

MAEP News

The Newsletter of the Missouri Agricultural Extension Professionals

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News for October 27, 2008

Don Day was “honored” at the NACAA AM/PIC in Greensboro, NC with a presentation by Todd Lorenz that showcased the highlights of Don’s career, especially the lighter moments. Don retired in July and is a NACAA life member. I’d like to share a letter that he wrote to the association.

Most of you know by now that I retired on July 1. I have thoroughly enjoyed my career with extension. At the meeting in Greensboro, the group surprised me with a presentation that Todd Lorenz put together. Todd has presented that at several events and I appreciate all he has done. (Well, he could have left a few of those slides out.) I also appreciate and thank the Central Missouri ag staff for the Life Membership in NACAA.

I have been fortunate to have been able to work in a job I feel gives us opportunities to really help the people in Missouri. There have been many changes in extension over the years, but the one thing that doesn’t change is the opportunity to help people better their lives. Dr. Harold Breimyer was one of my college professors and worked in extension. In his memoir, *Over-fulfilled Expectations*, he talks about his father being a 4-H leader in 1923. Mr. Breimyer was recruited to be a leader in the pig project. At the end of the summer, Mr. Breimyer borrowed a pickup and loaded up the pigs and the kids and took them ten miles to the county fair. Dr. Breimyer says in his book that this was the first time some of the kids had ever been to the county seat.

I have reflected on Dr. Breimyer’s story of this and feel that this is part of the function of extension programming. We are not likely to be taking people to the county seat for the first time today. However, there are many times we are probably taking someone to a new place and improving their lives by doing so. Maybe it is teaching someone how to give a shot to a beef animal the right way for the first time and improving the quality of the animal they will save. Maybe it is showing someone how to use the Internet for the first time and opening up a whole new world to them. Maybe it is some of the many things each of you do each day to expose your clientele to something new.

I have enjoyed working with all of you over the years. Many of you have had a big impact on me. For instance, Eldon Cole was one of the people I trained with. His advice has always influenced me. Eldon said I was his first trainee and for a while, I was his best. (probably not very long.) I think extension has many challenges, but we also have many opportunities to reach people. There are many issues coming that extension will need to address. I am being given an opportunity to work half time starting in September to help with some energy programming. I think this is an issue that will be increasing in importance. Ironically, back in the 70's and 80's, we were working on energy education. Dr. Breimyer was working with us on the public issues related to energy. Then, energy prices went down and we ignored energy programming for the most part. It will be fun to help resurrect some of these programs and initiate others.

I hope to see all of you around. Thanks to each of you for helping make my career so much fun.

Don Day

I look forward to seeing all of you at our MAEP meeting tomorrow evening. Safe travels!

Amie

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