

Familiar figure at Farm Bureau Financial Services

By **HARRIETT GILL**
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Joy Johnson is a familiar figure in the Farm Bureau Financial Services office, she has been with the Norton office since 1992.

Joy attended Fort Hays State University, where she completed a Secretarial Certificate in 1989.

She worked in the Farm Bureau's office in Kingman in 1991. Then the family moved to Norton in August of 1991.

When asked why Norton? "My husband, Bill, said we were moving to the wrestling capital of Kansas. He had a chance to teach and coach wrestling," she said.

Bill is a teacher of government and weight lifting at Norton Community High School. His Norton Community High School wrestling team won the 2010 State championship.

Joy was offered a job with Farm Bureau in Norton by the office manager and agent Clair Rumford.

"Clair called me and said, I understand that you have experience with Farm Bureau, would you like to work in the office." Joy said. She started working as a secretary in 1992.

Joy has been a constant in the office, moving up from secretary to office manager and agent.

"I have been the only agent since Sept. 2007." she said. "I think the fact that I have been here since 1992 has helped me in my involvement with my customers. Insurance is thought of as being a man's job. There is a lot of confidential

information that is needed and the idea of sharing with it with a woman can be unsettling for some older farmers."

The Farm Bureau is involved in many community activities, there is a Norton County position with the office. Patsy Maddy oversees the county contact in the office such as, "Norton Idol, Food Checkout and Ag Safety are just a few. The Norton County portion of the Farm Bureau is not a county paid job, the county benefits from the company as a portion of the insurance and financial service remain in the county." Joy said. "We are very involved in the community."

"I want to thank Clair for his confidence in me. His offer of the position in the Norton office set the ball rolling for me to obtain my current position of office manager, even though sometimes I thought it would never happen." Joy said.

"I love everything about Norton." "Bill said if you live somewhere for 15 years, you probably won't ever leave. We have been here 19; I guess that means we won't leave." Joy said.

The Norton office includes Patsy Maddy, a service associate; Jennie Miller, a service associate; Derek Volgamore, a life, health, property and casualty sales associate; and Laura Winingham, a life and health sales associate.

Joy and her husband Bill, have four children: Eric, 25, is the assistant wrestling coach at the junior college in Chanute; Kellie, 23, is preparing to enter nursing studies; Syklar, 12 and Ryan, 10 are students at Eisenhower Elementary.



Joy Johnson has worked at the Norton County Farm Bureau since moving to Norton 19 years ago. She is also involved in various community activities like the Rotary Club.

—Telegram photo by Harriett Gill

Joy is involved in many community activities, she is vice-president of Norton Rotary, a member of the Norton County Fair Board, 4-H

community leader and AWANA leader at the Christian Church.



From left, Dr. Sarah Ketterl White, Judy Ketterl and Amber Nuttycomb

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