



Colton Campbell / Gateway-Beacon

Pictured left to right are Bremen Rotary Club President Brandall Lovvorn, Harrison County ag extension coordinator Dorothea Graham, extension associate Robin Campbell, Johnny Prater, Rodney Arp, Martha Smith, Rotarian Don DeFoor and Scott Gentry.

## Smith Farms honored as Farm Family of the Year

**BY COLTON CAMPBELL**  
THE GATEWAY-BEACON

**D**r. Martha Smith never intended to be a farmer.

So the self-described “city girl” — born in Atlanta, the youngest of five children — definitely never expected to be the recipient of the Bremen Rotary Club’s Farm Family of the Year award, given to Smith and her three farmhands last week.

The award, believed to be the only one of its kind in Georgia, has been given to a Haralson County farm family since at least 1968, according to list of recipients on the Rotary Club’s website. Smith received the

award based on her work on her family’s farm, on Corinth Poseyville Road north of Bremen and east of Buchanan.

Smith said she was “blown away” when she learned she’d be receiving the award.

“I am just so tickled to be here,” Smith said during her remarks before the club. “It’s a lot of hard work, but I couldn’t live without my farm help. They’re my farm family.”

Smith brought three farmhands, Johnny Prater, Ronald Arp and Scott Gentry, to be recognized as members of her “farm family.”

Rotary Club President

Brandall Lovvorn said he’s proud of the club for its commitment in recognizing the people who form the bedrock of the agricultural community in Haralson County.

“Farms and their families are the soil that this country was founded on,” Lovvorn said in his opening remarks last Thursday. “I think it’s so great that we still recognize these essential members of our community.”

Rotarian Don DeFoor introduced Smith, saying she spent more than 30 years as an educator and administrator in numerous school systems in Georgia, including in Carroll and Haralson counties. Smith,

the 2009 STAR teacher recipient for Bremen High School, has served for seven years on the Haralson County Schools Board of Education.

“I’m an educator at heart, but I became a farmer when my husband, Jimmy, died,” Smith said. “It was strictly by default, though. I had bills to pay.”

DeFoor said it was Smith’s late husband who took her “from city life to farm life.”

Jimmy Smith owned the farm on Corinth Poseyville Road, a trucking company and several other enterprises. His living wife

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# SMITH

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has kept most of those businesses open and afloat since his death.

The Smith Farm is a chicken farm with more than 80,000 chickens, but also a farm with nearly 40 heads of black angus cattle. The farm also offers designer shavings for chicken houses and horse barns.

But that's not all the farm offers to the community.

"I'm a sharer, really," Smith said. "I know the farm doesn't really belong to me. It belongs to God. I'm just able to share it for a little while."

The farm, part of a local agri-tourism group, offers the opportunity for couples to be married on the property in rustic, outdoor weddings, and for scouts to camp on the property.

But the biggest attraction brought Smith Farm's way every year is the annual trout rodeo.

"It's not rare that we have between 3,000 and 3,500 people come out on the second Saturday in May for the trout rodeo," Smith said. "This past year was the 35th

year it's been held. The first couple of years were not on our property, but Jimmy was approached because the organizers needed a bigger place. We were happy to accommodate them, and it's been on our property ever since."

The free event, open to children 15 years and younger, persons with disabilities and the elderly, brings people from outside Haralson County into the farm with a Bremen address but a Buchanan phone number. Smith said the Georgia Department of Natural Resources brings a selection of trout and catfish to catch in the farm's creek.

"So many parents tell me their kids caught their first fish on the farm," Smith said. "That makes me so proud, and I know it's something they'll remember for a very long time."

Smith's philosophy as a farmer is simple — the farm isn't really hers.

"Since it's only mine temporarily, I have to give God all the glory," Smith said. "Jimmy said you can't be a farmer and depend on farming alone. I just can't tell you how happy I am for the farm to receive this award, but all the recognition should go to my helpers on the farm and all the glory to God."