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BLUE LETTER

November 2021

No. 3835



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Grateful

November has been a busy month. I have to say I really enjoyed the fact that this month's Check in and Tune Up event was held in-person this year at the 4-H Center, no virtual option in sight. Over 50 new employees were signed up. A few had never met any of their co-workers in person, because like me they were hired during the pandemic, but have worked remotely. Many others had met only a few colleagues, so this was a great opportunity for us all to connect. Much appreciation to Diane Mashburn and all those involved in hosting this event.

I was very pleased to take part in this year's Support Staff Conference which was a virtual event but did have some sites where employees gathered to watch together. This is a truly a group of often unsung heroes in the Extension Service. We all know that this group of folks keep us in business and make a lot of us look good. It was a good event, and if you have not seen the "Extension Family Feud" section, I suggest you seek it out and enjoy! I want to acknowledge the job that the planning committee and Dr. Karen Ballard did on this event. We wish Karen the best in her upcoming retirement as she moves on to other challenges.

Extension officially broke ground on new office and meeting space this month at the Jackson County Extension Center (formerly Newport Extension Center). This 1.4 million dollar building will be a significant upgrade for County and State faculty and staff who work from this Center. For me, this is the culmination of several years of effort to bring a mostly

defunct research station back into production and provide Jackson and surrounding counties with a meeting space of our own in that area. I think it opens up a lot of opportunities for growth in this area, and I look forward to seeing what staff chair Matt Davis and Station Director Dr. Tom Barber do with this new resource.

Monday, December 6 is the date of the Extension Employee Conference which will be held both in-person and via Zoom this year from the Little Rock State Office. We are working on a great program, and I am looking forward to recognizing some outstanding efforts this past year with our Excellence Awards. Division Agricultural Awards will be held at the 4-H Center this year on January 14. I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who nominated a colleague and those who served on selection committees for their service. It is important that we take the time to recognize our peers in this way.

I also want to thank all those who are serving on promotion and search committees. Amy Hedges does a good job of trying to make sure that we spread these opportunities throughout Extension, and we try not to place too much burden on any one person. However, I recognize and understand the sacrifice of time it takes to do a good job on all our committees. This service component of your appointment is very important to keeping our organization moving forward.

I hope you all have a good month. I am looking forward to the holidays and spending some time with family as I hope you are. ■

INSIDE SCOOP

2. Rockin' St. Jude
3. Drones Locate Feral Hogs
4. Tech Corner
5. Beef & Forages Field Day

6. 4-H Tour Local Jail
7. Bilingual Podcast
8. Arkansas Beef Quiz Bowl
9. Awards of Distinction...And much more!

SNAP-Ed Renovated School Nutrition Garden

The Pulaski County Extension SNAP-Ed program used a \$5,000 Roadways and Roots grant to renovate a 10-year-old school garden at Western Hills Elementary.

The mini grant funded a complete renovation of the garden and was used to remove the old garden beds, divert roof water runoff, cover entire garden space with landscape fabric, build and place new raised beds, refill beds with soil saved from previous beds, run irrigation lines to all new beds and cover the ground cloth outside of beds with crushed gravel.

The improvements have reduced maintenance and improved food production. A parent says, "It was a great help for my son. Before he refused to eat green foods but with your help he is trying more, Thank you!"

In 2011, the Little Rock School District, Pulaski County Extension, and the City of Little Rock partnered to address rising childhood obesity rates by focusing on three key areas: nutrition education, garden reinforcement and physical activity. After the pilot year, the Pulaski Co.

Extension SNAP-Ed program continued to provide nutrition education and garden support at Western Hills Elementary.

This project was completed with the help of donations and volunteers from St. Andrews Anglican Church, Pulaski County Sheriff's Department, Pulaski County Road and Bridge, Granite Mountain Quarries, Pulaski County Master Gardeners, Western Hills Neighborhood Association, Jimmy Parks - Arkansas Interfaith Power and Light, Full Circle Farm Corps, Arkansas Audubon Society, Dale Collins/Presidential Gardens, Western Hills Elementary Teachers and UADA Employees. ■



First graders plant 'Ponca' blackberries in the school Nutrition Garden at Western Hills Elementary.

