

4-H Saskatchewan Builders Honour Roll



CANADA
4-H Saskatchewan

2022 – Les Ferguson

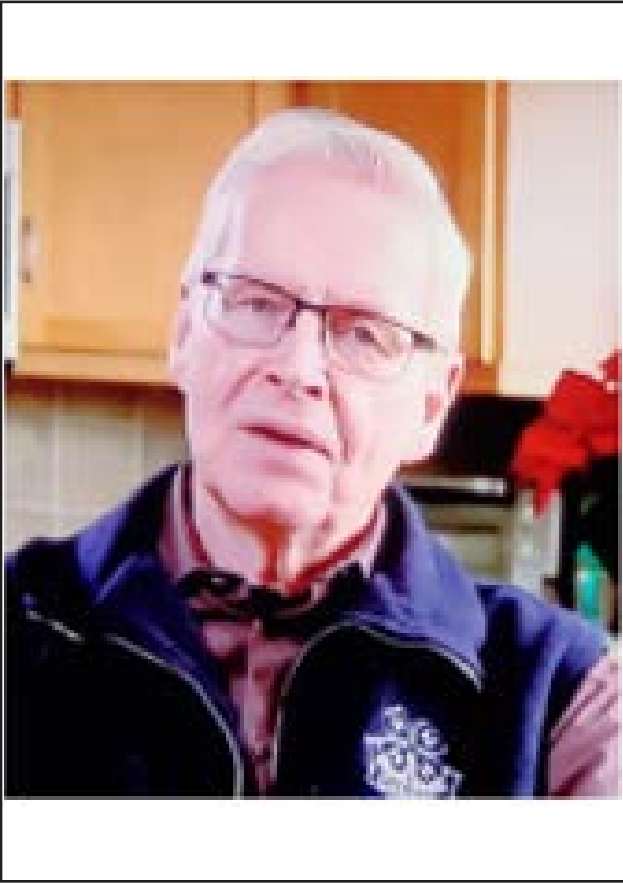


Les Ferguson grew up near Sonningdale Saskatchewan, north west of Saskatoon. He still leases the family farm there. Les' wife, Linda, is a city girl and they both have lived in Saskatoon since 1970. Les' 4-H background includes being a 4-H beef project member for seven years. He was also a summer staff person with the 4-H program while at university. From 1973 to 1993, Les coordinated what was then referred to as the Indian 4-H program, in First Nations communities.

Les served as a Trustee for the Saskatchewan 4-H Foundation from 2004-2020. He is retired, while Linda is a professor within the College of Nursing at the U of S. They have four sons, two daughters-in-law, and four granddaughters.

We appreciate your dedication to the 4-H program, and all you have contributed to our organization. Thank you so much for your time and commitment.

2022 – Duane Bristow



Duane has enjoyed a successful career in the agriculture sector, working for the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool for a number of years, before applying his skills and knowledge to his research consultancy.

As a 4-H alumnus, Mr. Bristow continued to dedicate himself to the 4-H movement, playing a prominent role in the expansion of the 4-H Saskatchewan Centre “Camp Rayner,” and the provincial Centennial Anniversary Celebrations in 2017.

At the national level, in addition to being a member of 4-H Canada for nearly three decades, Mr. Bristow has served as a director and chair to the 4-H Canada Board of Directors, and as a trustee and chair of the Canadian 4-H Foundation.

We appreciate your many contributions to the 4-H movement, Duane. Thank you for taking the time and care to moving our organization forward.

2022 – William (Bill) Cooper



Bill Cooper, along with his wife, Gail, have been donating to 4-H Saskatchewan since 2007. Bill created the Entrepreneurial Scholarship for 4-H Members, which offers three \$3,000 scholarships to 4-H members entering or continuing in any program, at any post-secondary institution. These members must demonstrate exceptional enthusiasm and awareness of the entrepreneurial concept.

Apart from the scholarship opportunities, Bill Cooper has also donated to 4-H annually, and was instrumental in the creation of the 4-H Future Fund. This fund is managed through the Saskatchewan 4-H Foundation, and is open for additional donations, so that contributions can be made for years to come.

Bill served as a Trustee of the Foundation, and when the Covid pandemic hit, he was quick to create the Covid-19 leadership scholarship for 4-H members and alumni serving on or supporting the front lines.

Thank you Bill for your unwavering support of the 4-H organization over the years. We are so very thankful for your many contributions.

