

Every April, the 4-H Foundation presents an Important Volunteer of the Year (IVY) Award to an individual who has gone above and beyond to support Arapahoe County 4-H. Nominations may be made by anyone in the 4-H community.

Nominees may be 4-H leaders, members of the Fair committee, 4-H Foundation members or members of an advisory group such as 4-H horse or 4-H livestock committees involved with 4-H. Nominees highly involved with 4-H club activities, and 4-H volunteerism in county, district, state and national programs is taken into consideration also.

This award was first presented in 1991 to Honor Barbara Holthaus, a long time 4-H club and project leader and a charter member of the Arapahoe County 4-H Foundation.

This year's IVY winner is **Mary Brewer**, a former 4-H member and organizational leader of the Champion Drive 4-H Club for the past fourteen years. Mary was the Swine Project Leader in the Antelope Crossing 4-H club for two years before helping organize the Champion Drive 4-H Club. She also is the swine project leader for Champion Drive. She served as the Creative Cooks Contest Leader for two years with Antelope Crossing and the club team won the county competition two years in a row.

Mary served as the Arapahoe County Fair Swine Superintendent for three years. She was responsible for running the county fair swine show, tagging swine in for the fair and working with county 4-H swine project members.

Mary also served on the Arapahoe County Youth Livestock Auction committee for five years. As a committee member she reserved animal processing businesses each year, helped with set up and tear down of equipment for the sale, helped clerk the sale and was instrumental in developing the Arapahoe County Youth livestock sale web site. She was also responsible for entering each year's sale data into the computer sale program prior to each sale and helped prepare the sale catalog, mailings, and brochures. She continues to help with the sale each year.

Mary volunteers at her church on the funeral reception committee, Sunday Hospitality committee and serves as a Liturgist when needed. She is also a softball team volunteer coach and a Strasburg Athletic Booster Club member.

When Mary's two oldest children joined 4-H, she stepped back from the committees she was serving on to devote more time to her family as they participated in 4-H club and fair activities. Mary still volunteers wherever she is needed.