

Cummings named 2004 Outstanding Extension Worker

Yalobusha County Extension Director Steve Cummings has been named the 2004 Outstanding Extension Service Worker.

Cummings' career with the Mississippi State University Extension service has spanned 25 years. He has served in Yalobusha County since his appointment as county agent in 1987.

Cummings, a native of Pontotoc County, earned a bachelor's degree in animal science at Mississippi State.

As county Extension director, his duties range from working one-on-one with farmers and homeowners to assisting with the activities of organizations as varied as the local Homemakers Volunteers and the county 4-H program.

In nominating Cummings for the outstanding Extension worker award, representatives of the Yalobusha County Farmers group noted his strong commitment to their needs.

"Whenever we call on him with a problem or questions, he goes out of his way to get the answers as soon as possible," Young Farmer member Kevin Kimzey said. "He has frequent informal meetings with just the farmers of our county to find out our needs."



Steve Cummings, left, was named the 2004 Outstanding Extension Worker. He received his plaque from Gary Gaines, Land Bank of North Mississippi CEO, and Joe McGilberry, MSU Extension Service director.

Jim Lytle

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Wise named 2004 Outstanding MAFES Worker

A research scientist dedicated to protecting the health of farm-raised catfish has been named the 2004 Outstanding Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station Worker.

David Wise has been researching the causes and treatment of fish diseases at Mississippi State University's Delta Research and Extension Center since 1993. He currently serves as a research professor at the center's Thad Cochran National Warmwater Aquaculture Center.

Wise leads a research team that is always ready to assess and develop treatments for new diseases potentially threatening the catfish industry. One such threat was a parasite infestation that began appearing sporadically in the south Delta during spring 1999.

"By fall of that year, it was evident the disease was causing large losses of young fish in many ponds in all but the most northern parts of the Delta, and a crisis atmosphere gripped the fish-farming community," said Craig Tucker, director of the National Warmwater Aquaculture Center. "Dr. Wise and a small team of research and extension experts from Mississippi State stepped in to quickly assess the problem, solve it and deliver the solution to producers."

Wise, a native of Austin, Texas, earned his bachelor's degree in aquatic biology at Southwest Texas State University and a doctorate and master's in microbiology and aquaculture, fisheries and wildlife, respectively, at Clemson University.



David Wise, left, received the 2004 Outstanding MAFES Worker award. Presenting his plaque was Alton McRee, Federal Land Bank Association of South Mississippi president and CEO, and Clarence Watson, MAFES associate director.

Jim Lytle

The Outstanding Extension Service Worker and the Outstanding MAFES Worker awards are sponsored by the Federal Land Bank Associations of Mississippi.

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