



By Carolyn Lee
The Imperial Republican

This Saturday will be the last time Rita Hogsett of Lamar presides at a Nebraska Extension Board meeting. She is retiring after being the leader for a year.

Hogsett, an elementary teacher at Chase County Schools, was voted in as president-elect two years ago. She is in her second four-year term on the board, and will serve until 2012.

Her Extension service began when she served on the Chase County Extension Board for over two terms. Former Ag Extension Educator Tom Dill then recommended her to represent the Southwest Four Extension Service on the state level.

The 4-H program was Hogsett's introduction to the Extension Service. She has since learned that it's much more than 4-H.

"People don't realize how much more," Hogsett pointed out.

The Extension Service's goal is to bring the University of Nebraska to the people, she said.

"It brings the University to areas that don't have the capability of going to the University to find things out," she said.

As the State Extension Board president, Hogsett has had the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C. twice to meet with senators and their aides "to thank them for their support for the extension service and its funding."

She also attended seminars and met "amazing people" who are experts in their fields of research.

As for her accomplishments this past year, Hogsett said she's a small part of the board. Succeeding her as president will be Joanne Marsh of Hartington.

Hogsett was in charge of setting up the two yearly meetings of the board. The January one is when new board members are nominated and the executive board is recognized.

As a final duty, Hogsett found a speaker for the Saturday meeting in Kearney. He is Randy Vlasin of Imperial, who will speak on running an effective meeting.