



# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –**  
Cumberland County Cooperative Extension  
Contact: Lisa Childers  
Telephone: (910) 321-6405  
E-mail: [Lisa\\_Childers@ncsu.edu](mailto:Lisa_Childers@ncsu.edu)

November 18, 2011

## **Cumberland County Agricultural Hall of Fame Members Inducted; Young Farmer of the Year Recognized**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – Two longtime Cumberland County farmers were inducted into the Cumberland County Agricultural Hall of Fame Friday, Nov. 18, at the Annual Kiwanis Club Farm City Week program held in the auditorium of the Cumberland County Cooperative Extension Center. Ted Bunce of Stedman and Edmund Bullard Jr. of Wade were inducted into the Hall of Fame and their portraits were unveiled. Cumberland County's Young Farmer of the Year, William Gillis, was also recognized.

Bunce has farmed most of his life and was a co-founder of Bunce Brothers Farms in 1961. Today, Bunce still farms with his sons, Maxton and Jeffrey, and his nephew David. The family farms more than 900 acres of produce and 500 acres of row crops every season. Bunce; his wife, Ann; and Jeffrey Bunce are also the founders of the annual Farmers' Day held every September in Stedman. Bunce is also an Air Force veteran who received commendation for saving the lives of two pilots who had inadvertently flown into enemy airspace.

Bullard has been a leader in agriculture innovation and was an early leader in using irrigation to achieve high yields and high quality tobacco on sandy soil. A Little League sports coach and a driving force behind the creation of the South River Community Ball Park, Bullard has served on the Farm Service Agency committee in Cumberland County for years.

William Gillis was named the 2011 Cumberland County Young Farmer and Rancher of the Year in an earlier ceremony sponsored by Farm Bureau Oct. 24 at the Crown Exposition Center. Gillis was also recognized at the Kiwanis Farm City Week program and received a plaque. Gillis farms in partnership with his father and brother on their 2,000-acre row crop farm in western Cumberland County – continuing a family tradition that goes back to the 1700s. Gillis has expanded his family's beef operation and added wheat to the row crops grown.

**-more-**



Ted Maxton Bunce poses with his plaque and official portrait after his induction into the Cumberland County Agricultural Hall of Fame at the Annual Kiwanis Club Farm City Week program held at the Cumberland County Cooperative Extension Center in Fayetteville on Friday, Nov. 18. Also pictured is Lisa Childers, Cumberland County Extension Director.



George Edmund Bullard Jr. (holding plaque) poses beside his official portrait after he was inducted into the Cumberland County Agricultural Hall of Fame at the Annual Kiwanis Club Farm City Week program held at the Cumberland County Cooperative Extension Center in Fayetteville on Friday, Nov. 18. Also pictured are Bullard's wife, Margaret Ann, Mac Williams and Cumberland County Extension Director Lisa Childers.

-more-



William Gillis, the 2011 Cumberland County Young Farmer and Rancher of the Year, was recognized at the Annual Kiwanis Club Farm City Week program held at the Cumberland County Cooperative Extension Center on Friday, Nov. 18. Also pictured are Gillis' fiancé Hannah Merkel and Cumberland County Cooperative Extension Director Lisa Childers.

**-end-**