2022 – Pat Katz



As a child, Patricia Katz twisted her mother's arm to start a 4-H Homecraft club, and once enrolled as a member she never looked back. Her club years included sewing and leadership projects, an exchange trip to Iowa, being crowned Provincial Dress Review Queen, and receiving the CNE Scholarship Award at Provincial Selections.

Pat worked as a Summer Assistant for the Provincial 4-H Office during her University years, was hired as a Provincial 4-H Specialist after graduating from the U of S College of Home Economics, and eventually moved into a seven year term as Provincial 4-H Supervisor.

Camps, conferences and leadership events were major areas of responsibility, and Pat once calculated that she had spent two entire years of her life at Rayner Centre. Pat is known for her versatility and for her strengths in building relationships and delivering creative programming.

Thank you Pat for your support of, and contributions to, the 4-H program over the years. You set the bar high for those who followed in your footsteps, and we appreciate everything you have done for the 4-H Saskatchewan organization.

2023 – Thelma Howard



Thelma Howard started her 4-H life as a dropout from a Beef Club, as she felt it was not fair to ask her “poor little calf to compete with the hefty pedigreed ones!” From there, in 1956 Thelma became what she describes it as MSH - mere summer help with the 4-H Homecraft Program. A year later, after she had graduated from Home Economics at the University of Saskatchewan, Thelma became a staff member with the 4-H Homecraft Program. In 1958 Thelma was appointed supervisor of the 4-H Homecraft program until the program united with the Agriculture 4-H program, at which time she still played an active roll in 4-H, rotating with her colleagues to be the Saskatchewan 4-H Club Supervisor. During this time, Thelma helped to introduce multiple project clubs, which resulted in expanding the scope of projects beyond the traditional projects.

Thelma’s personal 4-H Saskatchewan highlights consist of playing an intricate role in developing the 4-H camping program, which led to Camp Rayner and helping to develop the Saskatchewan 4-H Foundation. Thelma has had other notable accomplishments throughout her life including working abroad to introduce community development programs related to women’s role in agriculture, being the secretary and University representative for the Saskatchewan 4-H Council, and just recently in 2012, Thelma was an inductee into the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Thelma is proud of all her achievements, however, she is most fond of “working with a great staff, great leaders, and great members.”

2023 – Tracy Fitzsimmons



Tracy Fitzsimmons has been an active member with 4-H through various roles, most notably as a member, parent, leader, volunteer, and board member with the board of directors. Growing up, as a 4-H member, her most memorable moment was spending time at Camp Rayner, which influenced her to become an effective volunteer and leader using passion and positivity to engage the youth of 4-H.

Throughout her time at 4-H, Tracy has demonstrated strong leadership qualities, that are apparent in teaching Cloverbuds and Junior members the fundamentals of 4-H through fun activities utilizing her own farm and livestock. Tracy made sure to employ the 4-H motto “Learn to do by doing” whenever engaging with the youth and making sure the youth were supported in every 4-H capacity possible. Tracy was also a key contributor in ensuring the constitution for the Viscount 4-H Beef Club was established and updated during her time as the General Leader.

Tracy played a pivotal role in guaranteeing district level club events, such as district meetings and public speaking, were executed and that they properly represented 4-H. From there, Tracy moved on to assisting at the Regional level, leading the planning for the Northeast Regional Curling event that was hosted by District 21.

From 2017-2019, Tracy was elected as the Northeast Leader Delegate for the Saskatchewan 4-H Board of Directors, at which time, she attended the Saskatchewan 4-H Annual General Meeting. Other volunteering that Tracy has donated her time to was at the Prairieland Ag Showcase, where she was a Group Leader for the Cloverbuds and assisted in the Regional Judging. During her time as the Group Leader at the Prairieland Ag Showcase, Tracy’s demeanor promoted members to have fun, stay focused, and complete their tasks in a safe manner. Tracy prides herself on being a hands on teacher, and by doing so, many youth members talk fondly of their time learning as being memorable, fun, and inclusive for everyone.

