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BLUE LETTER

February 2018
No. 3790



In praise of outstanding Extension employees

February is the shortest month and, in some minds, a depressing one where you wonder if the winter will ever end, along with the flu or other respiratory ailments caught in January. But this month is redeemed for me as the birth month of my first granddaughter, so I now endure the month with a better attitude than in the past.

Please note the Division of Agriculture award recipients in this issue. These colleagues gave their all, and these awards recognize that effort, and while the moderator needs to lose weight, the event itself was sterling. I hope you were there, but if not, perhaps next year you will be... celebrating as an attendee, or even better as an awardee. I was honored to present the Extension Awards to Cecelia Harberson, Tom Barber and the Discovery Farm Team – congratulations to all again, and to all the awardees.

Kudos to Dr. Bob Scott, professor and Extension weed scientist, now president of the prestigious Southern Weed Science Society – congratulations Bob! Likewise to Dr. Julie Robinson, president this year of the National Association of Extension Program and Staff Development Professionals and remarkably humble extension colleague – congratulations! And finally, a congratulatory note to Dr. Travis Faske, president of the Southern Division of the American Phytopathological Society and consummate professional plant pathologist – great job with the annual meeting in Fayetteville recently, Travis!

This issue highlights once again the diversity of programming and activities we are involved in, from drones in Ag to



FROM THE DIRECTOR

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Division of Agriculture honors Extension faculty, staff

Seven Cooperative Extension Service faculty and staff were among those recognized Jan. 12 during the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture and Bumpers College Agriculture Awards Luncheon at the new Don Tyson Center for Agricultural Sciences in Fayetteville.

Cecilia Harberson, administrative support secretary and “go-to” everything for the Howard County Cooperative Extension Service, received the Division of Agriculture Classified Support Personnel Award.



Howard County's Cecilia Harberson honored for outstanding support.

Paul Beck, professor of animal science, received the John W. White Outstanding Research Award for his work on forage and pastures. He joined the Division of Agriculture in 1997 as a herdsman while working on his Ph.D. He holds both research and extension appointments to the division and is now serving as interim director of the Southwest Research and Extension Center near Hope.

Tom Barber, professor and extension weed scientist, received the John W. White Outstanding Extension State Faculty Award. Barber's on-farm research on the control of PPO-resistant pigweed has helped more than 600 county agents, consultants, producers and industry personnel cope with the weed pest. He is frequently called on to provide expertise to the Arkansas State Plant Board and the media.

The Discovery Farm Team received the John W. White Outstanding Team Award. The team is led by **Mike Daniels** and Andrew Sharpley, both professors in the department of crop, soil and environmental sciences. Other members of the team include Barber, Kristofer Brye, professor of applied soil physics and pedology in the department of crop, soil and environmental sciences, cotton agronomist **Bill Robertson**, agricultural engineers **Chris Henry** and **Karl VanDevender**, and agricultural economist Jennie Popp.

The mission of the Arkansas Discovery Farm Program is to assess the effectiveness of conservation practices, document nutrient and sediment loss reductions in runoff water, deliver educational programs and assist farmers in achieving production and stewardship goals. To accomplish these objectives, the team employs



Paul Beck, professor - animal science, honored for outstanding research.



Extension Weed Scientist Tom Barber honored for outstanding extension work.

state-of-the-art water quality collection and monitoring systems.

John W. White Awards for outstanding teaching, research and extension service are named for the U of A System's first vice president for agriculture when the Division of Agriculture was made a statewide unit of the U of A System in 1959. ■

Rural Life Conference set for March 9

The 62nd Rural Life Conference will be Friday, March 9, at the Pine Bluff Convention Center, One Convention Center Plaza, in Pine Bluff. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. with the opening session at 8:45 a.m. The conference theme is “Innovations for Farms, Families and Communities in Changing Times.”

Sponsored by the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff School of Agriculture, Fisheries and Human Sciences, this year's conference features several workshops, a poster session highlighting research and Extension projects and exhibits by university personnel, governmental and community agencies.

Dr. Walter A. Hill, dean, College of Agriculture, Environment and Nutrition Sciences, Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama, will be the morning keynote speaker. He will deliver the S.A. Haley Memorial Lecture. Dr. Alton Thompson, executive director, Association of 1890 Research Directors, will be the luncheon speaker.