Rockin' St. Jude

Randolph County 4-H youth put their artistic talents to work painting rocks. The youth embellished more than 50 rocks that made their way to St. Jude Children's research Hospital in Memphis. Each rock was hidden on the hospital grounds, with hopes of bringing a smile upon its retrieval. Randolph County 4-H challenges other counties to participate in the community service project to make someone else's day brighter! ■



4-Hers displaying their artistic works.

Field Day in NE Arkansas

Participants in UADA Internal Leadership Education and Development (iLEAD) recently visited the Northeast Rice Research and Extension Center (NERREC) in Greenfield and the Northeast Research and Extension Center (NEREC) in Keiser.

“iLEAD is a one-year intensive leadership development program for UADA employees. The program provides participants with the unique opportunity to enhance their personal leadership skills and explore first-hand UADA’s research and education endeavors across the state,” said Dr. Julie Robinson, associate professor and iLEAD director.

One participant shared in the evaluation that they valued the opportunity to network with new colleagues.



The individual stated, “Connecting the research and extension aspects shows us how our contributions help them. In addition, speaking with the county extension agents showed me their struggle between county governments and UADA.”

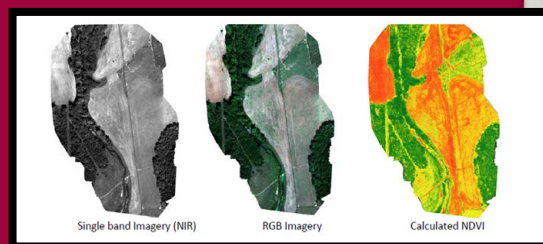
To learn more about the iLEAD program contact Julie Robinson, jrobinson@uada.edu or Lisa Davis, ldavis@uada.edu. ■

Drones Locate Feral Hogs

Extension faculty are using drones to locate feral hogs and assess damages before and after trapping. The non-native species damage agricultural crops and forestry, pollute waters and compete with native wildlife for habitat. Application technologist Jason Davis, ANR forest resources technicians Megan Billson and Rachel Lipsey, and county agriculture agents Michael Paskewitz and Terrell Davis are conducting flights, with Bob Powell and Grant Beckwith expected to join as licensed drone pilots. The state-of-the-art drones are funded by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture for designing and piloting protocols which measure the impacts of trapping and removing feral hogs by Conservation District technicians in 12 pilot counties in the state.

Cooperating county agents such as Hempstead County Agent Kim Rowe help the team locate farmers with feral hog damage or the potential for damage in pilot counties. Paskewitz’s recordings using RGB and thermal imagery of pasture damage have been useful in developing protocols for the project. Dr. Becky McPeake, wildlife specialist

and the project’s principal investigator, says drones are a promising tool for helping agencies and landowners locate and remove feral hogs and measure damages. ■



Above: Example of drone image for detecting feral hog damages in an Izard County pasture. Raw imagery is pre-processed into multiple single layer maps to be analyzed. These preliminary maps will facilitate developing an index or workflow to visualize and quantify damage across a whole field.



Above right: Dr. Vic Ford and Rachel Lipsey receive drone training from Jason Davis for locating and assessing feral hog damages.



Required OneDrive Backup

Several cloud data storage options are available for all employees. Using these storage options requires you to mindfully keep your files in these locations. We all get busy and may forget to save and move our files every day in order to protect them from loss. For this reason, we require that all employees have OneDrive Backup of Known Folders setup. Doing this will solve several issues:

- It provides an automated backup of your files within the following folders – Desktop, Documents, Pictures.
- It keeps your files in the folders synced between multiple computers (if setup for OneDrive backup).
- It ensures that you are complying with the policy that all users will protect their files from accidental loss.

You are not required to stop using the other cloud storage options. However, using OneDrive backup ensures that your data is being backed up to protect from accidental loss. Just ask anyone who has had a failed hard drive. It happens without warning, and everything is lost in that moment. If you don't have the data backed up, you lose it all.

Instructions for setting up OneDrive sync and backup can be found at: <https://www.uada.edu/employees/information-technology/it-resources/onedrive-backup.aspx>.

Windows 11 is Here!



