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BLUE LETTER

May 2021
No. 3829



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Eager to Progress

I cannot help but notice how Spring brings an added sense of urgency to activities around the office and throughout the Cooperative Extension Service. Like farmers needing to get crops in the ground, there is just an increase in the pace of business. I think this is even more pronounced this year. As COVID cases seem to be in sharp decline and business is returning to normal around the state, folks are eager to go! It is a hectic pace, but I think I prefer it.

As I write this article for The Blue Letter, I am looking forward to our meet-and-greet at the State Office on June 1. Many have already returned to the office full-time, and most everyone else will come back on or before that date. In addition, folks will be returning to campus, the extension centers, and our research stations as well. For many, it will just be another day, if like me, you never really worked remotely for long. Either way, it has been an interesting odyssey navigating all the hoops, concerns, dangers and challenges associated with COVID-19. Although I feel like I have personally grown as an administrator, I would recommend participating in leadership training — like our newly restarted iLEAD program— for professional

growth rather than a pandemic. Still, I think we learned a lot, and we will use what we have learned to increase and improve program delivery throughout the state.

I wanted to also mention to all my Division colleagues that the Extension Service is doing well from a fiscal standpoint. We got our budget approved from the state a few weeks ago and increases in Division funding that were held back over pandemic-related concerns in 2020 have rolled over and been honored in 2021. This is the first hard, recurring funding that has been added to our budget in several years. We are in the process of filing numerous positions in the counties, in support units, faculty and in administration. The past month has been my busiest since I started nearly a year ago. I believe through these new hires we are building up many areas and strengthening those that are already active. I look forward to seeing what the coming year(s) bring.

I look forward to stage IV of our COVID management plan, which is set for June 1. I hope to see you all soon, and here's to getting fully back to business. ■

INSIDE SCOOP

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3. Four Faculty, Staff Recognized for Early Career Performance
4. FFA State Convention Agriscience Fair
5. Fun on the Farm
6. UAPB \$3 Million Grant
7. Tech Corner
8. Arkansas 4-H State Livestock Judging Contest...And much more!

Helping with Business Innovation at Extension and Beyond

Angela Gardner, a program associate and program manager for the Share Grounds project, is applying lessons learned during her time in the Walton Business School to support the food clientele she serves at the Share Grounds kitchens.

Gardner is pursuing an online MBA at the University of Arkansas. As part of the program, she participated in the New Venture Development Program to prepare students with understanding business startup through partnerships with entrepreneurs.

Angela and her team members – Neil Ross, Hayden Proctor and Giselle Toledo – developed a business plan and a pitch for securing investment for Nivera Solutions. Toledo, a master’s candidate in materials science and engineering at the university and owner of Nivera Solutions, has created a durable, multifaceted coating that prevents ice from adhering to a metal surface. The product will be widely applicable, from protecting energy infrastructure to fighting food waste.

Gardner and her teammates successfully pitched a business concept at the 2021 Arkansas Governor’s Cup



and won the first-place award of \$25,000 for High Growth/Technology. ■

Money on the Bookshelf Reading Program Empowers Youth



Megan Wells shares ways to earn and save money to kindergardeners.

For students at Capital City Elementary, college savings started with a story.

Pulaski County FCS agent Megan Wells used the Money on the Bookshelf reading program to educate students at Capital City Elementary in April. She read “Brock, Rock and the Savings Shock!” to the students, who learned how money matched can multiply over time and boost savings.

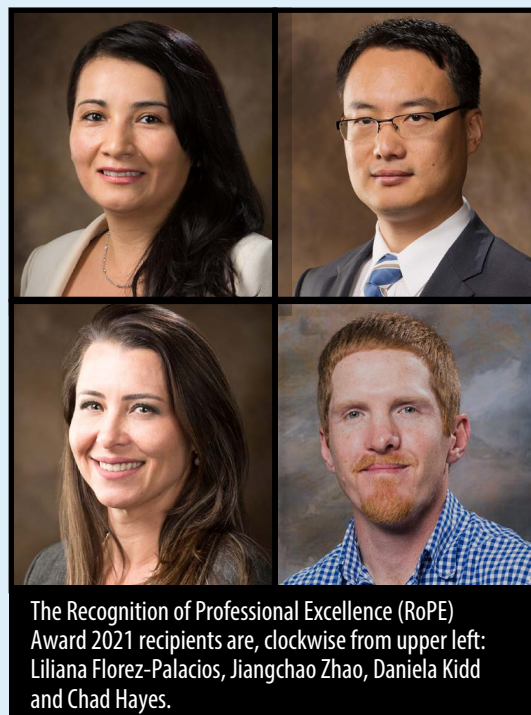
The Capital City Elementary students, in partnership with Stoochy, were given the chance to save for college through a 529 account with matching funds. ■

Four Faculty, Staff Recognized for Early Career Performance

The Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station named four faculty and staff as the inaugural recipients of the Early Career Recognition of Professional Excellence (RoPE) Awards.

