

# 2003 RECOGNIZED LEADERS

## 15-YEAR



**Teresa Johnson**

Teresa Johnson and her husband Wayne live east of Greeley with their two daughters. She has served as organizational leader for the Hoofbeats 4-H club, and has also helped with Horse Bowl, Horse Council, and the Equitation program. Teresa's motivation to continue as a leader comes from her enjoyment in watching kids develop their leadership abilities and maturing into young adults and parents. One of her fondest memories is when her team won Reserve National Champion Horse Bowl at the 2000 Western Roundup. Teresa does professional photography, runs a custom horse show clothing business, and drives bus for Platte Valley Schools. She is President of the Colorado Appaloosa Association, and in her spare time enjoys reading.

## 20-YEAR

Bill & Evelyn Hoffman have both completed 20 years of volunteer leadership with the Grover Guys & Gals 4-H club. Unfortunately, they were not available for pictures and an interview, however Evelyn wanted everyone to know that they both have enjoyed watching kids grow up through the 4-H program, and think that 4-H gives every child an opportunity to succeed.



**Sandi Meyer**

Sandi Meyer lives in Windsor with her husband Al. She helped start, and served as organizational leader for the Pony Express club, and currently is the organization leader for the Windsor Hot Shots club. Sandi has also served as project leader for numerous projects, and was on the state curriculum committee for the Child Development project. Sandi most appreciates watching kids who excel doing their own work, and enjoys seeing the excitement of first year members when they complete their project before, she says, "they are disillusioned by competition." She believes that cows, cakes, cooking and rockets are just the hooks to get the kids involved. It's what they learn while doing those projects, and the skills they develop, that is what 4-H is all about. Sandi is an alumni of the original cast of Up With People, a 30-year member of the American Legion Auxiliary, and a member of the Board for Colorado Fairs & Shows.



**Rod Reinick**

Rod Reinick started as a 4-H leader right out of high school as the Box Elder 4-H swine project leader. Over the years, he has also helped with rocketry, electricity, woodworking, and beef projects, and was the organizational leader for seven years. Rod started with an emphasis on the show ring, but over the years has changed his outlook. He now enjoys watching kids develop their own projects, noting that last year one of his club's members won Grand Champion at the County Fair with an animal they bred and raised. If he were to give advice to a new leader just starting out, he would advise them to relax and enjoy the kids, be consistent with the guidelines and rules for everyone, compliment the kids when they do something good, and be sure to thank people when they do something for you. Rod, his wife Tammie, and their three children, live south of Kersey. In addition to working for Platte Valley Schools, Rod partners with his father on their farming and livestock operation, specializing in 4-H and FFA club pigs.

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## LEADERS

### 25-YEAR



**Kathy Hettinger**

Kathy Hettinger lives east of Ault with her husband Tom. They have two sons and three grandchildren. Serving as a project leader for Cake Decorating has been Kathy's area of expertise since beginning with the Best in the West 4-H club in Windsor. She helped write the manual for the cake decorating contest at State Fair, and has worked as either a judge or superintendent at the State Fair since 1983. She enjoys her involvement in 4-H because it gives her the opportunity to share what she's learned, while motivating kids to achieve more than they thought they could. Kathy notes that every year she learns something from the kids, too! Kathy has served as her church's secretary for the past 22 years, and for 10 years has worked with the women's organization, PEO, which raises funds for scholarships for women's education. She operates a wedding cake business and enjoys spending time with the grandkids.



**Kathy Showers**

Kathy Showers remembers that her grandmother got her involved as a 4-H leader after she completed her tenure as a 4-H member. She has been a project leader for cake decorating, knitting, sewing, and other Home Economics projects with the Evans and Crow Creek 4-H clubs. Kathy gets enjoyment watching kids accomplish their goals and carry on their knowledge into their careers. It's a pleasure for her to teach others, and she notes that often times mothers will participate right alongside of their daughters. To any prospective new leaders, Kathy would advise them to have the patience of Job, be willing to work with kids on their level, and to go with the flow. Her work in 4-H, as both a member and a leader, is evident in her house as seen in this picture of Kathy sitting on a love seat that she refurnished as part of her 4-H project that won Grand Champion at the Weld County Fair. Kathy is a mail carrier for the Briggsdale Post Office. She and her husband Myron have two daughters, and operate a ranch east of Briggsdale.

### 50-YEAR



**Bill Erickson**

Bill Erickson has accomplished something that very few people ever do, 50 years as a 4-H leader! Bill is quick to say that behind every man is a good woman, and he gives credit to his wife of 52 years, Clara, for the opportunity she gave him to get away from the family dairy business to attend meetings and activities. Bill has been a leader of the Galeton 4-H club for the entire 50 years, and notes that his mother was a leader with this club as well. A graduate of Colorado State University, Bill started his volunteer leadership after getting out of the service. He thought it was the natural thing to do, and that it would be a good way for him to give back to the community. Bill was recently recognized in the 107<sup>th</sup> US Congressional Record, in a resolution by Congressman Bob Schaeffer, for his accomplishment as a 50-year leader. From the many memories he has of special accomplishments, Bill highlights these three: He was instrumental in helping start the tractor project, As a club, Galeton 4-H worked with a CSU graduate student to develop the DARE program, which has since been adopted by law enforcement agencies, and Working with a youth assistant leader from California, he helped establish the model rocketry project in Weld County. Bill states that one of the most valuable things he's received from 4-H has been the friendships that have developed both locally, and across the western United States while attending Western Regional 4-H Conferences. A small bit of advice he would share to new leaders would be to "get all the help you can and listen to your help." Bill has served on the Ag Committee for the Greeley/Weld Chamber of Commerce, has been a member of the Weld County Farm Bureau for 50 years, and continues to work with Clara and their two children on their farming and dairy operation east of Galeton. He is a 50-year leader.