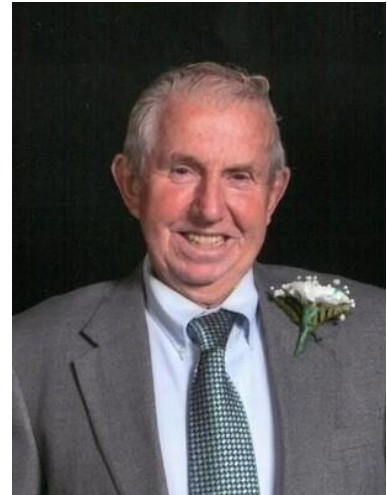


Jerry “Jer” Lang

Nominated on behalf of Wood County 4-H Members and Alumni

Jerry “Jer” Lang gave countless hours of volunteer service to Marshfield area 4-H clubs, the Central Wisconsin State Junior Fair Association, and the Central Wisconsin State Fair Association. For more than 65 years, Jer mentored area youth while “rolling up” his sleeves to get things accomplished. Whether it was a 4-H club project, building maintenance or even replacement at the fairgrounds, Jerry did not know the word ‘no’ or when to quit. He always made things happen and saw things through to a successful end.



Jerry Lang, like his father before him, grew up on a dairy farm and loved Guernsey cows. He had watched his older brothers and sisters exhibit their animals at the fair. When he turned 10 years old, the eagerly-anticipated minimum age to participate, he took the rope leading his own animal at the fair – and at the same time, beginning his lifelong devotion to 4-H clubs and its youth programs.

For more than five decades, Jer Lang worked tirelessly at the club, county, and state levels with remarkable passion and dedication to engage 4-H members in Wood County 4-H Drama and Dairy programs.

He spearheaded Creative Arts Day, an event for 4-H youth to perform and gain confidence and poise in front of an audience. What started out as a handful of performers 40 years ago has resulted in one of the largest 4-H performing arts festivals in the state, with well over 400 youth participating in some level of competition in the arts.

For more than 35 years, Jerry was the Wood County Dairy chaperone for the state fair, dairy superintendent, and a member of the junior fair board.

Jerry’s heart lived with the Central Wisconsin State Fair. Not only did he exhibit at the fair as an open class dairy exhibitor for 65 years, he also served on the leadership team for the fair association for 20 years. He was one of the originating board members of the Central Wisconsin State Junior Fair Association, serving as President and Treasurer in his 38-year tenure. Jerry was also the major fundraiser for the “Jer” Lang Show Palace, milk house, horse barns, beef barn, and many other projects on the fairgrounds.

Jer has been honored with the Wisconsin Guernsey Breeders “Friend of Youth” award, the Wisconsin 4-H Alumni Award, and the Wood County 4-H Pioneer Award for originating

Creative Arts Day. In 2006, Jer received the Haas Wilkerson Heritage Award from the International Association of Fairs and Expositions in Las Vegas.

Even with his landscaping business, caring for his cattle, and 4-H commitments, Jerry was able to be involved in the development of the Marshfield Youth Wrestling Program in the mid-1980s.

When he “retired” in 2006, he started working with St. Vincent de Paul as a volunteer. He did everything from moving furniture to selling brats to serving as President of the board. He was instrumental in building the Transitional Shelter. The community got out their wallets when Jer came walking up because they knew he was asking for donations for one of his many good causes.

Jer’s countless volunteer hours between 4-H leadership, St. Vincent De Paul, Corpus Christi Catholic Church events, and youth wrestling earned him a well-deserved Jefferson Award in November 2019.

Two years later, Jerry was awarded posthumously with the Friend of Agriculture award and the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Central Wisconsin Agri-Business Committee.

Jerry Lang passed away at his home on April 5, 2021.

To many, Jer will be remembered as our "fair dad," and he lives on in our hearts.

Portions taken from a University of Wisconsin – Madison, Wisconsin 4-H, Division of Extension biography.