- **Faculty Award: Jiangchao Zhao**, associate professor, animal science
- **Classified Research Support: Chad Hayes**, research technician, department of poultry science
- **Non-Classified Research Support:**
Liliana Florez-Palacios, program associate, department of crop, soil and environmental sciences
- **Non-Classified Business & Administrative Support:**
Daniela Kidd, departmental administration manager, department of crop, soil and environmental sciences

The award recognizes full-time Agricultural Experiment Station employees who have sustained outstanding performance during their early careers. To read more, visit <http://bit.ly/AAES-RoPEawards>. ■



Rural Profile Shared at Quorum Courts

CREATE BRIDGES and extension agents in Fulton, Izard and Sharp counties presented 2021 Rural Profile to Quorum Court in April.

The 2021 Rural Profile, written by Dr. Wayne Miller and Ellie Wheeler in extension's Community, Professional & Economic Development unit, is available online and in print. It compares regions of the state using indicators such as population, economy, infrastructure and health.

"I truly appreciate every time Hazelle makes a presentation to the quorum court.," Bart Schulz, Sharp County JP District 7, said. "They are always informative and provide information that keep us abreast of current situations going on in our county and throughout the region."

CREATE BRIDGES is an acronym for "Celebrating Retail, Accommodations, Tourism and Entertainment by Building Rural Innovations and Developing Growth Economies." It is an economic development pilot program of the Division of Agriculture. ■



Virtual FFA State Convention Agriscience Fair

Soybean Science Challenge coordinator, Diedre Young, attended the Virtual FFA State Convention Agriscience Fair. Alyssa Butler won the SSC Senior Division Award receiving a \$300 cash award, and sisters, Hannah and Hadleigh Baker, won the Junior Division award, receiving \$200. Alyssa's FFA Advisor, Carly Bokker, won the \$200 Senior Division Teacher-Mentor Award and Hannah and Hadleigh's FFA Advisor, Josh Baker, received the \$100 Junior Division Teacher-Mentor Award. The awards were provided by the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board.

The Soybean Science Challenge is a farmer-funded, statewide, high school education program that seeks to increase student knowledge about the value of Arkansas soybeans to the Arkansas economy, to the labor force, and ultimately to feed and fuel the world.

The Soybean Science Challenge is a partnership between the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board and the U of A Cooperative Extension Service.

For more information, contact Dr. Julie Robinson, jrobinson@uada.edu or Diedre Young dyoung@uada.edu. ■



(Left to right) 2021 State FFA Agriscience FFA Advisor Carly Bokker and Senior Division winner Alyssa Butler.



2021 State FFA Agriscience Junior Division winners Hannah and Hadleigh Baker and FFA Advisor Josh Baker.

Leadership Development Program Open to Division of Agriculture Employees

Division of Agriculture employees looking for professional development that will help them enhance or move into leadership positions have a new in-house and hands-on opportunity this year through iLEAD, the Internal Leadership Education and Development program.



The yearlong program includes monthly time commitments, both virtual and face to face. The program begins in July.

building, program planning and development, leadership, and resource development skills," said Dr. Julie Robinson, associate professor in community, professional and economic development. "Our iLEAD members will explore critical and emerging issues to help Division of Agriculture personnel become effective leaders."

The program is open to Division of Agriculture personnel with five or more years in the organization and encourages participation by faculty, county agents, program associates and non-classified staff.

"We wanted to give co-workers a chance to strengthen the tools they need to lead, including improving interpersonal and communications skills, knowledge of the organization,

The application deadline is May 28. The schedule, eligibility, prerequisites, and other information on the iLEAD page: <https://bit.ly/2RKfpsR>. ■

Fun on the Farm



Arnold Family Farm and the Crawford County 4-H hosted the annual Fun on the Farm event for kindergarten, homeschool and virtual students to learn about agriculture.

More than 300 students from Alma Primary School and homeschool cooperatives visited different stations set up on the farm. They learned about bees from John Zawislak, extension's apiculture instructor, and visited beef, goats and sheep stations hosted by Crawford County 4-H members. Local FFA members from Alma and Mountainburg taught students about dairy and poultry. The Arkansas Forestry Department, along with Smokey Bear, educated students about fire safety, and Arkansas Farm Bureau hosted a plant germination station where

students learned about plant growth. The students also picked their own strawberries to take home.

