

University of Arkansas,
United States Department
of Agriculture, and County
Governments Cooperating

No. 10

October 2015

Retiree Spotlight

*Carroll Prewett
Mona Norris*

Inside

Lionel Barton Dies

*From the
Editorial Board*

*November
Birthdays*

Prewett Keeps Family Cattle Farm Going

For Carroll Prewett, Extension was a third career.

But he enjoyed it so much he delayed retirement until he was 69. When Prewett retired in May 2014, he had worked for Extension for a decade as an Extension agent in Izard County.

Prewett had been in education before coming to Extension, as a high school agriculture teacher in his hometown of Salem and later as a professor at Arkansas State University, his alma mater.

Prewett started working for Extension in 2004 and enjoyed his job as county agent from the start, with the realization that you never knew what a new day could bring.

“Some people don’t realize everything a county agent does,” he said. There’s animal science, plant science, a lot of gardening calls. You wear a lot of hats.”

Prewett was partial to animal science – the beef industry in particular. He had been raised on a dairy farm in Salem.

He’s seen many advancements in cattle farming since those early days and uses them at his cow/calf operation in Salem. He’s still farming the land that his grandfather first tilled. Prewett has owned the family farm for 51 years.

Prewett has added fescue and Bermudagrass to his lineup of offerings, but he mostly raises his Angus cattle. He doesn’t name the cows, though his wife of four years, Kyleen Prewett, has claimed a few. They turn those into “mama cows” and the Salem farm remains their home.



Carroll Prewett

When Prewett fixes fences, fertilizes grass or otherwise tends to his farm, he’s usually aided by some sidekicks, his English shepherd dogs. Or he might just get to his work riding his mule, Ruth, who’s named after the one on Gunsmoke.

When he’s not working on the farm, Prewett is doing some construction work on his house. When he gets a spare minute, he likes to turkey and deer hunt or fish for crappie.

“Things any normal redneck man likes to do,” he joked.

He occasionally travels to Kansas to pheasant hunt with some buddies. Prewett said there’s always something to do on a farm, so he has to carve out time for leisure activities like that.

Prewett also has three daughters and eight grandchildren. The ninth grandchild is expected to be born on or near his seventy-first birthday, which is October 15.

To reconnect with Carroll Prewett, contact him at 501-658-2682, 114 Sage Circle, Salem, Arkansas 72576.

– Shannon Magsam

Mona Norris Left Her Mark on Extension

Mona Norris started at Extension on March 18, 1998, as a secretary for the Best Care program specialists and program associates in the Family and Consumer Sciences department.

The Best Care was a childcare development program that started with a DHS grant in 1997, so it was relatively new. Norris was pleased to be assigned to Family and Consumer Sciences because she had taken four years of home economic classes in high school and loved to cook, sew and babysit from the time she was 13 years old.

“The Best Care program team was great, and I really enjoyed working with them to help develop new curriculum each year for county agents to train those who worked in the childcare field,” she said. “My duties at the time were to answer the phone, type, proofread, research data, collate materials, format lesson guides and handouts, help with grant proposals and make sure all written materials had the current EEO statement, program and UAEX logos.”

Norris had worked in FCS for about 8 years when it was decided her growing section needed a support staff/office supervisor to oversee the secretaries and keep the office running smoothly. Norris was promoted to administrative office supervisor, while still providing administrative support to the childcare and family life program teams.

“It was very rewarding to know we – the support staff—were helping hundreds of people in the state office and out in the counties,” she said.

Norris is an artist and while working for Extension, she drew or painted at least 20 portraits of Extension co-workers, their families and one pet cat.

The most well known around the building is a large oil painting of Tina Turner from her “Private Dancer” album cover, commissioned by Sterling Boston in 2012. She also painted an oil portrait of a young man, Brett Barham, associate professor of animal science, who passed away in 2011. It’s currently hanging in the Animal



Norris's portrait of Brett Barham

Science department at the Little Rock state Extension office. Norris donated artwork to participate in the annual Eggshibition fundraising event for the Little Rock Youth Home, too.

Norris took early retirement on January 31, 2013, after turning 62 on January 8. She had five commissioned portraits to do and not enough time or energy to get them done.

“I’m sorry to say that I’ve been reading a lot and taking it easy instead,” she said. “The only artwork I’ve completed since retiring are two acrylic landscape paintings and painted/carved two white plaster eggs for the 2014 and 2015 Eggshibitions.”

Don’t let Norris fool you on the taking it easy part.

Norris worked temporary/part-time from mid-February through June this year in the Horticulture Department. She remarried Phillip Norris in May this year, and they’re currently making improvements to their house.

“Once we get the house renovated, we’ll travel Arkansas state parks and historic sites, then on to bordering states and more,” she said.

She was the event coordinator for her 45-year high school class reunion in June of this year.

Norris’ only child, Wenona, lives in Benton. She has a large backyard, and Norris said they’re both interested in raising organic food, but will need to destroy a forest of bamboo and till deeply before they can plant a vegetable garden. The mother-daughter team is looking forward to fresh, organic vegetables and strawberries.