Windows 11 was available beginning Oct. 5, and you may have received a Microsoft prompt to upgrade your computer. **Should you do it – no.**

IT is not recommending that anyone upgrade to Windows 11 at this time because:

- Microsoft isn't encouraging everyone to upgrade to Windows

- 11, in fact, they are recommending that many not upgrade.
- Unlike with Windows 10, Windows 11 isn't designed for most PCs. Windows 11 only supports very recent hardware.
- The new Windows 11 is a newly released operating system; the bugs haven't been fully worked out.
- Windows 10 is supported until 2025. There is plenty of time before you will be required to upgrade. Most will purchase a new computer with Windows 11 already installed before they are required to upgrade.
- Some of our current applications and software may not operate with Windows 11. It will take some time before all of these are tested and approved for use with Windows 11.
- Your current peripheral hardware (printers, scanners, webcams, etc.) may not operate properly with Windows 11. The vendors for these peripherals may not have Windows 11 drivers and software available for another year or so for their devices.

Zoom Pro Tip

"Basic vs. Licensed UADA Accounts"

All UADA employees are assigned a "Basic" UADA Zoom account with the capability of scheduling and hosting Zoom meetings for a maximum of 300 participants for 40 minutes or less. Employees needing to host meetings for longer than 40 minutes may request a "Licensed" account using the [Zoom Licensed Account Request form](#).

The chart below outlines the differences between a Basic and Licensed UADA Zoom account. ■

UADA ACCOUNTS	BASIC	LICENSED
Length of Time/Meeting	40 minutes (> 2 attendees)	Unlimited
Record Locally to Computer	✓	✓
Record to Zoom Cloud (limited storage <30 days)	X	✓
Create Meeting Registration	X	✓
In-Meeting Polls	X	✓
Post-Meeting Surveys	X	✓
Generate Meeting Reports	✓	✓

2021 TECH TUESDAYS WEBINARS

Register and join us Dec. 14 for the Tech Tuesday webinar, "The Best of 2021".

Take a look at the previous 2021 Tech Tuesdays. Check out the blog posts [here](#).



Strawberry School Reaches Over 2,000

Growers, Gardeners & Extension Personnel

Last month the extension horticulture team wrapped up the 2021 Southeastern Plasticulture Strawberry School, a six-part webinar series that started in February. In the series, Drs. Amanda McWhirt and Aaron Cato, in conjunction with more than 15 specialists across the

region, followed the strawberry crop through the year and featured webinars on topics relevant to strawberry production for that season. Program staff Lizzy Herrera and Sarah Cato were key to developing the webinars into YouTube videos and coordinating with participants.

Since opening registration at the beginning of 2021, 659 people have registered and the six live webinars have received 587 views from 33 states and 32 countries. All of the presentations for the series were recorded and uploaded to the [Strawberry School](#) page on the UADA website and the [UAEX Fruit & Vegetable YouTube channel](#). Through live attendees and later-viewed recordings, the 2021 Southeastern Plasticulture Strawberry School has reached more than 2,000 people.

The Southern Region Small Fruit Consortium funded the webinar series. ■



Dr. Aaron Cato (left), Horticulture IPM extension specialist & Dr. Amanda McWhirt (right), Horticulture production extension specialist, filming for the 2021 Southeastern Strawberry School.

Beef & Forages Field Day

Ouachita district agriculture agents, Dr. Daniel Rivera, Dr. Charles Looney and Kenny Simon hosted a field day focused on cattle management and forages at the Southwest Research and Extension Center on Oct. 29.

Dr. James Mitchell, extension livestock economist, provided a cattle market update, and Dr. Looney presented research on herd improvement and updates on the research station demonstrations.

Producers toured the cattle barn to learn about ultra-sounding with Dr. Looney, walked the Ouachita District Annual Forage Variety Trial with Kenny Simon to examine forage options for fall, and worked with Dr. Shane Gadberry, professor of ruminant nutrition, on winter supplemental feeding options.

More than 70 people from 11 counties attended the Oct. 29 event, sponsored by Farm Credit of Western

Arkansas and Arkansas Cattlemen's Association. Many producers reported not only an increase in understanding, but several plan on implementing practices introduced during the field day, including a better breeding schedule and forages. Producers were thankful for the opportunity to not only learn, but to come in person and see the research firsthand. Overall, the field day was a huge success. It was an event that modeled cooperation between the research station, county agents, and specialists. ■



Kenny Simon, forages program associate, showcasing winter annuals forage demonstration.

New Guard Llama Settles in

Animal Science has a new guard at the Milo J. Shult Agricultural Research and Extension Center (SAREC) in Fayetteville. She is only 4 years old, but she stands over 6 feet tall and puts up with no drama. Maddie Akka is a guardian llama who has been the vigilant protector of a flock of sheep since April. “Maddie,” as she is also known, keeps watch over a flock of about 70 sheep used at the research and extension center (SAREC) and deters predators like coyotes and stray dogs.