A virtual option was available for students who could not attend in-person.

"It was important for us to be able to reach students across the entire county," Brandi Davis, 4-H program assistant, said. "We knew it would be a challenge with the guidelines in place, but we were prepared to work hard to ensure everyone was provided the opportunity to participate." ■



(Left) John Zawislak, apiculture instructor with UAEX, explains the important role bees play in agriculture.



(Top center) Clay D. presents at the beef station.



Madeline C. takes questions at the goat station at the Fun on Farm Event.

Animal Science Graduates 46

The Department of Animal Science congratulates the 46 Animal Science undergraduates who completed requirements for a bachelor's degree. We also congratulate the following students:

- **Matt Hahn**, M.S. degree
- **Bryan Kutz**, Ph.D. degree
- **Elle Rottman**, Animal Science Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award and Bumpers College Senior Scholar
- **Madison Looper**, Bumpers College First-Ranked Senior Scholar

- **Nicole Noga**, Animal Science Outstanding M.S. student and Paul Noland Graduate Student Competition award winner

Eleven animal science students received the American Society of Animal Science Undergraduate Scholastic Achievement Award. All ranked in the top 10 percent of their class and intend to have careers in animal sciences. ■



From left to right: Dr. Bryan Kutz and daughter, Mesa Kutz; Madison Looper and father Dr. Michael Looper.

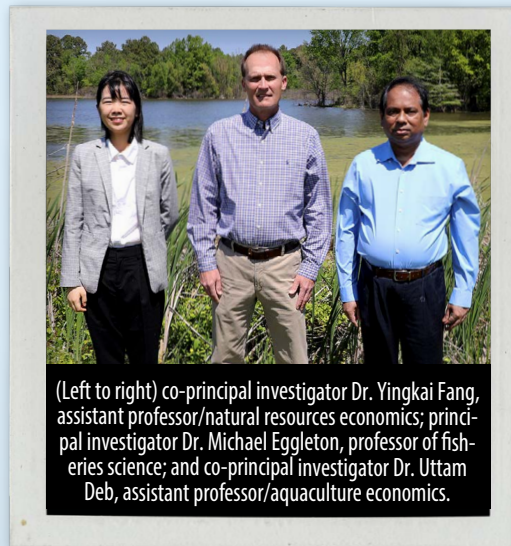
UAPB Aquaculture/ Fisheries Receives \$3 Million Grant

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service has awarded the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff's Aquaculture/Fisheries Department a \$3 million grant to evaluate the NRCS's Agricultural Conservation Easement program.

The program, which was previously called the Wetlands Reserve Program, allows landowners to cost-share with NRCS in converting their marginal or retired farmlands back to native wetland and associated habitats. The UAPB grant will concentrate on the ACEP-WRE program, which emphasizes wetlands.



Dr. Michael Eggleton, professor of fisheries science in the UAPB Aquaculture/Fisheries Department, is the principal investigator for the grant. Co-principal investigators include Dr. Uttam Deb, assistant professor/aquaculture economics; Dr. Yingkai Fang, assistant professor/natural resources economics; and Dr. Jonathan Spurgeon, former assistant professor/habitat management at UAPB who is now assistant unit leader for the U.S. Geological Survey - Nebraska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. The five-year grant runs through 2026.



(Left to right) co-principal investigator Dr. Yingkai Fang, assistant professor/natural resources economics; principal investigator Dr. Michael Eggleton, professor of fisheries science; and co-principal investigator Dr. Uttam Deb, assistant professor/aquaculture economics.

“It is important to quantify how much environmental or ecological improvement the wetlands actually provide as well as how much economic benefit the program provides to landowners and society,” Eggleton said. ■

Arkansas Criminal Justice System

LeadAR Virtual Session

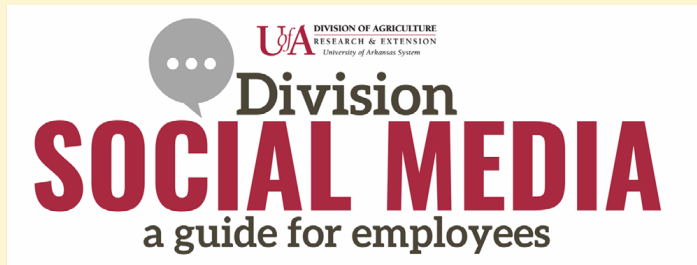
On any given day, 10,000 people may be in a county jail in Arkansas, and more than 14,000 inmates are in the state's prison system. The state's prison population is higher than the national average. LeadAR Class 19 heard these statistics and other information about the criminal justice system in the virtual session on April 23. Kristin Higgins with the Public Policy Center facilitated a robust discussion about the criminal justice system in Arkansas. See [blog](#) for full details. ■





How can I Edit a URL Within a PDF?