Registration is requested of everyone even though the conference is free to producers, homemakers and retirees. Early-bird registration for professionals and agency personnel is \$50; \$75 after Feb. 23. To preregister, contact Margaret L. Taylor at 870-575-7144/8535 or taylorml@uapb.edu. ■



Discovery Farm team honored for research and extension work in water quality. Team members (left to right) Karl VanDevender, Tom Barber, Mike Daniels, Andrew Sharpley and Kris Brye with Jean-Francois Meullenet, interim associate vice president for Agriculture-Research.

Animal Science uses drone to give cattle producers a bird's-eye view of working facilities

The basis of good animal welfare and beef quality assurance is cattle working facilities. University of Arkansas beef cattle specialist Shane Gadberry is working with county Extension agents across the state and the Arkansas Beef Checkoff program to bring a new perspective to this topic. With the help of county agents and cattle producers, video footage of cattle facilities is being captured with a drone.

The two- to three-minute videos and still images are being placed on an extension web page devoted to the subject. Anyone planning to build or update their facility can watch videos to get a birds-eye view of facility layouts other cattle producers around the state have envisioned.

Gadberry sees this as just the beginning of what can be a very useful website. The website also provides details on pen size, feed bunk space and shade area. There are also links to equipment manufacturers. The web address is <https://www.uaex.edu/farm-ranch/animals-forages/beef-cattle/beef-cattle-handling-facilities.aspx>. ■

Scott named president of Southern Weed Science Society

Bob Scott, Extension weed scientist, was named president of the Southern Weed Science Society at this year's annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. Scott will serve a one-year term and preside over the society's 2019 meeting in Oklahoma City.

“It's a great honor to have the opportunity to serve as president of the society,” Scott said. “When you're sitting up there with the gavel and realize you're the president, it's a little surreal. It seems like yesterday you were a grad student sitting out there at one of the tables.”

Scott joined the society in 1991.

Scott said that most of his colleagues “would tell you they wouldn't be where they are today if it wasn't for the Southern Weed Science Society, which has tremendous professional development opportunities and networking.”

Scott joined the Arkansas Extension Service in 2002 and is involved in research on multi-stack technology crops in addition to working as director of the Lonoke Ag Center and the Newport Extension Center. Along with his colleagues Jason Norsworthy and Tom Barber, Scott has provided research-based advice to inform decisions made by the Arkansas State Plant Board and legislative committee meetings.

Scott is a frequent contributor to ArkansasCrops.com, a Division of Agriculture row crop blog that has a following in the thousands.

Near the end of the 2017 growing season, Scott also developed a screening program for soybean seed growers concerned that dicamba exposure might damage their product.

“This is well-deserved recognition for an outstanding weed scientist and extension specialist,” said Vic Ford, interim associate director - Agriculture and Natural Resources-Extension. “Bob exemplifies excellence and leadership. The helm of the SWSS is in good hands.” ■



Gary Schwarzlose, left, outgoing SWSS president, passes the gavel to new president Bob Scott.

What's new in publications? Find out at:
<http://www.uaex.edu/publications/new.aspx>

Poinsett County seniors have a 'Fresh Conversation' about nutrition

Poinsett County senior residents aged 60 or more have the opportunity to participate in free monthly nutrition education lessons as part of Extension's SNAP education partnership with Senior Life Centers in Harrisburg, Trumann and Marked Tree. The FCS agent and the SNAP-WOWNs coordinate to teach the new senior-focused "Fresh Conversations" curriculum, which focuses on a specific nutrition concept each month and allows individuals to "taste" a low-cost, nutritionally-dense recipe that can be quickly made at home. Each participant receives a take-home newsletter to reinforce the month's lesson.

Harrisburg Senior Life Center participants use information from the "Fresh Conversation" program to analyze food labels to determine added sugar content of various foods. ■



2018 Breakthrough Solutions Conference set for June 6 and 7

The 2018 Breakthrough Solutions Conference is set for Thursday, June 7, with pre-conference workshops taking place on June 6.

Breakthrough Solutions Conferences are known for creating stimulating learning experiences that equip community leaders, county Extension faculty, local elected officials, business people, nonprofits and regional leaders with the knowledge and skills to prosper in the 21st century economy.

In addition to a keynote speaker who brings fresh ideas, exciting community projects and opportunities in eight high priority issue areas will be featured. These events will take place at the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, 2301 South University, in Little Rock. For more information, contact Mark Peterson at mpeterson@uaex.edu.

