

University of Arkansas,  
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## Retired Livestock Specialist Now a Traveling Man

### Retiree Spotlight

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DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE  
RESEARCH & EXTENSION

University of Arkansas System

**D**r. Robert Felsman still wakes super early some mornings, even though his alarm is not set.

He's been retired from Extension for nearly three years, so there's no rush to get to work. These days his sunrise activities often involve a leisurely cup of coffee on the porch and then a check on his fruit trees and berry bushes. He also enjoys seeing what the wildlife have been up to. He and his wife, Elaine, recently observed a mama fox raise her three kits on their property.

Alternately, he and his wife might hop into their camper and just drive. They often have no agenda – besides eventually making it to visit one of their sons in Texas or Wyoming.

“We just get behind the wheel and might just pop up anywhere,” he said.

The Felsmans retired around the same time. Dr. Felsman, who has a bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland and master's and doctorate degrees from North Carolina State University, worked for Extension 36 years as an Extension livestock management specialist. He started out in that post in 1973, although his duties and titles changed slightly over the years.

One of the duties included hosting the horse show for the Southeast District. He was also the livestock superintendent for the Southeast



Dr. Robert Felsman

District Fair and swine superintendent for the State Fair.

Dr. Felsman still helps with the swine judging, even in retirement.

He considered purchasing a herd of cattle when he retired, but his wife's bypass surgery prompted him to focus on her and their shared pursuits rather than being tied down to a herd.

He and his wife sometimes travel to Hot Springs to stay at the Arlington and dance a little to the live bands that play there on Friday nights.

They've staked out a few favorite RV parks in D.C., Baltimore, Knoxville and the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Sometimes they have to ditch the camper and hop a flight.

“Every two or three weeks we'll take off,” Dr. Felsman said. “We're looking at another trip to Ireland this fall.”

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## Retired PTAC Director Coates Pursuing Ph.D. Back Home in New Mexico

When Sue Coates was offered her first procurement job in 1973, she quipped to her brand-new bosses at Bechtel: “Procurement sounds like a fancy word for shopping.”

Twenty-three years later she landed in the Procurement Technical Assistance Program at West Valley College in Santa Clara County, Calif.

It turns out that Coates has a gift for simplifying the complex. That’s why, at 70-something, she’s still a resource around the country for her knowledge of PTAC and government contracts.

Her PTAC experience brought her to Arkansas’ Cooperative Extension Service in 2003, where she worked under Toni Tosch.

Later as director of the Arkansas PTAC, which was able to help many businesses navigate the hurdles to land government contracts, Coates also started the annual Veteran’s In Business Conference. She retired in 2010.

“I recall thinking, ‘I’m not going to be on this earth forever. There are some other things I want to do,’” she said.

Earning a doctorate in Organizational Learning and Instructional Technologies was one of Coates’ post-retirement goals. When she first started looking around to see where she might earn such a degree, she was still living in Malvern. She was thrilled to see that the degree was offered at the University of New Mexico, a state she considers home.



Sue Coates

And moving “home” was also among the things Coates wanted to do in her retirement years. The move was official last year. Her father was born (and is buried) in Raton, New Mexico, and Coates often traveled from her hometown of Dallas to New Mexico in the summers. Four generations are buried in the nearby Raton cemetery, and she has lots of cousins in the area.

She’s enjoying reconnecting with her family and is appreciating all that New Mexico has to offer – beautiful scenery, amazing festivals and the arts. She loves the high desert, though she has to wear sunscreen.

Coates has been accepted into the university’s doctorate program for the fall semester.

Coates continues speaking on the topic of government contracts, as she has done for over 30 years. She also helps out as a procurement specialist for the Native American PTAC in Albuquerque.

To reconnect with Sue Coates, contact her at 505-266-2115, 1527 Hermosa Drive, NE, Albuquerque, N.M. 87110.

– Shannon Magsam

## Honorary and Memorial Gifts

The following honorary and memorial gifts were received to support professional development opportunities for faculty and staff of the Cooperative Extension Service. This list covers honorary and memorial gifts deposited June 1-30, 2012.

### ■ Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship

*In honor of LaVerne Feaster Lott Rolfe III and Associates*

Honorary or memorial donations may be forwarded to the Development Office, Cooperative Extension Service, 2301 South University Avenue, Little Rock, AR 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. – Merritt Royal

## Rhodes Named Master Breeder

Bob Rhodes, retired Franklin County Extension agent, has attained the level of Master Breeder of black Cochin bantams. Master Breeders must have 20 or more major wins with the same breed and variety of bantam chicken in shows sanctioned by the American Bantam Association. Rhodes is the first and only person to attain Master Breeder Status on any breed in Arkansas.