When our domain changed, we were tasked with updating any existing PDFs with the new URL. The June 2021 Accessibility Awareness Challenge assists users in correcting existing URLs in a PDF. Find out how to easily [update links to our website as well as links to email addresses.](#)



Our Division Social Media employee site has been updated! We offer tons of resources for both beginners and pros. If you use social media for UADA or are interested in starting a social media page for work, visit [Division Social Media: A guide for employees.](#) Is something missing from our site? Let us know! Email mjohnson@uada.edu.

Zoom Pro Tip – Look and Sound Your Best With Up-to-Date Equipment

Are you in the market for a new webcam, headset or other equipment to use with Zoom? Begin your search on our [Zoom Equipment Resources](#) page. ■

UPCOMING TECH TUESDAY WEBINARS



Tuesday, June 8: Tech Tuesday, Do you have “sensitive” data? Protecting you and your data. Register [here](#). Did you miss the Tech Tuesday Excel webinar? Check out the blog post [here](#).

Leadership Lunch and Learn Focuses on Innovation

Innovation and leadership are inseparable, according to Jeff Amerine, managing director of Innovation Junkie.

“Every organization needs to reinvent itself, and that cannot be done without leadership,” he said during the April session of Leadership Lunch and Learn. To harness innovation in the workplace, Amerine said leaders should ask themselves the following questions:

- What’s the biggest problem, result or opportunity, that if you solved, seized or achieved it, it would be a total game-changer for your organization?
- What are all the reasons why you can’t solve it (constraints)?
- What’s the worst thing that could happen if you fail?

If that happens, could you live with it?

- What crazy idea do you have to solve this problem?
- How can you lead through the solution?
What will you do tomorrow?

There are several tools and resources that can be used to work through the innovation process. Learn more [here](#). ■

▣ Innovation is a change with the normal way of operation and it can be a significant change or it can be a minor change, but it’s something that is different than what you’ve previously been doing. ▣

Jeff Amerine
Innovation Junkie
Consulting Agency

Arkansas 4-H State Livestock Judging Contest



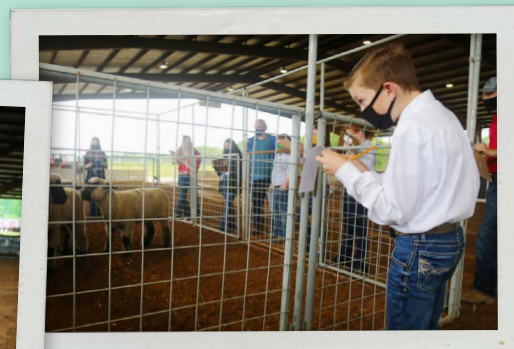
Youth from across Arkansas recently competed in the Arkansas 4-H State Livestock Judging Contest at the Arkansas State Fairgrounds in Little Rock. Both junior and senior 4-H'ers competed in the contest. There were 30 senior 4-H members from 13 counties and 45 junior 4-H members from 13 counties who competed. Participants evaluated 7 classes representing cattle, swine, sheep and goats. The seniors presented reasons on 3 classes and answered questions on 1 other class.

Hempstead County is our 2021 state champion senior 4-H team this year and will represent Arkansas at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, KY, the American Royal in Kansas City and the AKSARBEN in Grand Island, NE.

Benton County finished as the reserve champion team and are eligible to compete at the Western National in Denver, CO and the AKSARBEN. Bradley County finished third and are eligible to compete at the AKSARBEN 4-H livestock Judging contest. Kiersten P. from Hempstead County

earned High Individual honors followed by teammates Sara S. and Anna S. in 2nd and 3rd respectively.