Maddie has been featured on several local news outlets as well as a story on RFD-TV. To read the entire article, go to <https://bit.ly/AAES-GuardLlama>. To watch the RFD-TV story, go to <https://www.rfdtv.com/story/44884991/meet-maddie-the-arkansas-ag-experiment-stations-guardian-llama>. ■



Milo J. Shult Agricultural Research and Extension protector, Maddie

4-H Tour Local Jail

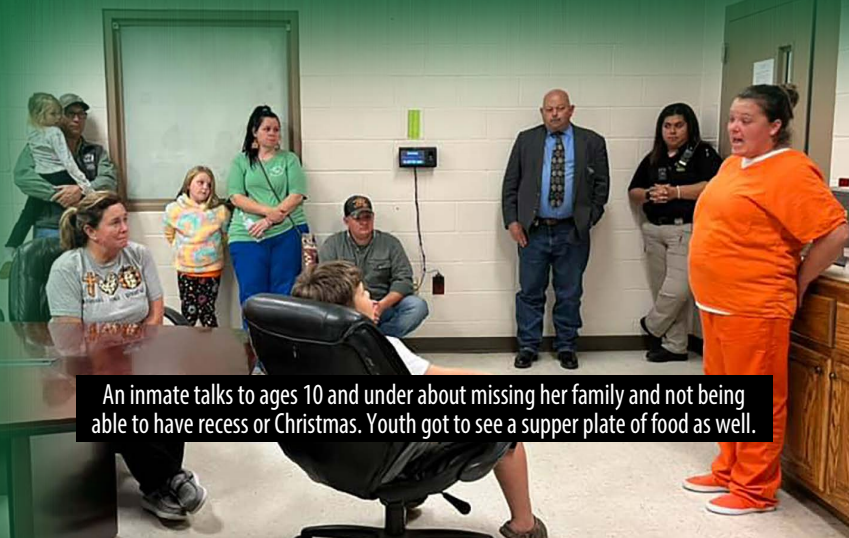
Sevier County 4-H members toured the Sevier County Jail on Nov. 2, where Jail Administrator Chris Wolcott and Sheriff Robert Gentry educated them about the daily schedule and what all it takes to operate the jail.

The 67 youth discovered that food in jail isn't all that great, and when someone says “yard,” they don't mean a pretty white fence with grass; they actually mean a small square of cement.

The youth learned about different jobs in the jail, such as the tower operator, who controls which doors open, and which do not, all from a desk on the second floor. Former inmates shared their stories and what decisions they could have changed to stay out of jail. They also reminded youth to not be afraid of law enforcement who are there to help them. ■



Sheriff Robert Gentry introduces inmates who spoke to the older kids about the decisions they made that landed them in jail.



An inmate talks to ages 10 and under about missing her family and not being able to have recess or Christmas. Youth got to see a supper plate of food as well.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion is a Journey, not a Destination

Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) are critical components of any process that seeks to respect human capital (a person's knowledge, skills, abilities, creativity, wisdom, judgment, etc.), life experiences, individual differences, and self-expression.

The latest Leadership Lunch and Learn (LLL) series focused on DEI, and featured Dr. Malcom Glover, who works as DEI program manager for the consulting firm Booz Allen Hamilton.

Julianne Dunn, an instructor in Community, Professional and Economic Development unit, facilitated the session. A [recording of the session](#) is now available for public viewing.

"DEI is a journey and not a destination," Glover said. "We are all unique, and we must learn to value all our differences."

DEI has a strong correlation with organizational success. Glover's employer was recognized by Forbes as one of the best employers for diversity in the country, ranking second in 2021.

"To truly engage revolves around trust," Glover said. The next session in the Leadership Lunch and Learn series is Nov. 17 at 12:15 p.m. The topic is "Networking and Social Influence," presented by Miguel Lopez, senior vice president and chief community outreach officer for Encore Bank. [Register here.](#) ■



Bilingual Podcast



During Hispanic Heritage month in October, Arkansas CREATE BRIDGES Program Coordinator Murriel Wiley interviewed bilingual business owners Lorena Esquivel and Nelson Ramirez in De Queen for a podcast about the contributions of Hispanic-owned businesses in Sevier County.

