



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Agricultural Hall of Fame Members Inducted; Young Farmer of the Year Recognized

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – Two Cumberland County farmers were inducted into the Cumberland County Agricultural Hall of Fame in November during the annual Kiwanis Club of Fayetteville Farm City Week program. The Kiwanis also recognized the Cumberland County Farm Bureau Young Farmer of the Year.

William Carey Pate of Gray's Creek and the late Wayland Ceaton (W.C.) Gardner of Wade were inducted into the Hall of Fame. Their portraits now hang with those of past inductees in the auditorium of the Cooperative Extension Center.

After graduating from Gray's Creek High School, Pate remained on his family's farm, leaving only to serve in the U.S. Army for two years. He grew corn, soybeans, peanuts and tobacco during his more than 60 years of farming full-time. He also raised hogs from 1975 until her semi-retired in 1990.

Pate worked closely with the Cooperative Extension Service, Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District and the National Resources Conservation Service to implement best management practices on his farm. He is an active member of the Cumberland County Livestock Association and the North Carolina Pork Producers Association.

Gardner, who passed away six years ago, was a lifelong farmer and equine enthusiast. After serving in World War II, he settled on the 990-acre family farm on River Road in Wade. He farmed corn, soybeans and small grains. He raised beef cattle and operated one of the last dairies in Cumberland County. The 80-cow dairy sold milk to Pine State from 1950 until 1973.

He raised and sold registered American Quarter horses, and the Cape Fear Trail Riders honored him by naming the clubhouse and arena, located on River Road, the W.C. Gardner Horse Arena. Gardner's two sons continue farming in Cumberland and Harnett counties.

Brandon Dwayne Jernigan was named the 2012 Cumberland County Farm Bureau Young Farmer of the Year. Jernigan is a fourth-generation farmer. A graduate of Cape Fear High School, he continues the tradition of growing tobacco and soybeans on the family farm in Godwin.

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William Carey Pate



Wayland Ceaton (W.C.) Gardner



Kiwanis Club of Fayetteville President Rick Perko, left, presents Brandon Jernigan with the Young Farmer of the Year award.

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