Greene County is the junior 4-H champion team this year. White County is this year's reserve champion team and Benton County was 3rd high team. The junior 4-H competitors judged the same classes and answered questions on one class but only presented two sets of reasons. Madalyn J. from White County finished with top individual honors, Vallie Y. from Madison County placed second; and Katelyn R. from Carroll County finished third. A full list of results can be found on judgingcard.com. ■

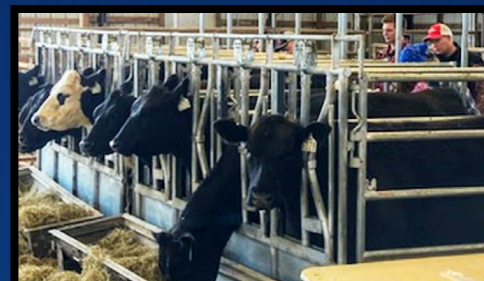


Arkansas 4-H members compete in a livestock judging competition at the Arkansas State Fairgrounds Equestrian Center.

Artificial Insemination Schools in Fayetteville, Hope

Dr. Charles Looney, professor of animal science, led an artificial insemination workshop at the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station's Physiology Farm near Fayetteville this month. Fifteen attendees from Missouri, Oklahoma and Arkansas learned about reproductive anatomy and physiology and got hands-on practice using harvested reproductive tracts and live cattle. Attendees also learned proper semen handling techniques using both thawed and frozen semen straws. Nicole Noga, a graduate student, and

Jaran Lehman of Select Sires, Inc., helped with the workshop. Future workshops will be offered at the experiment stations in Fayetteville, Batesville and Hope. ■



Students practicing AI on cows under the supervision of the instructors.

FCS Agents Offer Virtual Estate Planning

Extension’s family and consumer science agents across the state offer personal finance information to clients of all ages – from preschool children to retired adults. Several FCS agents are part of a personal finance team that created Money Minutes, a blog that can be found at www.uaex.uada.edu/counties/money-minutes-blog/ on the Division of Agriculture website.



They recently hosted a three-part virtual series on estate planning that covered estate planning basics, coping with emotional issues about personal treasures, asset protection,



Mary Jane Cody, Perry County FCS Agent, shared how to protect your assets while planning your estate.

and funeral planning. Estate planning has traditionally been offered in person, but agents converted the materials to virtual education to meet people where they are without traveling.

Sixty-eight people attended and reported an average increased knowledge of 40% to 60% per session. Recordings with closed captions are available for participants to review information as needed.

The Money Minutes team includes Dianna Bowen, Kris Boulton, Mary Jane Cody, Rachel Chaney, Katie Cullum, Kristal Draper and Pamela Luker. ■



Dianna Bowen, Lonoke County FCS Agent, shared tips on how to have difficult conversations with family members for peace of mind while planning your estate.

AACES Announces Award Winners

The Arkansas Association of Cooperative Extension Specialists recently announced winners of the following awards:

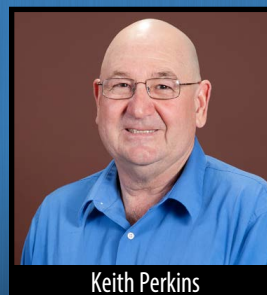
- **Rita Watson** - Brett Barham Extension Innovation Award
- **Dr. Armenta Lockhart** - Linda Meeks Support Specialist Award
- **Lee Riley** - Gary Burke Memorial Award
- **Dr. Julie Robinson** - Jeanette Roberts Outstanding Specialist Award
- **Nicole Dawson** - Jane Osborne Memorial Award
- **Keith Perkins** - Service Award
- **Dr. Sammy Sadaka** - Outstanding Research Award
- **Amy Cole** – Outstanding AACES Member Award



Dr. Armenta Lockhart



Nicole Dawson



Keith Perkins



Lee Riley

Experience Arkansas Agriculture

Sharing the story of Arkansas agriculture is at the heart of a new Experience Arkansas Agriculture campaign promoting agritourism and ag-related entrepreneurship.

The multi-agency campaign, led by the Southern Risk Management Education Center, or SRMEC, and the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, kicked off May 12 with a website and social media.

“We want Arkansans and visitors from all over to brag about their ag experiences in Arkansas, whether it was watching Arkansas-bred horses at Oaklawn, enjoying tastings along the Arkansas Wine Trail or hitting that hole in one on any one of the state’s wonderfully manicured golf courses,” said Ron Rainey, professor-agricultural economics for the Division of Agriculture and leader of SMREC. “We hope to enrich awareness and opportunities for Arkansans to enjoy and understand the rich diversity of offerings that agriculture provides, including tourism venues, commodity production, and value-added products.”

Plans for the campaign were announced April 29 at a soft launch at the Cooperative Extension Service headquarters in Little Rock.



Logan Duvall, host of Arkansas PBS Good Roots and Owner of Me & McGee Market, enjoys strawberry gelato with chef Scott McGehee of ZAZA on the first installment of Experience Arkansas Agriculture.