The episode, "Bilingue in Negocios" was captured in both Spanish and English versions for the "Arkansas Small Business: Big Rural Impact" series, which launched in 2020 and provides information for entrepreneurs with advice from community leaders and successful business owners. The podcast has received more than 1,100 downloads on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and BuzzSprout.



Podcast episode being filmed with (l-r) Lorena Esquivel, Nelson Ramirez, Diego Martinez, and Yonathan Flores (Photo credit: Murriel Wiley)

Affectionately nicknamed "Little Mexico," De Queen boasts businesses with bilingual staff, Spanish church services, stores with Mexican products, and a Spanish radio station on KDQN AM 1390. For the Spanish edition, KDQN AM host Diego Martinez conducts an authentic, humorous conversation from a direct point-of-view.

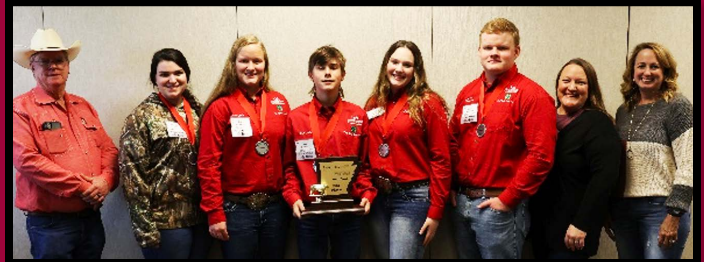
The episode runs 30 minutes and highlights the impact of fútbol on the community and the gem of having a Spanish radio station in De Queen. In the interview, both Esquivel and Ramirez agree that offering services in both languages "creates a bridge" between people and information that connects the community. For more information about CREATE BRIDGES, visit www.uaex.uada.edu/createbridges. ■

Arkansas Beef Quiz Bowl

Animal Science hosted the annual statewide Beef Quiz Bowl at the Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Center in Fayetteville on Oct. 26. Eight teams, 32 students plus 4-H agents, Ag instructors and parents attended this event. Students were tested on all aspects of beef production. Teams were comprised of four students who competed in a double elimination tournament. Congratulations to Fayetteville FFA White for placing first; Hot Spring County 4-H and Greene County 4-H-Green finished second and third, respectively.

Preparation for this contest helped students sharpen their knowledge about beef cattle production and improve skills in communication, goal setting, critical thinking, team building. This program has a great impact on educating students and encouraging a broadened perspective about their role in beef production, food

safety and consumer acceptance. These efforts will be continued through the U of A Animal Science, Cooperative Extension Service, Arkansas Beef Council and agriculture teachers across the state. This program is funded by the Arkansas Beef Council through revenue collected from the Beef Check-Off. ■



Hot Spring County 4-H, 2nd Place. Jerry Christie, Arkansas Beef Council Board of Director, Morgan T., coach, Eva Berryhill, Cash N., Atlanta N., Jack B., Angela Berryhill and Donette Spann, Arkansas Beef Council.



Fayetteville FFA – White, 1st Place. From left to right: Jerry Christie, Arkansas Beef Council Board of Director, Jade Cameron, assistant coach, Madi Edwards, Zane W., Cason F., Kaleb S., Jimmy Frisby, coach and Donette Spann, Arkansas Beef Council.



Greene County 4-H – Green, 3rd Place. From left to right: Jerry Christie, Arkansas Beef Council Board of Director, Terry Kelley, assistant coach, Kristian Glover, Victoria H., Andrea P., Michael H., Paula Norman, coach and Donette Spann, Arkansas Beef Council.

UA Ranch Horse Team is

Crowned Reserve World Champions

In their first trip to the Stock Horse of Texas World Show in Abilene, Texas, the U of A Ranch Horse Team were reserve champions in go-round 1 and 2 and finished as Division 2 Reserve World Champions! Congratulations to the team, coach Jordan Shore, and assistant coach Sidney Dunkle. ■



From left to right: coach Jordan Shore, Brianna Keeling, Kyla Neal, Caitlyn Ferguson, Elise Tremonti and assistant coach Sydney Dunkle.

Awards of Distinction

Arkansas Extension employees are part of a multistate team honored with the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP) National Diversity Award. ECOP is the representative leadership and governing body of Extension nationwide.

