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## Retiree Spotlight -

*Steve Culp  
Ada Raye Hicks*

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DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE  
RESEARCH & EXTENSION

University of Arkansas System

## Culp Making Money With Honey

Steve Culp has found something that takes the sting out of retirement – raising honeybees.

Culp retired four years ago and decided to turn his honey hobby into something more commercial.

“I had always wanted a farm and to own my own business,” he said. “Now I have the best of both worlds.”

This is Culp’s second career. He retired in June 2009 as a staff chair in Craighead County. His first Extension job, as a 4-H agent in Alexandria, La., began after he graduated with a master’s degree from Arkansas State University in 1980.

Later that year he moved to Mississippi County in Blytheville as an assistant agent. He was then promoted to staff chair in Prairie County in 1988. He moved to Monroe County as a staff chair and then to Craighead County, which is where he retired.



Steve Culp

Culp remained in Jonesboro. After retirement, he expanded his bee business and has since built it up to about 900 hives.

You might say he’s found his sweet spot.

In addition to selling honey to stores and packers by the drum, Culp also trucks his bees to California to pollinate almonds.

“It’s very gratifying to feed people and to help with pollinating crops,” he said.

Culp’s wife of 35 years, Cheryl, and their sons all help out on Culps’ Honey Farm. The Culps’ sons, Sam and

Josh, have helped with the bees since they were kids. Both are married.

Culp’s passion for bees started when he was in high school and had a few hives. He picked up his smoker again while working for Extension and after hearing Bobby Coy, a commercial beekeeper whose sons were in 4-H in Craighead County, tell him “every county agent needs a hive or two of bees.”

Culp said his work at Extension was very gratifying as well. He mentioned two things he was particularly proud

**(Cont. page 2)**

## “Sell, Sell, Sell” Is Hicks' Motto

Ada Raye Hicks' house is filled to the brim (including the attic) with beautiful clocks, lamps, glassware and innumerable antiques.

She has decided that it's time to part with some of her pretties, so her only son, Gary, has traveled back to his hometown of Batesville to help her sort through the stuff and sell, sell, sell.

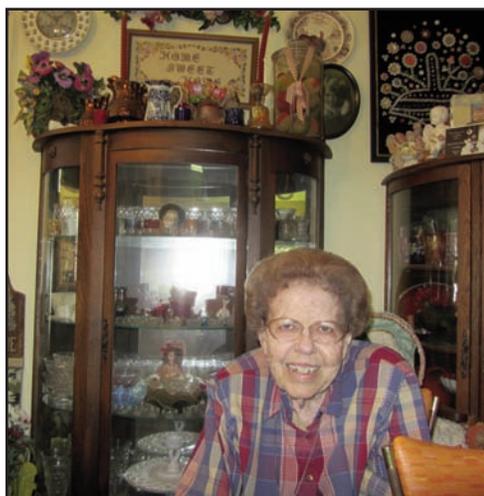
“I've got lots of china cabinets full of antiques,” Hicks said. “It's hard to part with the things I've collected over the years.”

Hicks has always loved the art of buying and selling antiques. She and her late husband, Bill, were avid clock collectors and traveled often as part of the hunt.

Hicks pursued her hobby while working at Extension in Batesville for 28 years, then stepped up her passion after retiring in 1994. Hicks started at Extension in 1966, working as a typist. Her title at retirement was stenographer.

She said the best thing about working for Extension was the people she encountered on a daily basis – the agents, farmers and folks with questions. The worst thing? The paperwork. Hicks said the duplicates, triplicates and overall paper weight was astonishing.

She recalled helping the agents out with soil testing



Ada Raye Hicks

and water samples. She enjoyed the variety in the work and how everyone in the office helped each other out.

Nowadays, Hicks, 84, is not feeling well but hopes to rally. She has friends and family who love to visit and she often “has a house full.” Hicks has three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Her son said she used to cook three meals a day. “She used to make us fried chicken, gravy and dinner rolls after church every Sunday,” he said.

But he's the main cook now. Or the bringer of fast food. Hicks loves Popeye's chicken, so they often eat that in between getting the antiques out and ready to sell.

To reconnect with Ada Raye Hicks, contact her at 430 East Sidney, Batesville, AR 72501-3560, (870) 793-3110.