Logan Duvall, owner of Me and McGee Market in North Little Rock and host of the Arkansas PBS series “Good Roots,” shared a preview of the first episode of Experience Arkansas Agriculture, which featured Wye Mountain Flowers and Berries Farms.

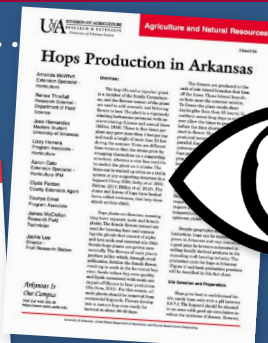
More activities are planned to promote the more than 1,500 farms and 110 farmers markets across Arkansas. For more info, visit <https://aragex.uada.edu> or @experiencearkansasagriculture on Facebook. ■



Amanda McWhirt, Extension Horticulture Production Specialist, visits with Blaine and Cindra Burgess, new owners of Wye Mountain Flowers and Berries.

New Publications:

(You know you want to look.)
www.uaex.uada.edu/publications/default.aspx



The Soybean Science Challenge Presents

Student and Mentor Awards at Virtual State Science Fair

The 2021 Soybean Science Challenge state student research winners were announced at the 67th annual Virtual Southwestern Energy Arkansas State Science and Engineering Fair on March 31.

The \$1,000 First Place was awarded to Alyssa Butler, a senior at Carlisle High School. Butler was the regional SSC winner at Central Arkansas Regional Science and Engineering Fair. Her teacher, Carly Bokker, won the \$300 First Place Teacher-Mentor Award.



2021 State Second Place SSC Winner Claire Green with teacher-mentor Dr. Lindsey Waddell

The \$500 Second Place was awarded to Claire Green, a junior at Arkansas School for Math, Sciences, and the Arts. Green was also the regional SSC winner at the West Central Arkansas Science Fair. Her teacher, Dr. Lindsey Waddell, won the \$200 Second Place Teacher-Mentor Award.



(Left to right) 2021 State Honorable Mention Winners Cameron Holder with Teacher-Mentor Bryant Fong.

Two \$250 Honorable Mentions were awarded to Cameron Holder, a junior from Nettleton High School and Robert Lutgen, a sophomore homeschooled student. Holder was the regional SSC winner at Northeast Arkansas Regional Science Fair. His teacher, Bryant Fong, won the \$100 Honorable Mention Teacher-Mentor Award. Holder's teacher-mentor, Mary Lutgen, won the \$100 Honorable Mention Teacher-Mentor Award. ■

Soybean Science Challenge plays part in

Earth Day Festivities in Newport

Diedre Young, Soybean Science Challenge coordinator, participated in Earth Day at Newport Elementary School on April 22. More than 600 elementary students in grades K-5 and teachers attended the event where they learned about soil types and planted soybean seeds in portable containers to take home to replant. Teachers and students also received soybean products, materials and resources. ■



SSC Coordinator Diedre Young speaks to students and teachers from Newport Elementary about the importance of soybeans.



Year-End Deadlines & Reminders

Please review the FY21 Deadlines & Reminders document. It's posted on the [Employees Only](#) website under Dates & Deadlines.

Updated Procurement Guide

Procurement has updated its guide plus provided guidelines for Supplier Invoice Requests (SINVR) and Blanket PO's. These can be found on the [Procurement website](#).

Want to Streamlyne Your Grant Proposals?

The Streamlyne research system is expanding to UADA and UALR this summer. It will be used to electronically submit proposals for internal review and approval. Streamlyne has the capability to submit federal grant proposals system-to-system (S2S) through Grants.gov. Training opportunities and demonstrations will be offered. ■