The Coming Together for Racial Understanding Team, comprised of extension specialists and administrators from 22 land-grant universities from 17 states and other national representatives, won the award. The team trained facilitators who guided community dialogues across the country around issues of race and

discrimination. The effort involved 29 states sending teams for national training, with more than 100 participants completing train-the-trainer workshops.

The principal for the team is Rachel Welborn, associate director for the Southern Region Rural Development Center. Arkansans on the team are Teki K. Hunt, director of 4-H Youth Programs and recruitment for the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff's School of Agriculture, Fisheries and Human Sciences; Blanca Hernandez, Pulaski County extension agent-FCS; and Laura Hendrix, interim associate department head for Family and Consumer Sciences. Dr. Hendrix serves on the national research team.

Julianne Dunn and Emily Smith, who work in Community, Professional and Economic Development, assist Hunt and Hernandez in facilitating Coming Together for Racial Understanding dialogues with UADA employees. Check <https://learn.uada.edu> to register for the March 2022 training. ■



From left to right: Laura Hendrix, Blanca Hernandez, Teki K. Hunt

Animal Science Hosts Fourth Session of YCLC

The Department recently hosted the fourth session of the Arkansas Cattlemen's Young Cattlemen's Leadership Class (YCLC) Oct. 25-27 in Fayetteville. Participants learned about the processes their beef product undergoes from harvest to the plate. In understanding those processes, they will be better educated to tell the industry story at the meat case or an online blog as necessary.

The program focused on beef cuts and the processes necessary to provide retail meat case products. Members of the class participated in processing their steer and were involved in a sensory and beef tenderness demonstration. Thanks to Drs. Kelly Vierck and Janeal Yancey, and Tim Johnson, manager of the UADA Red Meat Abattoir, for coordinating this event. The Arkansas Beef Council funds the Young Cattlemen's Leadership program. ■



Dr. Kelly Vierck, Assistant Professor – Meat Science, instructs YCLC participants at the UADA Red Meat Abattoir at the Milo J. Shult Agricultural Research & Extension Center (SAREC) in Fayetteville.



A steak dinner was enjoyed by YCLC participants, Arkansas Cattlemen Association staff, members of the Arkansas Beef Council, Interim VP for Agriculture Mr. Chuck Culver, and Drs. Deacue Fields, III and J. F. Meullenet on the Hawkins Family Terrace associated with the AFLS Building.

2024 Great American Solar Eclipse

CREATE BRIDGES coordinated a weeklong visit with Brook Kaufman, CEO of Visit Casper (Wyoming), well-known for leading the planning and execution of the 2017 Wyoming Eclipse Festival.

On April 8, 2024, CREATE BRIDGES regions (Fulton, Howard, Izard, Little River, Sharp, Sevier) and two-thirds of Arkansas will be in path of totality that will last over four minutes. As Brook explains, “people will come to view the eclipse whether the communities are prepared or not.” This may be the largest tourism event for many rural Arkansas communities.



Brook Kaufman speaking to a group of elected officials, public safety officers, business owners and community members in Hardy. (Photo credit: Brandon Mathews)

Kaufman gave eight presentations and two radio interviews in five counties, sharing the economic impact the eclipse brought to her community. More than 21,000 people went to Casper, spent \$7.5 million in revenue, and \$500,000 in tax receipts. More importantly, 76 percent of festival attendees had never thought about visiting Casper before, and 32 said indicated they would return. This is a chance for rural Arkansas to roll out the red carpet for visitors.

For more information, contact hwhited@uada.edu. Community, Professional and Economic Development (CPED) will host an in-service webinar Jan. 13, 2022, on the 2024 Eclipse. Sign-up on [Learn](#). ■

LeadAR Session

Designed to Strengthen Active Citizenship Skills

LeadAR Class 19 members learned about writing bills, identifying community priorities, and how to use parliamentary procedure in their most recently session.

Emily Smith, a program associate in the Community, Professional and Economic Development unit, facilitated the virtual discussion.

Kristin Higgins, from the Division’s Public Policy Center, led the discussion about the skills needed to be active, informed citizens and leaders who can make a difference in their communities. She shared why parliamentary procedure matters and how they would use the rules to move bills through their mock legislative session.

“It is simply a way for everyone to be heard in an orderly fashion, and it’s a vital tool used by societies to enact

change or encourage action,” she said.

Parliamentary procedure is a set of rules that help organize a group’s meeting so everyone has a say and helps move meetings along. Visit Extension’s website for more information about parliamentary procedure.