2024 - Kody Farrow



Kody Farrow grew up as a member of the Herds of Thunder 4-H Club. During his twelve years as a 4-H member, Kody completed the “Drama”, “Light Horse” and “Making It On Your Own” projects. With his positive, enthusiastic, and welcoming nature, Kody took an active leadership role in his club, district, and beyond, attending a vast amount of 4-H events and sitting on executive councils. Later in his 4-H career Kody completed two years as the member delegate on the 4-H Saskatchewan Board of Directors and was the Saskatchewan representative for the Youth Advisory Council for 4-H Canada. During this tenure, Kody helped plan and facilitate 4-H Canada travel opportunities including the member favourite Global 4-H Summit in 2017.

Most importantly, Kody continues to give back to the 4-H program. For six years Kody has been an invaluable member of the 4-H Summer Camp program. Starting in 2016 as a camp counsellor, and working up to the Summer Camp Director program, Kody has been instrumental in creating safe, fun, and inclusive programs for hundreds of members across the province. In 2023 Kody chaperoned the Saskatchewan delegation to the 4-H Canada Member’s Forum, causing the 4-H Canada staff to request Kody as the chaperone for the next couple of trips. Currently Kody is the chair of the Prairieland Youth Leadership Conference, a scholarship program/conference where 4-H members can develop their social development and leadership skills.

“Kody is someone you know you can count on. He has repeatedly pushed me to grow as a leader, challenging my self-imposed limits and my assumptions about what I can achieve. When I reflect on my time in the 4-H program, Kody stands out as one of the most influential figures.” -Kadence Johnson
4-H Member

2024 - Glen Hass



Glen Hass was born in Hanley, Saskatchewan in 1937. While growing up, Glen was involved with the Hanley 4-H Grain Club and the Dundurn 4-H Beef Club. In 1960, Glen obtained a BSA, followed by a Bachelor of Education in 1965 and Master of Continuing Education in 1976. Glen's career merged with 4-H Saskatchewan when he joined the University of Saskatchewan's extension staff in 1969 as the 4-H Supervisor for Saskatchewan. Ten years later he was promoted to Associate Director of the Extension Division. Glen also served on the Canadian 4-H Council, which he was elected as president in 1977. For his contributions to 4-H, he received the Commemorative Medal on Canada's 125th birthday.

Although Glen has been involved in 4-H for a number of years, Glen has also made significant contributions to the Agriculture industry, which is reflected in his accomplishments, including receiving an honorary life membership from the Canadian Society of Extension and the International Service Award for extension and adult education from the Northwest Adult Education Association, being inducted into the Canadian Conservation Hall of Fame, and being inducted into the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame in 2005.

2025 - Cameron Choquette



Cameron Choquette has been an invaluable member of the 4-H program for many years as a member, leader, board member, and 4-H supporter. Cameron started his 4-H career in the Kelvington 4-H Beef Club in 2002, and quickly made a name for himself as an outstanding young leader. With a 4-H resume almost too long to mention, Cameron made significant contributions at the club, district, regional, provincial, and national levels of 4-H. Most importantly Cameron was the 4-H Saskatchewan representative to the 4-H Canada Youth Advisory Committee from 2013-2016; was a member delegate to the 4-H Saskatchewan Board of Directors from 2015-2017, the Board's Secretary from 2017 until 2021, and served as the Board Chair until he reached his maximum term of 8 years in 2023. During his time on the Board, he led the development of a new strategic plan, revised the Board's policy manual, implemented a new committee structure, oversaw the hiring of an Executive Director, and contributed to the development of a reserve fund strategy.

In 2015 Cameron was one of the first four inaugural 4-H Canada LEAD Scholars. He has also been a Regional Livestock Show Administrator; led the hosting of the 2014 Provincial Curling at the age of 16 and most recently served as advisor to the Council as they updated the strategic plan; and much more. In 2023 he was named as Saskatchewan's Young Professional of the Year and has spent the last 5 and a half years as CEO of Rental Housing Saskatchewan. In just a few short weeks he will embark on a new adventure as the College Secretary and Director of Strategic Initiatives for St. Thomas More College at the University of Saskatchewan.

Cameron is known for his impressive work ethic, high moral standing, and passion. Many know Cam for his exceptional leadership ability. To know Cam means that you have experienced his charm and humour.

To quote Mike Kirzinger, *"The 4-H program has helped to shape Cam into the strong leader and community member that he is today and he continues to give back to the 4-H program... I believe Cam exemplifies what it means to be a builder in 4-H and his contributions and leadership has made a lasting impact on the program."* Cam has enabled many of us to be the best versions of ourselves, encouraging professionalism, collaboration, and strategic drive.