Grants and Contracts

PROJECT TITLE	AWARD AMOUNT	PI	GRANTING AGENCY
2021 Virtual Southeastern Strawberry School	\$5,000	Amanda McWhirt	Southern Region Small Fruit Consortium
Podcast and News Small Fruit	\$2,500	Amanda McWhirt	Southern Region Small Fruit Consortium
Evaluation of BT Traits for Corn Earworm Control*	\$1,438	Ben Thrash	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Rice Insect Control	\$1,038	Ben Thrash	Rice Research Promotion Board
Soybean Insect Management	\$9,277	Ben Thrash	Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board
Impact of Water Quality	\$21,352	Ben Thrash	Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board
Corn Enterprise Budget*	\$10,000	Breana Watkins	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Rice Enterprise	\$8,500	Breana Watkins	Rice Research Promotion Board
Soybean Enterprise Budgets and Production Economic Analysis	\$10,080	Breana Watkins	Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board
Evaluation of BT Traits for Corn Earworm Control*	\$4,690	Glenn Stuebaker	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Insect Management in On-Farm Grain Storage*	\$4,170	Glenn Stuebaker	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Soybean Insect Management	\$7,478	Glenn Stuebaker	Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board
Evaluation of BT Traits for Corn Earworm Control*	\$9,738	Gus Lorenz	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Insect Management in On-Farm Grain Storage *	\$10,853	Gus Lorenz	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Rice Insect Control	\$54,236	Gus Lorenz	Rice Research Promotion Board
Educating Growers and Consultants on Insect Monitoring	\$5,000	Gus Lorenz	Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board
Investigating Emerging Production Recommendations for Sustainable Soybeans	\$47,273	Gus Lorenz	Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board
Soybean Insect Management	\$40,196	Gus Lorenz	Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board
Arkansas Rice Perform Trials	\$102,000	Jarrold Hardke	Rice Research Promotion Board
DD50 Program	\$70,000	Jarrold Hardke	Rice Research Promotion Board
Alternative Irrigation Strategies	\$75,000	Jarrold Hardke	Rice Research Promotion Board
Rice Verification Program	\$99,997	Jarrold Hardke	Rice Research Promotion Board
Agronomic Production Practices	\$115,000	Jarrold Hardke	Rice Research Promotion Board
Determining Optimum Seed Spacing of Rice	\$11,000	Jarrold Hardke	Rice Research Promotion Board
Nitrogen Recommendations for New Rice Cultivars	\$64,000	Jarrold Hardke	Rice Research Promotion Board
Determining The Value Added of Starter Fertilizer with In-Furrow Fungicide On Corn*	\$1,500	Jason Davis	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Developing Profitable Irrigated Rotational Cropping Systems	\$16,000	Jason Kelley	Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board
Arkansas Corn and Grain Verification Program *	\$126,000	Jason Kelley	Corn & Grain Promotion Board

Grants and Contracts continues next page

Grants and Contracts continued

PROJECT TITLE	AWARD AMOUNT	PI	GRANTING AGENCY
DD50 Program*	\$7,500	Jason Kelley	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Determining the Value Added of Starter Fertilizer with In-Furrow Fungicide on Corn*	\$6,310	Jason Kelley	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Developing Profitable Irrigated Rotational*	\$25,000	Jason Kelley	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Overcoming yield Limitations in Corn *	\$28,000	Jason Kelley	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Investigating Emerging Production Recommendations for Sustainable Soybeans	\$194,859	Jeremy Ross	Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board
Soybean Research Verification Program	\$194,661	Jeremy Ross	Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board
Improving Technology Transfer	\$43,540	Jeremy Ross	Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board
On Farm Variable	\$38,817	Jeremy Ross	Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board
Soybean Science Challenge	\$80,599	Julie Robinson	Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board
Improving Irrigation Scheduling and Irrigation Efficiency for Corn Production in Arkansas*	\$8,393	Leo Espinoza	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Implementation of Remote and Proximal Sensing Driven Precision Agri Practices in Corn Production *	\$29,633	Leo Espinoza	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Monitoring water stress to improve irrigation scheduling in furrow irrigated fields.	\$17,906	Leo Espinoza	Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board
Promoting Irrigation Water Management for Soybeans	\$55,616	Leo Espinoza	Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board
AR Discovery Farm Program *	\$5,000	Mike Daniels	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Arkansas Discovery Farm	\$24,358	Mike Daniels	Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board
Insect Management in On-Farm Grain Storage *	\$4,170	Nick Bateman	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Rice Insect Control	\$73,603	Nick Bateman	Rice Research Promotion Board
Evaluation of BT Traits for Corn Earworm Control*	\$4,134	Nick Bateman	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Soybean Insect Management	\$13,044	Nick Bateman	Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board
Determining the Impact of Disease and Stinkbug Feeding on Soybean Quality	\$14,005	Nick Bateman	Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board
Utilization Ozone Fumigation*	\$46,000	Sammy Sadaka	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Determining The Value Added of Starter Fertilizer with In-Furrow Fungicide on Corn*	\$18,190	Terry Spurlock	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Implementing Cover Crops*	\$9,004	Terry Spurlock	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Improving Irrigation Scheduling and Irrigation Efficiency for Corn Production in Arkansas*	\$10,384	Terry Spurlock	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Comprehensive Disease Screening of Soybean Varieties In Ar	\$40,955	Terry Spurlock	Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board
Understanding Charcoal Rot and Taproot Decline	\$18,658	Terry Spurlock	Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board
Determining the Value of Fungicide Application on Regional, Field Level	\$32,800	Terry Spurlock	Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board
Promoting Irrigation Water Management for Soybeans	\$5,052	Terry Spurlock	Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board
Determining the Impact of Disease and Stinkbug Feeding on Soybean Quality	\$26,191	Terry Spurlock	Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board
Evaluation of Herbicides Corn Hybrid *	\$35,297	Tom Barber	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Team Weed Management in Rice	\$77,980	Tom Barber	Rice Research Promotion Board
A Team Approach to Weed Management in Soybean	\$52,672	Tom Barber	Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board
Team Weed Management in Rice	\$85,712	Tommy Butts	Rice Research Promotion Board
A Team Approach to Weed Management in Soybean	\$60,130	Tommy Butts	Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board
Assess Management Options for Corn Nematodes in AR *	\$34,517	Travis Faske	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Implementing Cover Crops*	\$8,302	Travis Faske	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Comprehensive Disease Screening of Soybean Varieties in AR	\$57,783	Travis Faske	Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board
Integrated Management of Soybean Nematodes in AR	\$46,273	Travis Faske	Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board
Development Of An Effective Program To Manage Fungicide-Resistant Diseases	\$35,145	Travis Faske	Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board
Fast-tracking MG4 and early MG5 Cultivars with Southern Root-Knot Nematode Resistance	\$26,007	Travis Faske	Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board
Rice Breeding Pathology Tech Support	\$59,807	Yeshi Wamishe	Rice Research Promotion Board
Evaluation of Rice to Straighthead	\$13,000	Yeshi Wamishe	Rice Research Promotion Board
Evaluation of Fungicide Application	\$29,000	Yeshi Wamishe	Rice Research Promotion Board

