

FARMERS COOPERATIVE

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Quarter Century of Service

Co-op Director Archie Davis Retires

By Todd Lawrence and Pauline Fletcher Cogdill

On Nov. 1, 2011, at Farmers Cooperative's Board of Directors Meeting, General Manager Todd Lawrence presented Archie Davis with a commemorative clock engraved with "In recognition of 25 years of loyal, dedicated service as a Director for Farmers Cooperative, Inc."

The truth of it is, Archie has been a cooperative-minded individual since he was a very young boy. He recalls going to one of the first cooperative meetings with his dad when his dad bought a \$25.00 investment certificate to get a farmers cooperative established in Madison County.

ARCHIE REFLECTS ON how excited farmers were to be able to have their own Farmers Mutual Exchange store whereby they could have a say in having quality farm products purchased with some control over the prices for goods bought and sold.

Roger Williams, Julian Andrews, Neil McLeod, Curt Pittman, and Carl Sims, as well as several other outstanding leaders in their community, would be very instrumental in setting the foundation for a very cohesive group of farmers to take their place in history in the farming industry.

Following graduation from Madison High School in 1959 at the young age of 17, Archie joined the United States Navy. Upon completion of basic training he attended submarine school in New London, Conn. Archie completed his tour of duty aboard the US Chopper SS-342 submarine in Key West, Florida in 1962.

August of 1962, Archie enrolled in North Florida Junior College, and graduated with honors. It was at NFJC he met a beautiful girl, Patsy Bishop from Greenville, Fla. Archie and Patsy graduated from North Florida Junior College and were married in 1965. Patsy enrolled at Florida State University where she earned her Bachelor's degree in education, and Archie became a University of Florida graduate receiving his Bachelor's degree in animal science.

D. W. Brooks, general manager of Cotton States Production (later known as Gold Kist) was an individual that Archie Davis had such

great respect and admiration for when he spoke in Madison regarding the establishment of a cooperative. Mr. Brooks was a dynamic speaker with charisma and devoted Christian values which went a long way with Archie. So it was without hesitation that he took the job offered to him as personnel manager for Gold Kist Poultry in Live Oak shortly after graduating from college.

Archie worked for Gold Kist Poultry for 10 years while still farming after he got home from work. Farming has always been a livelihood for the Davis family. His father, Lonnie Davis, was a Madison County Sheriff from 1936 thru 1948. In the 1950s Lonnie and Margaret bought a farm in Lee and moved his family from Madison to the farm in Lee.

Continued on next page



Retiring Director Archie Davis is flanked by Farmers Cooperative Chairman Walter K. Brown (left) and General Manager Todd Lawrence (right)

Archie Davis Retires As Co-op Director

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IN 1968, ARCHIE and Patsy rented the farm land from his dad, and knew he had to buy farm equipment to make his operation a success. His uncle, J. B. Davis, was a dealer for Allis Chalmers and he took Archie to the bank to purchase a tractor, harrower, cultivator, and bottom plow for the large sum of \$5,000.

Everything went well until the banker asked, "Archie, do you have any money to put down on this equipment?" Of course, Archie replied, "I don't have anything to put as a down payment."

Uncle J. B. Davis told the banker at the Bank of Greenville to let Archie have the equipment and Archie would make his payments, and thus Archie and Patsy were new owners of a lot of expensive farm equipment. No credit check, no collateral, just completing a loan application and, with a handshake and an honest promise of payment, the Davises had their loan approved. The loan was actually paid before the due date.

The Davis farm began with a small herd of cattle, and Archie was one of the first farmers in their area to plant soybeans. Archie also worked hard growing corn, wheat, rye, and iron clay peas, and in 1973 Archie and Patsy bought the 440-acre farm from his dad.

On Nov. 15, 1971, first-born daughter Christy made her entrance into the world and brought a lot of joy to the Davis family. Christy graduated from Madison High School and was honored as the Salutatorian of her class. She enrolled in the University of Florida and graduated with honors in the Master of Educa-

tion program.

NO DOUBT, THE HIGH achievement gene was passed along to Patsy and Archie's child. Christy is married to Alan Androski, who is a math teacher at Madison High School. Christy gave up her teaching job a few years ago to be a full-time mother to their four children: Adam, Luke, Leah, and Sarah. The Androskis renovated the farmhouse grandparents Margaret and Lonnie Davis built in 1959. The Androskis are now raising their children on the old home site.