Since retiring, Norris said, “I’m very grateful for all the freedom I have to spend time with friends and family, read, take a walk, draw or paint, take a nap, sew and travel. I recommend retirement for everybody who can afford it, as soon as possible.”

To reconnect with Mona Norris, contact her at 501-476-1056, 268 Flintstone Drive, Bryant, Arkansas 72022.



Mona Norris

– Shannon Magsam

Lionel Barton Dies

Lionel Barton, 78, died Sept. 19 at his home in Fayetteville. He was known throughout the Arkansas poultry industry for his 28 years of service as a poultry specialist for the Cooperative Extension Service.

Barton was instrumental in implementing plans for the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science and helped obtain significant funding from the Arkansas Energy Office for development and operation of the Broiler Energy Verification Unit. In 1987 he was awarded the Pfizer Poultry Science Extension Award for distinguished service to the poultry industry.

Survivors include two sisters, Carolyn Marriott of Magnolia and Evelyn Taylor of Cayuga, Texas; one daughter, Ann Boyd; three sons, Steven Barton, John Barton and James Barton; and four grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Sept. 26, at Moore's Chapel in Fayetteville.

Memorials may be made to the Lionel Barton Scholarship, c/o Southern Arkansas University Foundation, P. O. Box 9174, Magnolia, Arkansas 71753, the University of Arkansas Department of Poultry Science or the charity of donor's choice.

From the Editorial Board

Virtual Field Trip Explores Orbital Farming, Plant Genetics

In a mere 25 minutes, more than 1,600 students from three states and more than 60 sites traveled thousands of miles between the Kennedy Space Center and the research lab and greenhouse at the University of Arkansas campus to learn about the science behind agriculture and specifically, genetic modification of plants as part of the second Soybean Science Challenge virtual field trip interactive webcast, "Gardens of the Galaxy: A Battle for the Food of the Future."

Produced by Arkansas Extension in partnership with and funded by the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board, the virtual field trips allow urban and rural students, large and small schools to sit on the front lines with practicing scientists and have the opportunity to engage in real-time discussions from locations they might not otherwise be able to access, according to Karen Ballard, professor - Program and Staff Development, who spearheaded this project.

The original presenter lineup for "Gardens of the Galaxy: A Battle for the Food of the Future," were two Division of Agriculture plant pathologists, Professor Ken Korth and Assistant Professor Burt Bluhm. Two weeks before the launch date, the project was joined by Trent Smith, manager of the Veggie project for NASA. Veggie is NASA's program to research the growth of food crops in space.

Ballard said that the response to this year's virtual field trip far exceeded her expectations. School participation was up 333 percent and student participation was up 387 percent from last year.

Students submitted 304 questions during the broadcast. Even more gratifying, she said, was hearing from participants inspired to pursue their own applied research ideas in preparation for next year's science fairs.

A Blast From the Past

The following item appeared recently in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette's* "Other Days" column. J.W. Lehman, featured in the article, passed away in 2010. He began working as an agriculture agent in 1962 in Pulaski County but served much of his Extension career in Desha County.

Other Days

50 years ago, Sept. 23, 1965

John W. Lehman, director of the Agricultural Extension Service's 4-H Club program in Pulaski County, told the Little Rock Sertoma Club Wednesday that 4-H clubs had evolved from educational to character-building organizations. Lehman said that the clubs were originally organized by county agents to teach specific agricultural skills but that this function was now performed by regular educational institutions. Principal objectives of the modern 4-H Club program are the development of leadership, citizenship, initiative, cooperation and other qualities, he said.

Editorial Board Members

Mike Wright	Diane Jones	Donald Plunkett
Stan Chapman	Lorraine Hupp	Tom Leslie
Earl Wilson	Lott Rolfe, III	
Laura Goforth, Editor		



Cooperative Extension Service
2301 South University Avenue
Little Rock, AR 72204-4940

November Birthdays

Eric Grant, Nov. 3
Massie Silva, Nov. 3
Frances Story, Nov. 4
Sue Palsa, Nov. 9
Wallace Cummings, Nov. 10
Jerry McIntyre, Nov. 11
Gerald Alexander, Nov. 12
Ruby Talbert, Nov. 12
Doris Begeman, Nov. 13
Milo Shult, Nov. 13
Patsy Keller, Nov. 15
Gloria Eubanks, Nov. 16
Eugenia Hockett, Nov. 18
Luther Roberts, Nov. 20
Joe Vestal, Nov. 22
John Philpot, Nov. 23
Brenda Hawkins, Nov. 24
Kathryn Fowler, Nov. 25
Vatra Stone Hibbs, Nov. 27
Louise McPherson, Nov. 28
Jim Frala, Nov. 30

Yes, I will subscribe to the *Extension Cord*.

	Cost	Amount Enclosed
<i>Extension Cord</i>	\$18.00	_____

Please make check payable to **UA CES** and mail to Martha Thorpe, Communications Department, 2301 South University Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72204-4940.

Yes, I want to support the fundraising initiative in support of the Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship.

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

My gift is in honor / in memory of _____

Name/Address for notification of honorary and memorial gifts:

Please make check payable to the **UA Foundation** and mail to Martha Thorpe, Communications Dept., 2301 South University Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72204-4940.