Stay tuned for updates and be sure to put this on your calendar! ■



Fulton County Outdoor Adventure Club attracts non-traditional 4-H'ers



Fulton County 4-H backpackers taking a rest break for a photo after climbing high above the Buffalo River along one of its many bluffs. 4-H members (left to right) are Erica T., Drake S., Kyla K., Ashlynn S., Kyle K. and Garrett C.

Recruiting teen 4-H members can be a challenge, particularly if they weren't previously involved with the program growing up. In an effort to create a teen leader group and attract youth whose interests didn't fall within current 4-H programming effort areas, the Fulton County 4-H Outdoor Adventure Club was born.

After twice participating in the statewide High Adventure trip as his agent assignment, Fulton County Agriculture/4-H agent Brad Runsick saw firsthand the impact that outdoor, adventure-based activities can have on building confidence and leadership skills in teenage youth.

In club meetings, members learn basic outdoor skills, "Leave No Trace" principles and outdoor safety. The group has undergone team building training with LocoRopes!, an area adventure park that provides expert instruction in this field. Building



Getting ready to hit the trail at the Spring Creek trailhead of the Buffalo River Trail in northern Searcy County are (left to right) Fulton County agent Brad Runsick, 4-H'ers Drake S., Ashlynn S., Erica T., Garrett C., Kyle K., Kyla K. and club leader Amy Sanders.

upon that experience, the group was further tested on a seven-mile overnight backpacking trek along the Buffalo River Trail, where they were responsible for preparing their own food, managing their own gear and planning the hiking route.

To date, this new club has reached 19 youth in Fulton County. Several of the participants have stepped up to leadership positions in other activities such as county fair ambassadors and camp counselors at other 4-H camps. ■

Crawford County 4-H leader goes to great lengths to collect for 4-H

No one can ever say Crawford County doesn't fully embrace community service projects!

Dawn Newton, a local 4-H leader, makes sure to do her part for our pop tab collection. Newton recently brought a bag of tabs to the office that had been in California, New York, Tennessee and finally Arkansas. Dawn's mother, Twila Goodrick, who lives in California, regularly donates bags full of tabs to our cause.

It's because of volunteers like these that our winning streak keeps growing. We appreciate you ladies going the extra mile for Crawford County 4-H! ■



Left to right, Brandi Davis, Crawford County 4-H program assistant, Twila Goodrick and Dawn Newton.

Washington County 4-H members are National 4-H Parliamentary Procedure champions

Washington County 4-H'ers joined more than 1,000 youth from 32 states and Alberta, Canada, at the Western National Roundup Jan. 4-7, 2018, in Denver. The conference, now in its 98th year, is held annually in early January, coinciding with the National Western Stock Show. This year's theme of "Unmask the Superhero in YOU" was aimed at helping participants gain the confidence to thrive 4-H and FFA.

The Arkansas 4-H team was named Grand Champion in the National 4-H Parliamentary Procedure Contest.

Members demonstrated their skills using Robert's Rules of Order by solving a trio of problems and conducting an effective business meeting involving at least six different types of motions. In addition, each member answered questions to demonstrate their knowledge of parliamentary procedure. ■



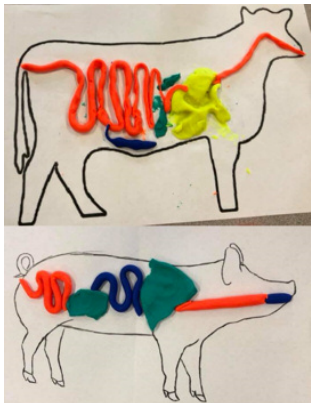
Team members, left to right, are Sagely B., Gabby L., Sara G., Anna Goff – county agent and coach, Autumn G., Kelby B. and William P.

4-H Day with Carlisle ag students



Lonoke County 4-H hosts an in-school 4-H club meeting every month with Carlisle agriculture students. Their meeting on Feb. 1 was an exciting day for all classes. They started by pulling (super wet) soil samples with Plant Science students. Then, the Intro to Ag class learned about soils and their layers with edible soil. Finally, the Survey classes continued their education on animal digestive systems by "digesting" a slice of bread using Coke as stomach acid and a baggie as their stomach. Then they recreated a monogastric and ruminant digestive system with Play-Doh. ■

Left: Three plant science students demonstrate how to pull a soil sample in the Carlisle ag program's 20-acre corn field. Right: Students recreated the digestive systems of cattle and swine using Play-Doh.



Horticulture faculty earn multiple honors at Southern Region Horticultural Science meeting

Horticulture faculty within the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture have earned multiple honors from their peers at the Southern Regional American Society for Horticultural Science.