TOTAL AWARDS FOR APRIL 2021: \$2,631,323

Benefits Corner



Are you keeping up with your Dental Care?

The University's dental plan, administered by Arkansas BlueCross BlueShield, offers coverage for preventive, basic and major services, plus orthodontia services for children under 18. The annual maximum benefit per person per calendar year is \$1,750.

Annual Benefit Maximum Rollover

If you or an enrolled dependent receives benefits of less than \$750 in a calendar year, up to \$375 of unused benefits will rollover into the following year. The accumulated rollover maximum is \$1,500.

Your rollover amount will be added to your annual maximum benefit 60 days after the last day of the

calendar year. You (or your enrolled dependent) can use rollover money in that year and future years. You (or your enrolled dependent) must meet four conditions to be eligible for the rollover:

- Receive at least one covered preventive service during the calendar year.
- Pay less in total claims than the yearly threshold amount (see table below).
- Be enrolled in the dental plan on the last day of the calendar year.
- Keep your total rollover balance less than the accumulated maximum rollover amount.

To find a dentist in the BlueCross BlueShield network, visit: <https://www.blueadvantagearkansas.com/portal/uasdental/> and search by city, ZIP code, distance, doctor name or specialty. ■

Personnel Changes

Welcome Aboard:

Kimberly Hunley – Administrative Specialist III, Van Buren County
Emily Burgess – 4-H Program Assistant, Lawrence County
Madison Schalk – Administrative Specialist II, Family & Consumer Science, Little Rock
Mallory Eggleton – Program Technician, Horticulture Department, Little Rock

Farewell to:

Trent Frizzell – Program Tech - Rice Agronomy, Arkansas County
Gay Flaherty – Administrative Specialist III, Pike County
Rachael Price – FCS - Program Technician, Family & Consumer Sciences, LRSO
Bruce Knox – Senior Database Programmer Analyst, Cleburne County
Alicia Hogan – Administrative Specialist III, Rice Research Extension Center - Stuttgart
Felicia Moore – Program Assistant- EFNEP, Union County
Courtney Gardner – 4-H Program Assistant, Jefferson County
Linda Simpson – Program Assistant-Urban Stormwater, Benton County
Jordan Ralph – Program Assistant - EFNEP, Clay County
Resha Jackson – Program Assistant - EFNEP, Phillips County
Cassandra Redden – Administrative Specialist II, Miller County
Baylee Milam – Administrative Specialist II, Animal Science Department, Little Rock
Cecilia Harberson – Administrative Specialist III, Howard County
Nancy Clark – Administrative Specialist III, Family & Consumer Sciences, Little Rock
Yolanda Harden – Senior Grants Officer, Sponsored Programs, Little Rock

