

Who Are These People, and Why Was an Award Named After Them? Mary Nell Greenwood (NEAFCS Greenwood Fellowship)

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In 1985, the NEAHE/NEAFCS Board recognized Dr. Mary Nell Greenwood by naming the NEAFCS fellowship for doctoral study in her honor. At the time of the recognition, Dr. Greenwood was the Federal Administrator of the Federal Extension Service, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

This recognition was significant because Dr. Greenwood was the first woman and first home economist to hold the position of Administrator at USDA. Prior to her appointment as Federal Administrator in 1980, Dr. Greenwood held county and statewide positions with the Missouri Cooperative Extension Service. At the time of her appointment to USDA, she held the position of Director of Programs for the Missouri Cooperative Extension Service.

Dr. Greenwood, who was born in Breckenridge, Missouri, received her undergraduate degree in home economics at what is now the University of Central Missouri and began her career as a county Extension home economist in Holt County, Missouri, and was a member of the Association.

Dr. Greenwood was a role model for those seeking advanced degrees and achieving career advancement. Both her Master's and Doctorate Degrees were from the University of Wisconsin. In 1986, while still employed at USDA, Dr. Greenwood died following a lengthy battle with cancer.