Wayne Mackay, head of the horticulture department in the Division of Agriculture and for the Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences, was presented with the Paul Smeal Leadership and Administration Award. Mackay joined the department in October 2014 from the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, where he was chair of the Environmental Horticulture Department and previously director of the Mid-Florida Research and Extension Center.

Amanda McWhirt, an assistant professor and extension horticulture specialist for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, earned the John E. Hutchinson Extension Award for Young Professionals. McWhirt joined the Arkansas Extension Service in April 2016 after earning her PhD From North Carolina State University. Among other things, she's conducting research on blackberry production in addition to her extension work.

Jim Robbins, extension horticulture specialist-ornamentals, won Extension Communications Blue Ribbon Awards with two publications: "Features to Consider When Purchasing a Small Unmanned Aircraft System (sUAS)," which was co-authored with Joe Mari Maja of Clemson University (see <https://www.uaex.edu/publications/pdf/FSA-6151.pdf>) and "Homeowners Guide to Pruning Ornamental Tree," (see <https://www.uaex.edu/publications/pdf/FSA-6149.pdf>).

"The Division of Agriculture has many excellent faculty and Department Heads, none more evident than in the Department of Horticulture per these awards. Truly exceptional professionals, just proud to know them," said Rick Cartwright, associate vice president-extension for the Division of Agriculture.

Elena Garcia, professor of horticulture for the Division of Agriculture, also earned an Extension Communications Blue Ribbon Award as co-author of North Carolina State University's Southeast Regional Caneberry Production Guide" (see https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/show_ep3_pdf/1517856856/22996/), along with Gina Hernandez of NC State and David Lockwood of the University of Tennessee.

The awards were presented during the society's annual conference held Feb. 2-4. ■

BENEFITS CORNER: February is American Heart Month

According to healthfinder.gov, heart disease is the leading cause of death for men and women in the United States. Every year, one in four deaths are caused by heart disease.

The good news? Heart disease can often be prevented when people make healthy choices and manage their health conditions. Small changes can make a large difference! You can...

- Talk to your doctor about heart health.
- Add physical activity to your daily routine. (Aim for 150 minutes of moderate physical activity or 75 minutes of vigorous physical activity per week.)
- Limit saturated fat, cholesterol and sodium intake.
- Eat more fruits, vegetables, lean sources of protein and healthy fats.
- Quit smoking.

Make a difference. Spread the word about strategies for preventing heart disease and encourage people to live heart healthy lives.

The U of A Healthy Heart Program is available at no charge to eligible U of A members ages 18 and older. Members enrolled in the U of A Healthy Heart Program will receive periodic calls from a UMR Disease Management health coach to discuss ways to stay healthy. Call 866-575-2540 to enroll.

Please reference the following articles for additional information.

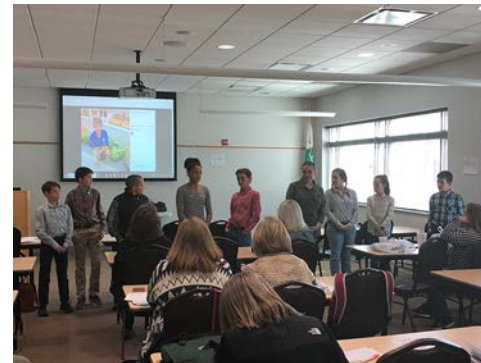
<https://healthfinder.gov/NHO/FebruaryToolkit.aspx>

<http://www.getupanddosomething.org/american-heart-health-month-february-2018-nationwide/>

4-H shines at Agent In-Service

The 4-H state staff hosted the 2018 4-H Agent In-Service Jan. 23-25 at the C. A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center. In attendance were 92 county agents and program assistants, who took part in the three-day event entitled (Re)Focus, which aimed to promote personal and professional development.

Agents and PAs from across the state were presented a variety of workshops ranging from technology and innovation, STEM education, outdoor events and activities, 4-H promotion and event preparation and working with students with different abilities. Attendees were also treated to special guest presenters, including Sonya Corbel, special education supervisor for the Magnolia School District, who spoke about children with unique abilities, and also Dr. Linda Mitchell, professor and regional coordinator for Mississippi State University Extension, who spoke about 4-H'er opportunities in achieving the Congressional Award.



Students from North Little Rock Middle School share their experience as an in-school 4-H club and getting to go to the Arkansas State Fair.



Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas came and demonstrated electrical safety for 4-H In-Service attendees and S.E.E.K. students.



Agents discuss outdoor programming with outdoor exhibits with the Arkansas Shooting Sports and Arkansas Farm Bureau.

"The peer-to-peer sessions were an effective part of the in-service," said Angie Freel, interim department head for 4-H Youth Development. "I witnessed agents building camaraderie who normally wouldn't have interacted with each other. I walked around during those sessions and people were enjoying themselves and discussing their programs with their peers. I'm proud of the hard work the 4-H state staff devoted to this effort, and I hope the agents could tell." ■

Herbicide-impregnated fertilizer trials

Cooperative Extension Service agricultural agents and forage producers in 14 counties participated in weed control demonstrations to compare the effectiveness of herbicide- impregnated fertilizer with traditional foliar-applied herbicides.

Herbicide-impregnated fertilizer has been used successfully in turf weed control for more than 30 years, and in 2017 a forage herbicide received a label for fertilizer impregnation and forage weed control in Arkansas. The impregnation process is conducted by fertilizer/agricultural chemical dealers and applied to the field with bulk fertilizer buggies.

Demonstrations were established on a wide variety of forage and weed species throughout Arkansas. The comparison treatments were typical of herbicides used for forage weed control and recommended in *Pasture Weed Control in Arkansas*, MP 522. The 2017 demonstrations were conducted in Baxter, Cleburne, Faulkner, Garland, Grant, Hot Spring, Howard, Johnson, Marion, Miller, Montgomery, Ouachita, Perry and White counties. Information from these trials is being presented at beef and forage meetings.

For 2018, demonstrations comparing fall and spring treatments have been established in Benton, Howard, Johnson, Marion, Miller and White counties. ■



Brian See, Marion County, applies herbicide-impregnated fertilizer on forage weed control plots.

Delta Ag Expo 2018

The Cross County Extension staff, in conjunction with Cross County Farm Bureau and Cross County Chamber of Commerce/Wynne Economic Development, conducted the 2018 Delta Ag Expo Friday, Jan. 19 at the Bill Thomas Technology Center for the Delta in Wynne. The event was attended by over 150 individuals.

Two sets of concurrent sessions covering topics including Use of Drones in Agriculture, Irrigation Technology, Estate Planning, Cover Crops, Social Media use in Agriculture, Ag Careers and Telling Your Ag Story were held, with breaks between sets for attendees to visit the 37 vendor/sponsor booths. The noon speaker was regional celebrity Archie Mason of the television show, "Boom Time."

Former 4-H ambassador Jenna Martin, now a student at Arkansas State University majoring in Ag Business, recruited sponsors and vendors for the event.

Organizers plan to make the Expo an annual event. ■



Attendees mingle and check out vendors at the Delta Ag Expo.

Family Consumer Science Bowl Team competes at National Western Roundup

The state winning Arkansas 4-H Food Bowl team from Mississippi County competed at the National Western Roundup contest in Denver on Jan. 5. The team competed in the Family Consumer Science Bowl.

Each participate took a written test and then competed in a double elimination team bowl competition. Youth answered questions on the dietary guidelines, kitchen utensils/appliances, spices, flooring, windows, toy safety, banking and much more. The team placed third. Macie S. also placed third in individual points. Team members included Abigail A., Elizabeth A., Shelby S., and Macie S. ■



The Arkansas Family Consumer Science Bowl team from Mississippi County consisted of Shelby S., Macie S., Elizabeth A. and Abigail A.

Cartwright, cont.

community development to food safety and nutrition to youth leaders and so many more things. We are not "everything to everybody," but we are trying to help everybody. There is powerful work going on, and I am humbled to be your Director.

On a sad note, Marvin Wall passed forward the end of January. Marvin was extension entomologist for many years in southeast Arkansas and one of the best field scientists you could ever hope to meet. He put to me to shame several times figuring out what was going on in fields, and was a great mentor. I saw him for the last time last fall at our retiree meeting in McGehee and he passed on a lot of good advice as always. We will miss him.

Noal Lawhon passed on recently, a very tough loss for me and others. Noal was a great friend to all of us, and lived a life of noble leadership in agriculture. He was certainly one of the best people I have ever known and will be greatly missed by the industry and many, many friends.

I also attended the visitation of Dennis Gillam in White County the other day. Another great leader and great friend. His visitation was a powerful reflection of the many friends he had made, and how they felt about him. A truly sad day for all of us.

