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Governments Cooperating

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Retiree Spotlight

*Rick Thompson
Betty Harrison*

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Retiree Rick Thompson Trades One Job for Another

Rick Thompson may have retired as an Extension staff chair nearly three years ago, but he's still "very much involved in agri."

He retired on a Thursday and the next day he went to work for Armor Seed. He's also an independent crop consultant.

His job has him traveling to Poinsett and Cross counties, mostly, as well as Craighead, Mississippi and Crittenden counties.

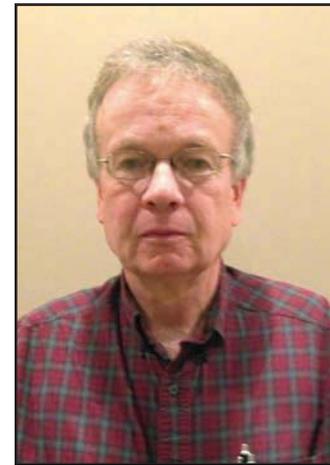
Thompson said, "I'd probably go nuts if I wasn't working."

His wife, Susan, still works for the Department of Human Services and travels often for work. "We see each other at night," Thompson joked.

The Thompsons' son, Jon, and his wife are both in medical school in Mississippi.

Thompson, who graduated with degrees from Arkansas State University and the University of Arkansas, started working for Extension in February 1978 as a county agent - agriculture in Greene County.

In January 1981, he went to work in Clay County in the Corning office. Thompson was



Rick Thompson

named Monroe County staff chair in 1987. A year later he moved to Cross County as staff chair. After eight years, he transferred to Poinsett County and remained there, retiring in March 2011.

The Thompsons enjoy traveling when they can. That excludes summer since that's his peak time to work.

The thing he enjoyed most about Extension was working with farmers, and he's glad to still be able to do that in his new profession.

To reconnect with Rick Thompson, contact him at 5919 Friendship Circle, Jonesboro, Ark. 72404, (870) 919-4962, rickthompson@armorseed.com.

– Shannon Magsam



DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION

University of Arkansas System

Love of Job Kept Harrison Working 41 Years

Betty Harrison worked as administrative support supervisor in Prairie County with about 17 county assistant agents and five county agents for 41 years.

“You know how some people dread going to work?” she said. “Not me. I loved it. I always felt so fortunate.”

Harrison started part-time at first in DeValls Bluff and after a few months became full-time where she was the only secretary in the office except for the occasional temp employee during busy times.

“Basically, it was my baby,” she said.

Though she retired more than four years ago, she’s still available to work on an as-needed basis.

“We had a very close staff,” she said. “We run into each other often. This is a small town.” Harrison said she still attends Christmas parties with Extension friends.

Harrison enjoys retirement and “not doing anything except what I want to,” which

includes traveling with her husband, Fabern.

Three years ago, on their 50th anniversary, they and friends went to Cancun. They’re planning a trip to the Grand Canyon this summer.

“I feel so blessed that our health has held out,” she said.

The Harrisons have two daughters, and they each have two sons. There’s also a new great-grandson who will turn 1, Dec. 21.

To reconnect with Betty Harrison, contact her at 7132 Highway 70 East, DeValls Bluff, Ark. 72041, (870) 998-7038, bettharrison43@gmail.com.

– Shannon Magsam



Betty Harrison



January Birthdays

Kelly Gage, Jan. 1
Ruby Kozel, Jan. 2
Betty Harrison, Jan. 3
Van Stakemiller, Jan. 6
Alva Ray Siler, Jan. 8
Keith Martin, Jan. 9
Fann Woodward, Jan. 9
Steve Culp, Jan. 11
Helen Nowlin, Jan. 12
Ricky Thompson, Jan. 14

C. C. Schaller, Jan. 15
Shirley Bennett, Jan. 17
Glenna Duffel, Jan. 17
Dianne Knuteson, Jan. 17
Bobby Malone, Jan. 17
Shirley Cleek, Jan. 18
Dot Temple, Jan. 18
Jerry Williams, Jan. 20
Marvin Wall, Jan. 21

Ramona Gordon, Jan. 23
Henry Etta Meyer, Jan. 23
Barbara Ball, Jan. 24
Laura LaRue, Jan. 24
Nina Coffee, Jan. 25
Margie Jones, Jan. 25
Don Wiley, Jan. 25
Gary Huitink, Jan. 29
Lois Perkins, Jan. 29



Season's Greetings

From your Editorial Board

Stan Chapman Lorraine Hupp
Lott Rolfe, III Earl Wilson
William Woodall Mike Wright
Fann Woodward
Bob Reynolds, Editor

*Best Wishes
for the Holiday Season
and a Happy New Year!*

Honorary and Memorial Gifts

The following honorary and memorial gift was received to support professional development opportunities for faculty and staff of the Cooperative Extension Service. This list covers memorial gifts deposited Nov. 1-30, 2013.

■ **Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship**

In honor of Margaret Alexander
Kaye ShROUT

Honorary or memorial donations may be forwarded to the Communications Office, Cooperative Extension Service, 2301 South University Avenue, Little Rock, Ark. 72204. To ensure that proper notification is sent, please also include in whose honor or memory the gift is made and the mailing address of the person to receive the notification.

– Elizabeth Childs



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