On Aug. 1, 1974, the Davises' first son, Jamie, was born. Jamie graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Arts in the Art program. Jamie is the adventurous one in the family. Jamie was working at Yellowstone National Park when he met his wife, Anna, who was a Russian exchange student also working there. Jamie and Anna fell in love and were married in her hometown in Russia.

Jamie and Anna have a son, Dmitrey, who will be four years old in February. Jamie and Anna own and operate the Day Light Salon in Madison. In addition to assisting Anna in her business, Jamie is also employed at Corporate Graphics in Madison.

On Aug. 15, 1975, Archie and Patsy were blessed with another son, Lonnie. Lonnie is also a University of Florida graduate. Lonnie fulfilled his father's dream as a veterinarian and has his practice in Cornelius, NC. Lonnie is married to Robbin Crouthamel, who teaches piano, and they are the proud parents of a five-month-old daughter, Bethany.

After 40 years of teaching throughout Florida (Lake Butler, Brandon, Madison, and Lee, with 38 years of her teaching in Madison



Archie and Patsy Davis

County), Patsy retired to be home with Archie. Patsy has learned to enjoy fishing as well as working the farm with Archie. Going back to farm life has its own rewards—having more time with their precious grandchildren, assisting in the daily cattle operation, and in general enjoying the good farm life. Archie and Patsy are active members of First Baptist Church in Madison. They both express their blessings every day, and they will tell you they have all they need and want.

ARCHIE HAS BEEN instrumental in setting board policies and is always very diligent in making sound decisions for our Cooperative members. His expertise on Big Bend Farmers Mutual Exchange made him a perfect candidate for Farmers Cooperative's Board of Directors when we merged with Big Bend Cooperative in January 1986.

We at Farmers Cooperative will certainly miss Archie's analytical input on the Board of Directors. And just a footnote, if you ever need someone to give an invocation for you, Archie is your man.

Saving Money

Our 5% advance deposit program will be available through Jan. 31, 2012.

For our patrons who are not familiar with the Co-op's 5% advance deposit program, we will offer a 5% discount on fertilizer, seed, and chemicals when you deposit a cash advance during the month of January 2012.

The 5% discount does not apply, however, to equipment construction contracts. When you have decided just how much money you will need to spend at the Cooperative for the calendar year 2012, please stop by your Co-op at Live Oak or Madison and we will be happy to assist you with your farming needs.

So, if you are really interested in getting the most out of your money, our advance deposit program will give you an even greater savings than the 5% discount.

Congratulations Dedicated Employees



From left to right: Pauline Cogdill (30 years), Heather Kelley (5 years) and Todd Lawrence. Not pictured: Ira Webb (10 years).

Co-op Shows Small Profit in Tough Times

Farmers Cooperative's 65th Annual Membership Meeting was held at First Baptist Church in Live Oak on Oct. 1, 2011. Following registration, the meeting started at 10:00 a.m.

WHERE ARE THESE FOLKS?

Farmers Cooperative is trying to locate the following people whose patronage refund checks have been returned from the U.S. Postal Service as "undeliverable":

Frank Cantey, Madison
Robert E Couture, McAlpin
Wilmer Deas, Jasper
William Elliott, Wellborn
William F. Gamble, Mayo
Alise Ivory, Lake City
Walter D. Rowell, Shady Grove
Robert D. Whiddon, Perry

General Manager Todd Lawrence reported an annual sales volume of \$8,662,477 with a net profit of \$10,146. Lawrence reported that with the economic difficulties that our nation has faced, he was pleased to have a profit even if it was a small one. Lawrence also reported that due to the small amount of profit, the Board of Directors voted not to pay a patronage refund.

LAWRENCE reminded members of the financial strength of the Co-op, and even though it had been a tough year, the Co-op has survived much better than many businesses during this time.

General Manager Lawrence then showed a video on Time Well Spent that was presented on RFD TV how Farmers Cooperative supports local youth activities. These activities include FFA, 4-H, and the Bonnie Plants 3rd grade cabbage program.

After the business meeting, several door prizes were awarded to the members attending the Annual Membership Meeting.

How Big are your Antlers?

Florida Wildlife Commission will be at Farmers Co-op in Live Oak on Saturday, Feb. 4, from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm to score your antlers.

