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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MacDonald Named to National 4-H Hall of Fame

Camden-Wyoming resident Marion S. MacDonald, a retired Kent County 4-H educator, has been named to the National 4-H Hall of Fame, which annually recognizes those people who have made a significant contribution to 4-H. Criteria for this honor are active citizenship as exemplified by participation in community, state and national public service; leadership; career accomplishments; and character, based on commitment to and involvement in 4-H.

MacDonald, 77, began her career in Cooperative Extension in the early 1950s, as a home demonstration agent in Oregon. In 1953 she became a 4-H agent for Kent County. Her career spanned 33 years. Under her leadership, 4-H in Kent grew into a vigorous, well-organized group with varied programs that reached thousands of youths. She created many opportunities to help 4-Hers develop life skills through useful, educational and fun activities.

As the only woman on the 4-H staff in Delaware, MacDonald was charged with directing the organization's home economics programs. She sought support from local food companies to establish what has become known as the Favorite Foods Contest, a 4-H event that focuses on nutrition, menu planning and food preparation.

She also developed strong relationships with agricultural commodity groups, local politicians and community leaders who offered support to the Kent County 4-H program. "Marion's 4-H county program was a partnership of youth and adults, fully 30 years before youth-adult partnerships became the model," says Joy Sparks, state program leader for 4-H youth development.

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MacDonald was a contributing member of the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents and Epsilon Sigma Phi, the professional fraternity for Extension professionals. She is an active member of the Kent County Links, the county 4-H alumni group. She still judges a number of 4-H competitions including Favorite Foods and Public Speaking.

MacDonald has served as a member of the Delaware State Fair board since 1976. She works hundreds of hours each year volunteering in the State Fair office, helping with a variety of programs, particularly 4-H.

“Marion MacDonald is so deserving of this national honor. She has served as a role model for those of us who have followed as 4-H youth development professionals,” says Sparks. “Her continued involvement and support mean so much to the lives she continues to impact.”

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