LeadAR is a program designed to help Arkansans broaden their understanding of issues and opportunities facing our state. For more information about LeadAR, visit the website or contact Julie Robinson, jrobinson@uada.edu, or Lisa Davis, ldavis@uada.edu. ■





Archeolympics

Teams from Monroe and Drew County 4-H competed in this year's Archeolympics held at Toltec Mounds Archeological State Park. The teams competed in three events: Atlatl dart throwing for accuracy and distance, trivia contest on recognizing archeological sites around the world, and a relay race that focused on the process of

archeology. The 4-H teams competed with college-level anthropology/archeology students and showed what 4-H can do. Stephen B. of Drew County placed second in distance throwing. Monroe County 4-H won third place in accuracy throwing and Drew County won first in trivia. ■



Stephen B. from Drew Co. 4-H prepares to throw a dart using an atlatl at archeolympics.



Monroe Co. team, accompanied by county agent Valerie Turner, identify archeological sites from around the world.



Teams from Drew Co. (back) and Monroe Co. (front) compete at the Archeolympics.

Grants and Contracts

PROJECT TITLE	AWARD AMOUNT	PI	GRANTING AGENCY
Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network	99,840	Brittney Schrick	Arkansas Agriculture Department
Wheat Verification	13,000	Jason Kelley	Wheat Promotion Board
Disease Management Using Recommended Wheat Varieties	3,585	Jason Kelley	Wheat Promotion Board
Update of the Watershed Stewardship Program in Arkansas (Phase II)	156,274	John Pennington	Arkansas Natural Resources Commission
Healthy Pantry Toolkit	7,504	Josh Phelps	University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
Local Food Navigators	41,598	Ron Rainey	Arkansas Department of Higher Education
Strategic Plans for Downtown Communities	6,750	Stacey McCullough	Main Street Arkansas
Clay County Leadership Program	750	Stewart Runsick	Arkansas Community Foundation
Disease Management Using Recommended Wheat Varieties	11,415	Terry Spurlock	Wheat Promotion Board
TOTAL AWARDS FOR OCTOBER 2021: \$ 340,716			

Benefits Corner

UMR Health Insurance

Enrolled in health insurance through UMR? Work with a Health Coach. Program coaches help you create health care goals and adhere to your diabetes and healthy heart treatment plan. If you are identified as high-risk, you may be invited to work with a health coach to bring these and other health conditions under control. You can also self-enroll by calling UMR Care Management at 866.575.2540.

Arkansas BCBS Dental Insurance

Enrolled in dental insurance through AR BlueCross BlueShield? Remember if you or an enrolled dependent receives benefits of less than \$750 in a calendar year, up to \$375 of unused benefits will roll over 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. To be eligible for the rollover, you (or your enrolled dependent) must meet four conditions listed at: <https://benefits.uasys.edu/health-wellness/dental/>.

Critical Illness Insurance

Enrolled in the employee-pay-all critical illness insurance through UnitedHealthcare? Remember to get even more out of your critical illness plan, there's a wellness benefit that helps pay for preventive care and other health screenings. To earn \$50, complete at least one of the screenings or tests listed at: <https://benefits.uasys.edu/financial-protection/critical-illness-insurance/>. ■



Personnel Changes

Welcome Aboard:

Rebekah Hall – Content Specialist, Office of Communications, Little Rock
Ashley Flickinger – 4-H Program Assistant, Pope County
Anna Bonner – EFNEP - Program Assistant, Phillips County
Ronda Best – County Extension Agent - Family & Consumer Sciences, Dallas County
Benjamin Aaron – Video Production Specialist, Office of Communications, Little Rock
Ashley Fulks – County Extension Agent - Family & Consumer Sciences, Searcy County
Lourdes Yanez – Program Technician - Child Care Technical Assistance Coordinator, Family & Consumer Science, Little Rock
Blake Erbach – County Extension Agent - Agriculture, Perry County
Teresa McAllister – Administrative Specialist III, Saline County
Clayton Spafford – Program Technician, Crop, Soil & Environmental Sciences, Arkansas Discovery Farm

Farewell to:

Russell Wilson – Information Technology - Network Administrator, Little Rock
Chuck Wilson – Soils Specialist - Field Crops - Crop, Soil & Environmental Science, Northeast Research & Extension Center
Tammy Haney – Administrative Specialist I, Arkansas County

