

2011 RECOGNIZED LEADERS

20-YEAR



Larry Rodenburg

Larry's 20-year 4-H leadership began when he became a 4-H sports coach in 1984 and continued until 1990. Then, as a leader he assisted in other projects until he was asked by his organizational leader to take over her position. Since then he has served as a baseball, volleyball, and softball coach, project leader in woodworking, entomology, electricity, and shooting sports, organizational leader, and CWF chaperone. In addition to 4-H, he serves on the accountability committee and sports program for Briggsdale High School and as a trustee for the Briggsdale Congregational Church. He is a firefighter and EMT for the Briggsdale Fire Department and serves on its Board of Directors. Larry owned a manufacturing company for 14 years and was in construction manufacturing for over thirty years. Currently, he is "semi-retired" and works at the Briggsdale School as a bus driver and head cook. His special interests include woodworking and tending to his yard and garden.



Regan Romero

Regan has been a 4-H leader for 20 years. He credits Judy Stevens for helping him get started with a garden club for Hispanic kids in the hopes of opening doors for more city kids to get involved. He serves as the 4-H Project and Key leader for the Bicycle project and also assists with the Leader's Food Booth at Weld County Fair. Outside of 4-H, Regan decorates a fire truck for the Chamber of Commerce parade at Christmas time for Valley Ag 4-H and for the La Salle day parade. Regan's motivation as a 4-H leader is helping the kids, leaders, and people in the community. He has been a mechanic for 20 years.



Phil Rouse

Phil's 20-year 4-H leader career began when then 4-H County Agent, Mark Cronquist, asked if Phil would be interested in leading the Model Rocketry Program when the previous leader retired. Phil has served as Weld County Model Rocketry leader and as Superintendent of Model Rocketry at the Weld County Fair for 20 years. Phil is involved with a number of community groups including Weld County School District RE-2 (Eaton) Board of Education, Eaton Lions Club, and Weld County Boys and Girls Club. He is a member of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. He is currently retired after having spent 30 years in education mostly working in vocational and technical education. His wife, Pat, has been involved in most of his time working in 4-H and his son, Topher, was in 4-H for 10 years with the Drylanders 4-H Club.

25-YEAR



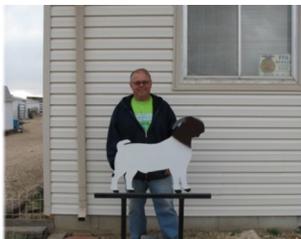
Karen Helus

Karen Helus participated in 4-H when she was growing up and became a leader when she and her husband Ron, were asked to help coach softball. As a 4-H leader for 25 years, Karen has been a coach, project leader, and organizational leader. She is a member of the Weld County Meat Goat Breeders and the Weld County Goat Extravaganza Planning Committee. For 16 years Karen has worked as manager of the Platte Valley Elementary School kitchen and as a substitute bus driver. Karen enjoys spending time with her family, husband Ron, son Aaron, and daughter Jocelyn. Her interests include goats, gardening, and flowers.

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Ron Helus

Ron started as a 4-H leader coaching softball and has continued leading for 25 years. He has served as a coach, leader for several different projects, and taxi driver when needed. Throughout his time as a leader, Ron has enjoyed watching the kids he leads grow from clover buds to responsible adults. Ron also helps with the Platte Valley FFA Foundation, Weld County Goat Extravaganza, and the Weld County Meat Goat Breeders. He has worked for five years as a chemical technician for Baker Hughes.



Teresa Johnson

Teresa is a 25 year 4-H leader. She got her start when a local group needed a horse instructor and then her own children became involved in the program. She has served as organizational leader, coach of Horse Bowl and Hippology, Fair 4-H Horse Show Superintendent and on the Horse Council. Outside of 4-H, Teresa is involved with the Platte Valley FFA, Appaloosa Regional Horse Club, and Peak to Peak Appaloosa Directory. She also works as a school bus driver and substitute teacher. Teresa understands the importance of mentoring our youth and seeing them mature into outstanding adults. She credits her husband, Wayne, with helping her in her volunteer activities. Her hobbies include raising appaloosas, reading, and sewing. She presently is the 4-H Events Coordinator with Weld County Extension.

35-YEAR



Judy Stevens

Judy Stevens has been a leader for 35 years. She got start as a 4-H leader by being mentored by Edna Rains and Bobby Kurzyna who retired from their leadership positions. She was organization leader for La Salle 4-H club for 18 years. Other major 4-H roles include Overall Superintendent for General and Natural Projects at Weld County Fair, Leaders Council, and Weld County Leader's Food Booth. Judy has served on the Weld County Fair Board, Weld County 150th anniversary committee, and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Weld County. Sharing time and talent with kids, parents, and leaders in addition to knowing how much more people can be by being in 4-H keeps her motivated as a leader.

Many of her kids and grandkids have been involved with 4-H over the years. All five of her children were 10 year members of 4-H. She enjoys spending time gardening, working with her two donkeys, two goats, four dogs, and being with her kids and grandkids. Judy was a cake decorator for Safeway for ten and half years. At 45, she attended Aims Community College to be an auto tech and currently spends time doing child care for her grandkids.

55-YEAR



Dorothy Zabka

Dorothy has been serving the 4-H community for 55 years. She began her years as a 4-H leader when Otis Axsom of Greeley Elevator invited her to take over his 4-H club leadership. She accepted and has been a leader ever since. Dorothy and her husband, Dewey, started the Catch A Calf program with Weld County Fair and sponsored it for twenty years. She organized and sponsored the Weld County Fair Royalty program and served on the Fair Board for 27 years. Dorothy had the honor of being elected the first and only woman Mayor of Greeley and served two terms. She was also the first woman to be elected to serve on the United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Board in Washington D.C. In addition, she has served on many boards in the area