



# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Cooperative Extension

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## **Agricultural Hall of Fame Members Inducted**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – A soil conservationist and a former Cooperative Extension Director were inducted into the Cumberland County Agricultural Hall of Fame on Nov. 22 during the annual Kiwanis Club of Fayetteville Farm City Week program.

Julian McIntyre and George Autry 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 on East Mountain Drive.

McIntyre grew up on a farm in Robeson County. A World War II veteran and N.C. State University graduate, he worked for 34 years with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service. He moved to Cumberland County in 1968 and was the District Conservationist for 18 years until his retirement in 1986.

Over the years, McIntyre spent long hours in the fields and woods throughout the county with landowners seeking guidance on windbreaks, irrigation ponds, drainage ditches and a wide range of conservation projects. He was instrumental in reviving the old Flea Hill drainage system, which was first dug during the early 1900s in the Eastover and Wade area.

“In order to get the project started and keep it going, Mr. McIntyre had to have a lot of one-on-one contact with the farmers and landowners to improve their land as the adjacent canals were cleaned out and enlarged,” said Cumberland County Extension Director Lisa Childers.

Retired Cumberland County Extension Director George Autry began his career with N.C. Cooperative Extension in 1976 after graduating from N.C. State University. He worked two years as an agent in Halifax County then transferred to Cumberland County in 1978. He became the county’s extension director in 1985, a job he held until his retirement in 2009.

Autry was honored for his work with the county’s farmers and in establishing the Charlie Rose Agri-Expo Center and Agriculture Office, the Cumberland County Voluntary Agricultural District Program and many other projects, including the Agricultural Hall of Fame. The recognition program started in 1989 as a way to honor people who have made a significant contribution to agriculture.

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Acknowledging the portraits hanging in the auditorium, Autry said he was honored and humbled to be included among those “pioneers” of agriculture represented on the wall.

The 2013 Cumberland County Farm Bureau Young Farmer of the Year, Ryan Kennedy of Gray’s Creek, was unable to attend the luncheon. Kennedy is a fifth-generation farmer who started planting his own garden, complete with field corn and a few stalks of tobacco, when he was 6 years old. A graduate of Gray’s Creek High School and the Agricultural Institute at N.C. State University, he has a degree in ornamentals and landscape technologies. Upon completing his degree, Kennedy returned to family’s farm full time and introduced innovative practices.

Kennedy is the son of David and Rose Kennedy. His grandfather, Earl Smith, was named the Young Farmer of the Year in 1963.



*George Autry, left, and Julian McIntyre were inducted into the Cumberland County Agricultural Hall of Fame during the Kiwanis Club of Fayetteville Farm City Week luncheon.*

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