Nominated by: Oregon 4-H Youth
Development Program

Year Inducted: 2002

In 1961 Extension Director Frank Ballard said, "Mr. Seymour led a team of two specialists in setting a firm foundation for 4-H work that was to come." He added that Seymour's leadership for the 4-H Summer School influenced thousands of boys and girls to continue their education beyond high school, and noted that "for many years enrollment at Oregon State included about 15-18% students who were former 4-H members."

H. C. Seymour was State 4-H Program Leader from February 1, 1916 through June 30, 1947. He laid the foundations for many of the successful 4-H programs that exist in Oregon today. It was Seymour's insight that led to expanding 4-H into Portland. Oregon was the first state to offer 4-H in a major metropolitan area, beginning with WWI victory gardens in 1918 and 1919.

The first Portland 4-H Agent was appointed April 1, 1919. H. C. Seymour created one of the first campus educational outreach programs for youth called "4-H Summer School" at Oregon Agricultural College (now Oregon State University) in the summer of 1916. At its height, the program brought up to 2,000 boys and girls to campus for a program that lasted two weeks (later reduced to one week).