I wish all of you a great February and early March, and may the spring to come be the best one ever.

– Rick Cartwright ■



Spring is a good time to plan ballot education activities

When Arkansans go to the polls this November to vote, they'll also be deciding whether to alter the state constitution.

It being an election year means the return of the Arkansas Ballot Issues Voter Guide. The Public Policy Center has produced fact sheets on each state constitutional amendment since 2004. We introduced a new format in 2016, combining ballot issue fact sheets into a single voter guide. We heard from many of you that this new format was a success.

The 2018 voter guide will be released in late September or early October. Why? Because the Secretary of State's Office does not finalize the ballot until Aug. 23. It's only then that we can design the guide and send it off to outside printers to create more than 20,000 copies.

What can you do in the meantime? Share the Ballot Issue Newsletter that arrives in your email inbox each month. Plan your fall presentations. Request a ballot issue display that you can use any time of year. Share youth activities with your 4-H clubs that can be done any time of year. Check out the PPC's T-Drive folder for materials or contact Kristin Higgins, khiggins@uaex.edu, with questions. ■

Poinsett County youth recount their 4-H educational experiences to local school board

Representatives from the Tyronza Elementary 4-H Club spoke to the East Poinsett County School Board at the board's early January meeting. Youth members shared their experiences and the opportunities 4-H has provided, along with the club's future goal to send each of the approximately 25 members to the Arkansas 4-H STEM Camp scheduled for July 2018. Tyronza Elementary faculty members Dorothy Edwards and Terri Hicks serve as leaders for the club. ■



Yoga for Kids at West Side Elementary School



Cleburne County Family and Consumer Sciences agent Sarah Henry Metzger recently conducted a "Healthy Living: Yoga for Kids" program for West Side Elementary School (K-6) students. ■

Grants and Contracts

for Month Ending January 31, 2018

Project Title	Award Amount	Principal Investigator	Granting Agency
2018 Nutrient Use Efficiency Assessments of Recently Released Strawberry Cultivars in Both Field and High-Tunnel Production	\$ 5,000	Amanda McWhirt	Southern Region Small Fruit Consortium
Bi-Lingual Demonstration Videos for Strawberry and Blackberry Production in the Southeastern United States	5,000	Amanda McWhirt	Southern Region Small Fruit Consortium
Arkansas Medicaid Diabetes Prevention Program Pilot (MDPPP)	19,680	Debra Head	Arkansas Department of Health
OVT Trips Tolerance	5,000	Gus Lorenz	Cotton Incorporated
2018 Over the Top Herbicide Trials in Strawberry	5,000	Jackie Lee	Southern Region Small Fruit Consortium
A Novel Sustainable Approach to Growing Grapes	61,622	Jackie Lee	Agriculture Experiment Station
2013-2014 NWA Regional Urban Stormwater Education Program	213,084	Katherine Teague	Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission
Evidence-based Complementary and Alternative Interventions to Prevent Opioid Abuse and Misuse in Rural Arkansas	321,912	Lisa Washburn	National Institute of Food and Agriculture
FY18 South Shore Marion County Youth Leadership	2,000	Renee Myers	South Shore Foundation
Developing a Comprehensive Management Program for Foliar Diseases of Soybean	5,000	Travis Faske	Southern Illinois University
Van Buren County Revenue from Legalized Alcohol Sales	500	Wayne Miller	City of Fairfield Bay
Total Awards for January 2018	\$643,798		

Personnel changes

Please welcome the following:

- Emily Hays**, Program Associate - EFNEP, Family and Consumer Sciences, effective January 2, 2018.
- Marshall Robertson**, Project/Program Specialist, Vines 4-H Center, effective January 2, 2018.
- Tonisha Thorpe**, Legal/Compliance Assistant, Office of Legal Counsel, effective January 2, 2018.
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- Justin Chlapecka**, County Extension Agent - Agriculture, Poinsett County, effective January 2, 2018.

- Sheila Lively**, CES Program Assistant, Grant County, effective January 3, 2018.
- Trapper Padgett**, Program Technician - Soybean, Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences, effective January 2, 2018.
- Connie Petty**, 4-H Program Assistant, Pike County, effective January 2, 2018..
- Steven Sheets**, County Extension Agent - Agriculture, Hempstead County, effective January 2, 2018.
- Cally Shore**, 4-H Program Assistant - Youth, Randolph County, effective January 8, 2018.
- Tina Williams**, Program Assistant - 4-H, Howard County, effective January 2, 2018.