

Pennsylvania

Charles G. McBride - Pioneer Extension Agent



Hometown: Mercer County, PA

Nominated by: Pennsylvania

Year Inducted: 2002

Extension agent in six western Pennsylvania counties, State 4-H leader 1917-1922

Charles G. McBride, Extension Agent for six western PA counties, had his office in Mercer. He held meetings in fall of 1912 in cooperation with the Grange to organize a corn growing contest in 1913. One girl and 14 boys entered, and Aleen Fell, the girl, won. Harry Small was president of that first PA 4-H club, which met in the Mercer courthouse under McBride's guidance. The club held a week of camp at Hamburg, PA, had several picnics, and finished the year with a trip to visit Penn State University on the "Boomer" train from Pittsburgh. The superintendent of schools and McBride sent invitations for a roundup meeting and display of the boys' corn club and girls' breadmaking club. About 1,200 people attended in the Mercer courthouse assembly room on Dec. 5, 1913.

In 1914, a Young Farmers Club was organized. Boys who won 1st prize in the corn club or produced a yield of 75 bushels or more could join. It brought together young men who had shown initiative and ability to accomplish goals so they could work as a unit. They voted to hold "Camp Corn Tassel" for a week in July. The last afternoon the girls canning club members and their friends came to a picnic lunch. There were 175 people present, and they had a rousing campfire at night. In 1915, Mercer Co. added a girls camp. Many characteristics of that early youth program exist today: camp, life skills, character building, participant involvement, campfire, roundup, livestock judging, teambuilding and more.



Charles McBride (Rear, 2nd from right) joins early Pennsylvania county extension agents.



Camp Corn Tassel boys swamp
Charlie McBride's jitney.



Charlie McBride with group of early 4-H'ers ready for a field trip (1915).



Urania Bell (Rainy) Linn
4-H Extension Agent, Retired

11 year 4-H member in the 1940's and early 1950's in Washington County, PA; 4-H Extension Agent in Venango County (1956-1995).

4-H Projects:

Lamb, capon and many other projects; 1955 IFYE to Luxembourg.

Honors:

National 4-H Congress (1953); PAEHE Member since 1958, Distinguished Service Award in 1970; Charter Member of Pennsylvania Friends of 4-H (1981); PAE4-HA Member since 1980, NAE4-HA 25 year award; Certificate of Appreciation from Venango 4-H Clubs (1983); 4-H Keystone of the Future Certificate (1986); Certificate of Appreciation, 4-H Ambassadors Program (1994).

"Take it one day at a time and you do make a difference."

Hometown: Franklin, PA

Nominated by: Pennsylvania 4-H

Year Inducted: 2002

Rainy Linn was key in establishing a county 4-H roundup. Working with county donors, 7 acres became a 57 acre 4-H Fairgrounds, site of the county fair, the Extension Office and many support facilities. Rainy affected thousands of county citizens. An electricity club member now owns an electronics business with over 180 employees. Several members became Extension agents. One alumnus credits a successful job interview to skills learned from 4-H public speaking and demonstrations. Another who is now a school administrator said, "She modeled leadership skills and relationship skills that I use each and every day in my personal and professional life. She taught me to put people first!"

Venango Co. has over 20 4-H volunteers with 20 or more years of service. Some of the first 4-H clubs still exist with descendents of the first members and leaders. As youth became "hooked" on 4-H, Rainy encouraged them to try new things. Opportunities for 4-H members and volunteers to go outside the county were a priority. This past year over 70 4-H scholarships to out of county events were awarded due to her dedication and determination. Rainy served on the state strategic planning committee, the Youth Program Coordinating Council, director of the Northwest 4-H Camps and on regional and state fashion revue committees. She is active as a 4-H Fair Board director and strong county 4-H supporter.



Rainy with Venango Co. 4-H'ers at the Northwest District 4-H Senior Training camp.



Rainy in PA's Delegation to National 4-H Congress, 1953.