This is free to anyone who would like to know the Boone and Crocket score of their antlers.

Any antlers scoring 100 B & C points for a typical rack and 125 B & C points for non-typical rack will make its place in the Florida Buck Registry.

This will also be the Official scoring used to decide the winners of the Farmers Cooperative Big Buck Contest.

For the Past Quarter

NEW CO-OP MEMBERS

LIVE OAK STORE

Ellie Arman, McAlpin
Jackie J. Taylor, Live Oak
K S K Farm, Williston
Radha Selvester, Live Oak
Vermer B. Leake, Mayo
Troy Pearson, Mayo
James R. Phelan, Live Oak
Maria Acanda, Live Oak
Steven Lucas, Lake City
Gardens Edge Growers, Jacksonville
Rondi Albers, Live Oak
Jerry W. Edmonson, Lake City
Gloria Townsend, Live Oak
Earlene Green, Jasper
Ella P. Mobley, McAlpin
Linda Underwood, Live Oak
Michael Gross, Live Oak
James Catanzaro, Jennings
Janet & John Good, Live Oak
Randell Matthews, Live Oak
Donnie Thornton, Live Oak
Dawn Malone, Live Oak
Michelle Smolin, White Springs
Richard A. Lee, Lake City
Emma L. Feagle, Jasper
Greg Collett, Lake City
James J. Ryan, Live Oak
Robert Dyce, Jasper
Barbara Andrews, Live Oak

Christopher Reed, Live Oak
Audrey E. Murray, Live Oak
Holly E. Britt, Live Oak
Bertha Oberto, Live Oak
Diana F. Smith, Wellborn
Pine Products, Inc., Branford
Dorothy W. Wilson, O'Brien
Lydia Von Borstel, Lake City
Jane Bender, Branford
Alan R. Ellerkamp, Live Oak
Charles H. Tillman, Live Oak
Joe Paulk, Jacksonville
Keri Kinchen, Live Oak
Agustin Centeno, Ft. White
Patrick K. Wilcox, Mayo
Dana & John Reynolds, Lake city
Arvell Tremmell, Live Oak
Co-Free DBA Jiffy Food Stores, Live Oak
Roger J. Morris, Largo
Curtis Carey, Live Oak
Robert White, Live Oak
Johanna Karr, Lake City
Thomas W. Hale, Live Oak
Ernie Worth, Live Oak
Nedra J. Randall, Live Oak
Harold M. Askew, Jr., Live Oak
Bruce Hamlin, Mayo
Dillan Moore, Lee
Tony M. Melvin, Branford
Lyta Folsom, Day
Tim & Elaine Murray, Day

Dale Burton, Live Oak
Randy Jordan, Live Oak
Velma Jean McClamma, Live Oak
Dennis Plain, Lee
Dianna Hallett, Live Oak
Ryan Crist, Live Oak
Roy Fabel, Islamorada
Randy Sevald, Mayo
Natalie Haney, Lake City
Nathan E. Minshe, Davenport
Oscar R. Thomas, Live Oak
Johnny Brooks, Live Oak
Paul Andrews, Live Oak
Carlyle S. Swofford, Jr., Wellborn
Larry Cook, Live Oak
Connie Coates, Live Oak
Jacob Russell Avery, Live Oak
Denise Wakely, Live Oak
Karen Butler, Wellborn
Stoudemire's Restaurant, Live Oak
Elaine E. Crapps, Live Oak
Lyle Stanley Trace, LLC, Lee
Audrey Green, Live Oak
Larry Harris, Lake City
Douglas P. Wilson, Lake City
James E. Pennington, DVM, Melrose

MADISON STORE

Andrew Hudgins, Pinellas Park, Fl.
Peak, Richard, Greenville, Fl.

