



# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Cooperative Extension

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

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – A retired soil conservation district manager and a lifelong farmer were inducted into the Cumberland County Agricultural Hall of Fame on Nov. 20 during the annual Farm City Week program held by the Cumberland County Cooperative Extension and the Kiwanis Club of Fayetteville.

Kay Blake Bullard and Mark Gilbert “Gip” Smith were inducted into the Hall of Fame and their portraits will hang with those of past inductees in the I.B. Julian Auditorium of the Cooperative Extension office at the Charlie Rose Agri-Expo Center, located at 301 E. Mountain Dr.

“Kay Bullard has been a champion of agriculture because of her outreach to teach young people about environmental issues and promote awareness of conserving our soil and water; and Gip Smith was a pioneer in the cattle business in Cumberland County and is well known as one of our most knowledgeable cattlemen and farmers,” said Cooperative Extension Director Lisa Childers.

Bullard served as the manager of the Cumberland Soil & Water Conservation District from 1999 until her retirement in 2013. During her service, Bullard facilitated N.C. Project Food, Land and People educator workshops for teachers in Cumberland County and Area VII District. Bullard was instrumental in creating lesson plans that aligned with the N.C. Education Goals and Objectives. The soil and water district received numerous awards while Bullard was manager, including Outstanding District of the Year (2002, 2006, 2011 and 2013) and the District Conservation Award in 2004.

Bullard is a member of the N.C. Carolina Conservation District Employees Association, N.C. Environmental Educators Association and the N.C. Association of Education Office Professionals. Bullard grew up on a family farm where her family pioneered best management practices using “no-till” conservation techniques. Her husband, Ray, and son, Collins, are Cumberland County farmers.

Smith has lived on a family farm along River Road in eastern North Carolina since 1937 when his family moved from Sampson County. He decided to farm full-time in 1955 after returning from military service and over six decades has grown tobacco, soybeans, corn, wheat and other row crops on his properties in Cumberland, Duplin and Sampson counties.

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Smith also raised hogs and cows. He expanded his cattle operation in 1970 when he built a feedlot on River Road that would hold up to 400 beef cattle. The feedlot business thrived and “M.G. Smith Farms” cows were shipped to packing companies in North Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, Florida and beyond.

At age 85, Smith continues to farm today. He has been married for 58 years to his wife, Janie. His brother John Smith was inducted into the Cumberland County Agricultural Hall of Fame in 2002.

William Ernest Canady was recognized as the 2015 Cumberland County Young Farmer of the Year. Canady is a fifth generation farmer who farms 500 acres of corn, soybean and hay in the Gray’s Creek community. Canady is a full-time equipment operator for the U.S. Forestry Service and a volunteer firefighter. Canady is a graduate of South View High School and attended Southeastern Community College.

Bryce Lane, star of the Emmy award-winning horticulture show *In the Garden with Bryce Lane*, was the guest speaker. Lane, a former N.C. State University horticulture instructor, has been gardening for 30 years at the J.C. Raulston Arboretum.



**Kay Blake Bullard, pictured with husband Ray, was inducted into the Cumberland County Agricultural Hall of Fame during the annual Farm City Week program held by the Cumberland County Cooperative Extension and the Kiwanis Club of Fayetteville.**



**Kiwanis Club of Fayetteville President Judge Talmage Baggett inducts Mark Gilbert “Gip” Smith into the Cumberland County Agricultural Hall of Fame during the annual Farm City Week program held by the Cumberland County Cooperative Extension and the Kiwanis Club of Fayetteville. Also pictured is Smith’s wife, Janie Smith.**



**William Ernest Canady is recognized as the 2015 Cumberland County Young Farmer of the Year at the Farm City Week program held by the Cumberland County Cooperative Extension and the Kiwanis Club of Fayetteville. Also pictured are Kiwanis Club of Fayetteville President Judge Talmage Baggett, Corbin Canady, Carly Canady, Linda Canady, Janice Canady and Ernest Canady.**