– Shannon Magsam

## Honorary and Memorial Gifts -

The following memorial gift was received to support professional development opportunities for faculty and staff of the Cooperative Extension Service. This list covers memorial gifts deposited July 1-31, 2013.

### ■ Cooperative Extension Service Retiree - Scholarship -

*In memory of Lowell Lankford  
Ruben Johnson*

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.

– Elizabeth Childs

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### Steve Culp (Cont. from page 1)

of during his tenure as staff chair in Craighead County: the beautiful, new Extension office that was built and the Master Gardener program he started growing.

Culp noted he really loved working with farmers while at Extension and still has the pleasure of visiting them from time to time as part of his bee business.

To reconnect with Steve Culp, contact him at 4373 County Road 912, Jonesboro, AR 72401, (870) 931-1530.

– Shannon Magsam

## From the Editorial Board

We need your input.

With costs increasing for printing and distributing the *Extension Cord*, we need to make a decision.

Do we continue printing and mailing the *Extension Cord* but increase the cost of the subscription to \$18 annually? Do we keep the subscription at its \$12 a year rate and change from a monthly to a quarterly newsletter? Or do we stop printing the newsletter and distribute it electronically only through the Internet each month?

Those are the three options we discussed, but before we reach a decision, we need you to give us your opinions or other possible solutions we have not considered. Keep in mind, federal and state funding of the Cooperative Extension

Service is dwindling, and so the option of asking the UACES to pick up the tab is not one we can consider.

We will include in our September issue a short survey for you to complete and return to us so you can have input. We will also place the survey online for those of you who have Internet access and feel comfortable going online and answering questions.

In the meantime, please stay out of the heat and stay healthy.

*Your editorial board*

### Editorial Board Members

Fann Woodward  
Mike Wright  
Stan Chapman  
Lott Rolfe, III

Lorraine Hupp  
Earl Wilson  
William Woodall

Bob Reynolds, Editor

## Ted Jones, Former Extension Director, Dies

Ted L. Jones, retired Extension director, died June 30, 2013, in Hilliard, Ohio.

Jones began his Extension career as assistant county agent – 4-H for the Missouri Cooperative Extension Service in 1951 and subsequently held research and Extension positions in Missouri, Tennessee and Ohio. He retired as professor and assistant director – agricultural industry, Ohio Cooperative Extension Service, Ohio State University, in 1988 and one day later assumed responsibilities as director of the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, a position he held until his retirement from that position in 1990. – *Laura Goforth*

## 4-H Governor's Award Finalists on YouTube

The 2013 4-H Governor's Award was presented to Janeé Shofner, 19, of Benton County at the 4-H Awards of Excellence Banquet July 25 at the State 4-H O-Rama in Fayetteville.

You can view a video profile of Janeé and the other two finalists for this award, Sarah Mills and Meredith Williams, on YouTube at <http://youtu.be/zBBNqoGKfL4>, <http://youtu.be/4-eF11y6vK8> and <http://youtu.be/gBYnVb0xXCo>. The girls represent Arkansas 4-H well.

Dr. Tony Windham expressed his appreciation for the numerous individuals and professional organizations who support the 4-H program through their donations.

## September Birthdays

Kay Dickens, Sept. 1  
Vernon Wills, Sept. 1  
Diana Baker, Sept. 4  
James Denton, Sept. 4  
Johnnie Younger, Sept. 5  
Jean Crow, Sept. 6  
Carol Sanders, Sept. 8  
Barbara Singleton, Sept. 8  
Venetta Rice, Sept. 9  
Jerry Wooley, Sept. 9  
Catherine Grills, Sept. 12  
Lee Hunter, Sept. 12  
Bill Wallace, Sept. 12  
Loretta Smith, Sept. 14  
Raymond Benz, Sept. 16  
John Leinhardt, Sept. 16  
Charles Albritton, Sept. 17  
Irene Carlock, Sept. 18  
Steven Simpson, Sept. 18  
Sherylon Mason, Sept. 20  
Bill Jones, Sept. 21  
June Williams, Sept. 21  
Mike Wright, Sept. 21  
Tom Mertens, Sept. 23  
Willie Booker, Sept. 25  
Stephen Vann, Sept. 27  
William Dodgen, Sept. 28  
Henry Rice, Sept. 28  
Bettie Wilson, Sept. 30



Cooperative Extension Service  
2301 South University Avenue  
Little Rock, AR 72204-4940

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Address for notification of honorary and memorial gifts:

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