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Retiree Spotlight

Kenneth Pugh

*Delores
Sowerbrower*

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October Birthdays

Kenneth Pugh Busy With Family, Cattle and Music

Kenneth Pugh spent nine years in 4-H before he graduated from high school in Oklahoma and headed off to college at OSU.

So it wasn't too far-fetched that he'd graduate with a degree and immediately apply for Extension jobs. He landed one in Arkansas as a county agent - 4-H - Agriculture in Van Buren. It was just right for Pugh, who loved 4-H and being outside.

He went right to work there, helping set up new 4-H clubs and empowering the students to win big at state and national competitions. He was also instrumental in starting the Crawford County 4-H Foundation.

He worked at Extension in Van Buren for a decade.

While there, he met his wife, Janella, who also worked for Extension. The two had a son and daughter. Both kids were very active in 4-H. Brian showed Simmental cattle, winning a variety of 4-H awards through the years, and his sister, Amber, focused on food and nutrition.

After a decade at Extension, Pugh resigned in 1983 and went to work for Farmland Industries, a regional cooperative out of Kansas City, Missouri.

He spent 25 years at Farmland, the last 16 as a regional sales manager, before retiring 10 years ago.

The Pughs moved back to Oklahoma to be close to Kenneth Pugh's parents. His mother is still living, and he spends time visiting and taking care of her.

He started the Oleo Ranch while in Arkansas, and that's still the name of his ranch in Oklahoma. Pugh said he thought the name up while he was in college and watching television with his roommate. An oleo commercial came on – the cheap spread – and Pugh remarked that Oleo Ranch would be a great name for his big spread later on in life.

Pugh has registered Simmental and Angus cattle on his ranch.

Janella Pugh retired 14 years ago and next year, on April 2, the two will celebrate 40 years of wedded bliss.

In addition to ranch life, they also take care of grandbabies during the day. Their son, Brian, lives nearby and is an area agronomist for OSU Extension. Their daughter, Amber, teaches nutrition at a high school in Austin. Each has two children.



Kenneth and Janella Pugh

Delores Sowerbrower Is Ready for Life to Get Back To Normal

Delores Sowerbrower has been at her son's house in Atlanta since early July.

Between an injured wrist and a fractured knee, she needed a little TLC, but will be heading back home to Jacksonville in October. She has one of her Yorkies with her in Georgia, but is missing her other two "fur babies." She's also homesick for her house, friends, church and volunteer work.

Sowerbrower, a 74-year-old grandmother of five, has always enjoyed work, beginning with her career in Extension. She first started working for the state office in December 1962, working as a "floater" until she was assigned to the communications department. She helped with news stories, assisted in the film library when necessary and in other areas.

After 10 years in the communications department, she moved "back out on the floor" as a secretary for the livestock specialists and agronomists. She worked in a variety of administrative positions before retiring as an administrative assistant in Family and Consumer Sciences in January 2008.

She worked for Extension for 45 years, beginning at age 20.

"I always say I spent my life at Extension," she said.

Six years after she started working at Extension, Sowerbrower met and married her husband, Pete. In 1971, they had their son, Andy, and five years later Alan was born.

The Sowerbrowers both retired in January 2008.

Five months into retirement, Pete Sowerbrower was diagnosed with terminal cancer. They didn't get to all those things on their retirement list.

He died the day before what would have been their 41st wedding anniversary.



Delores Sowerbrower

As a way of getting her out of the house, Delores Sowerbrower's friend invited her to the Patrick Henry Hays Senior Center in North Little Rock. She not only went to visit, Sowerbrower ended up volunteering at the front desk and still enjoys the job.

She'll be glad to get back to it, and it's something she can do while her knee is still healing.

She'll also get back to being the treasurer of the St. Patrick's Catholic Church Ladies Guild as well as in the church choir.

And she's ready to see her Extension friends, too. Some of the retired women still get together once a month to visit.

She does plan to be more careful when she's working in the garden, though.

"I was watering my one tomato plant – I only had one – when I tripped over the edging and fell on my knee," she said ruefully.

To connect with Delores Sowerbrower, contact her at (501) 412-6195, 406 Taylor Road, Jacksonville, Arkansas, 72076-9387

– Shannon Magsam

From the Editorial Board

Extension Faculty Assume New Roles

Dr. Rick Cartwright, Interim Associate Vice President for Agriculture - Extension and Director, Cooperative Extension Service, recently announced changes that will set the interim Extension administrative lineup.

Vic Ford, director of the Southwest Research and Extension Center, will serve as Interim Associate Director - Agriculture and Natural Resources. Vic will be wearing two hats, continuing to serve as SWREC director.

With Anne Sortor's retirement, Martha Ray Sartor will serve as Interim Associate Director - Family and Consumer Sciences and 4-H Youth Development.

In lieu of appointing an interim assistant director of county operations at this time, the three district directors, Beth Phelps, Sharon Reynolds and Jerry Clemons, will work directly with Rick Cartwright.

"They are experienced leaders with deep roots in Extension, the Division of Agriculture and the Land Grant University System. We are in good hands," Cartwright said.

In addition to these changes, Dr. Laura Hendrix will assume responsibility for the Arkansas Extension Homemakers program.

Martha Ray Sartor stated that "we are fortunate to have someone of Dr. Hendrix's knowledge of county and state programs to work with us in continuing our partnership with this group. Her knowledge of leadership development will be an asset to her in this position."

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Kenneth Pugh, *continued*

The 3-year-old grandson goes around and checks on the cows with "Pock," which is what Pugh's four grandchildren call him. (The story behind that is the eldest grandchild was being coached to call him "Pop" but was also learning how to say "rock." Pock was born.)

Janella is "Nana."

When they're not on the farm, the Pughs like to camp in their fifth wheel for days at a time. They also enjoy traveling to bluegrass/gospel concerts with friends and then participating in jam sessions when they all retire back at the campsite.

Kenneth Pugh plays the guitar and sings.

He's also part of a local band, and the group can most often be found playing at nursing homes around their hometown of Kinta, Oklahoma.

Pugh said playing music is his favorite way to relax.

To reconnect with Kenneth Pugh, contact him at (918) 967-4760, 31032 South County Road 4420, Kinta, Oklahoma, 74552-3065.

– Shannon Magsam

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

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Portia Short, Oct. 1	Armenthia Willis, Oct. 12
Pat Hayden, Oct. 2	Sue Coates, Oct. 13
Larry Pryor, Oct. 2	Jack Boles, Oct. 13
Stan Carter, Oct. 3	James Hood, Jr., Oct. 14
Frank Jones, Oct. 3	Carroll Prewett, Oct. 15
Gerald Klingaman, Oct. 3	Frank Roth II, Oct. 16
Patsy McDougald, Oct. 3	Tom Troxel, Oct. 16
Craig Andersen, Oct. 4	Gail Torok, Oct. 17
Jimmie Bowling, Oct. 5	Mary Parker, Oct. 18
Lazaro English, Oct. 5	Hugh Plumlee, Oct. 19
Judy Riley, Oct. 5	Mable Tate, Oct. 19
Jim Lipsey, Oct. 7	Mary Shaver, Oct. 20
Suzanne Wiley, Oct. 8	James Clower, Oct. 21
Billie Coleman, Oct. 10	Tom Riley, Oct. 22
Glen Ford, Oct. 10	Wanda Snyder, Oct. 23
Lorene McGuire, Oct. 10	Mark Bryles, Oct. 23
Beth Roberts, Oct. 10	Janice Gooch, Oct. 27
Judith Urich, Oct. 11	Janella Pugh, Oct. 31

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