## James Turner, Retired Printer Supervisor, Dies

James Aaron Turner, 66, of Little Rock died June 8.

Turner began his Extension service in 1988 as a printer and was promoted to printer supervisor in 1999. He retired in 2008.

He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Dorothy; daughter, Melanie; son, James Jr.; his mother, Viola Turner; six brothers, Ted, John, Larry, Ishmael, Charles and Liona; and four sisters, Arlene, Victoria, Anner and Catherine.

Funeral services were held at Second Baptist, 1709 Barrow Road, on June 15. — *Laura Goforth*

## Carl Farler, Retired Economist, Dies

Carl Farler, 81, of Mabelvale, died June 23 at Saline Memorial Hospice in Bryant.

He earned his B.S. degree in agriculture from Berea College and a Ph.D. degree in agricultural economics from the University of Kentucky.

Farler joined the Extension Service in 1971 as an Extension economist in the Little Rock state office and became agricultural economics section leader in 1979. He retired in 1986.

After his retirement, he became a professor of agricultural economics and head of the business department at the University of Arkansas at Monticello.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Betty Farler; sons, Michael and Douglas Farler; daughter, Sandra Farler Hoyt; nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A private memorial service was held on June 24 at the Farler home. Memorial donations may be made to Saline Memorial Hospice, 23157 Interstate 30, Bryant, Ark. 72022. — *Laura Goforth*

## From the Editorial Board

The record drought and heat are probably changing many of our daily routines.

For most of us that means more time spent indoors and under the air conditioner and less time gardening, fishing, walking, golfing or other favorite outdoor activity.

If you have not made walking part of your daily routine, we encourage you to add a walk each day, early in the morning before it becomes much too hot, because of the health benefits walking provides.

Recent studies indicate that we should exercise about 30 minutes a day, and if you choose to walk, you actually help the health of your brain, according to a recent study which indicates that walking, more than any other exercise, helps fend off dementia.

Studies also tell us that we are better off reading and pursuing other activities than sitting in front of TV, which can adversely affect our physical, cognitive and mental well-being.

So, don't let the heat limit and define your days. Stay active, but do so in a sensible way that respects the affects too much sun can cause. In the meantime, we can hope relief from the record drought and heat will soon come our way.

*Your editorial board*

### Editorial Board Members

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## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Raymond Duncan, Aug. 1	Beverly Fountain, Aug. 15	Wanda O'Neal, Aug. 20	Thomas Evrard, Aug. 24
Billy Moore, Aug. 1	Mark Brawner, Aug. 17	James B. Ragland, Aug. 20	Sharran McCullar, Aug. 24
Berline Wright, Aug. 1	Barbara Holt, Aug. 17	Claudia Corbin, Aug. 21	Charles Whitaker, Aug. 24
Betty Poe Holman, Aug. 4	Jeannette Pollard, Aug. 18	Lorraine Hupp, Aug. 21	James Clements, Aug. 25
Louise Burns, Aug. 5	Gail Clark, Aug. 19	Barbara Simmons, Aug. 21	Terry Davis, Aug. 25
Ronald Beaty, Aug. 9	Carolyn Grimes, Aug. 19	Robert Davis, Aug. 22	Martha Albright, Aug. 26
Delbert Taylor, Aug. 11	Laura Luther, Aug. 19	Earlton Sanders, Jr., Aug. 23	Frank Plafcan, Aug. 28
Gene Lowrey, Aug. 14	Gloria V. Pickett, Aug. 19	Betty Y. Thomas, Aug. 23	Lott Rolfe III, Aug. 29
Rosa Davis, Aug. 15	Estella Hayes, Aug. 20		John Langston, Aug. 30

Cooperative Extension Service  
2301 South University Avenue  
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**Felsman** (cont. from p. 1)

“We went to New York City recently. We often travel to west Texas, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Nevada. We like swinging out to that part of the world a whole lot.”

When they’re home, the Felsmans tend their 11 acres, including some vegetable gardening. They keep friends and family supplied with muscadine jelly. He’s had to outthink the animals that apparently view his berries, fruit trees and vegetables as a “buffet line.”

“I’ve always fooled with cattle, so this is new to me,” Dr. Felsman said.

To reconnect with Dr. Robert Felsman, contact him at 870-879-2862, 7407 Highway 79 South, Pine Bluff, Ark. 71603.

– Shannon Magsam

Yes, I want to support the *Advance 25K: Continuing a Legacy* fundraising initiative in support of the Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship.

Enclosed is my gift of  \$20.12     Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

My gift is  in honor /  in memory of

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Please make check payable to the **UA Foundation** and mail to Martha Thorpe, Communications Dept., 2301 South University Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72204-4940.