Jones Fencing, Lee, Fl.
Robbie Walker, Pinetta, Fl.
Chris & Kelly Lyons, Mayo, Fl.
Ted Salmons, Perry, Fl.
Pamela Brooks, Madison, Fl.
Edythe Corley, Monticello, Fl.
Samuel Wyche, Madison, Fl.
Avery L. Short, New Port Richey, Fl.
Charles Hardy Keller, Perry, Fl.
Harold Emrich, Madison, Fl.
Dunn Farm, Jennings, Fl.
Tyler Shadrack, Pinetta, Fl.
Bobbie Dobson, Madison, Fl.
John P. Bishop, Greenville, Fl.
Rhonda Blair Schrenk, Oviedo, Fl.
Viola Arnold, Greenville, Fl.
Emily Thomas, Monticello, Fl.
Rayz Air Inc., Plant City, Fl.
Kevin Stout, Madison, Fl.
Jonathan Stalnaker, Madison, Fl.
Connie Prince, Pinetta, Fl.
Shedrick Green, Monticello, Fl.
Eric Combass, Jasper, Fl.
Calogero Tree Farm, Hudson, Fl.
David "Mike" VanHoose, Salem, Fl.
J. W. Chalkley III, Ocala, Fl.
Linda O'Brian, Madison, Fl.
Sharon C. Smith, Madison, Fl.
Rodney & Jeannette Scott, Lee, Fl.
Elbert Norris Jr., Jasper, Fl.
Tim Hadden, Tallahassee, Fl.
Reid Burford, Perry, Fl.
Shirley Murphy, Perry, Fl.
Sheryl Lacroix, Monticello, Fl.
Jared Hall, Greenville, Fl.
Tashell Phillips, Madison, Fl.
Tom Shaske, Pinetta, Fl.
Rick & Chad Deal, Tallahassee, Fl.

Scarecrow Festival Brings Plenty of Fun

The Live Oak Partnership served as the host organization for this year's Scarecrow Festival that began on Oct. 24 and continued through Saturday, Oct. 29, 2011, with several businesses participating in the community event. Over the years, this event has grown to include a week of activities, which includes Live Oak Garden Club's annual Pancake Breakfast, children's games and crafts, pumpkin patch photos, and face painting. Live Oak's Millennium Park is the perfect place for the displays and events.

Randy Torrance, Live Oak Partnership Chairman and event chairman, said, "A foundation of the Scarecrow Festival has always been the involvement of the community."

Employees Barry Long, Kelli Hall, and Karen Fraley worked together to create a first place-winning scarecrow at the event for Farmers Cooperative.

Photos courtesy of Jeffrey Boatright.



A scarecrow competition was one of the events held during the Live Oak Scarecrow Festival. Farmers Cooperative's entry was awarded a first place trophy.



Pictured above are (left to right) first place scarecrow makers Karen Fraley, Kelli Hall and Barry Long and Live Oak Partnership Chairman Randy Torrance.

What Is Your Soil pH?

With the rising cost of fertilizer it will be beneficial to correct the pH on your farm. Using the table below you can see the dollar benefit of making sure your soil has the correct pH. The example used is a blended fertilizer costing \$500.00 per ton. Applied at a rate of 300 Lbs. per acre or a cost of \$74.96 per acre. With a pH of 4.5 you would be losing \$53.47 per acre.

To help you with your pH needs Farmers Cooperative is offering the following Specials on dolomite:

- Kilibrew 20 ton load and spread @ \$24.75 per ton
- Tail dumped 40 tons and spread @ \$22.00 per ton

Prices good for Live Oak store through Jan. 31, 2012. Call Madison for pricing.

Call us today for your dolomite needs or to schedule a soil sample for your farm at (386) 362-1459. Soil samples on five acres or more: \$20.00.

Now is the "time to lime" to get your crop or pasture started off right in the spring.

Limestone Makes Fertilizer Work Fertilizer Efficiency Goes Up As Soil Acids Go Down

SOIL ACIDITY	NITROGEN	PHOSPHATE	POTASH	FERTILIZER WASTED	DOLLARS LOSS PER ACRE
Extremely acid 4.5 pH	30%	23%	33%	71.34%	\$53.47
Very Strong Acid 5.0 pH	53%	34%	52%	53.67%	\$40.23
Strong Acid 5.5 pH	77%	48%	77%	32.69%	\$24.50
Medium Acid 6.0 pH	89%	52%	100%	19.67%	\$14.74
Neutral 7.0 pH	100%	100%	100%	0%	\$0.00

Does the Liming of Acid Soils Pay?

Correcting soil acidity by the use of lime is the foundation of a good soil fertility program. Lime does more than just correct the soil acidity. It also (1) supplies Ca and Mg if dolomitic lime is used, which are essential plant nutrients.

(2) it makes other essential nutrients more available; and (3) it prevents elements such as Mn and Al from being toxic to plant growth.

Source: Phosphate and Potash Institute

Farming News

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