

BLUE LETTER

The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Monthly Letter

No. 3747 • July 2014

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Arkansas is fortunate to have abundant water, but we all have to improve our efficiency to preserve this precious resource for the future.

The Cooperative Extension Service is working closely with the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission on the Arkansas Water Plan. A draft of the document was to be completed in June and public meetings will be held this year to receive comments.

The Public Policy Center has been performing outreach duties with the Arkansas Watershed Stewardship program in eight major watersheds. Since November, the Public Policy Center has been facilitating the revision of zoning ordinances that directly affect Lake Maumelle, the chief water supply for Central Arkansas. The quorum court will review the ordinance in July.

Our stormwater education program is helping residents understand the effects of pollution on water quality. One of the most visible efforts is UpStream Art, in which educational murals are painted on stormwater drains to remind people of the direct connection between the streets and our streams.

Extension is also involved in efforts to improve impaired watersheds. This September, Extension will host a meeting of stakeholders in Arkansas' Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Plan.

Part of our water quality efforts include our participation in the Gulf Hypoxia Task Force, a multi-agency partnership that's seeking ways to eliminate the "dead zone" in the Gulf of Mexico. Discovery Farms, edge-of-field monitoring and the Mississippi River Basin Initiative are all part of this effort.

Agents and specialists are also actively involved in encouraging growers to use computerized decision aids to improve irrigation efficiency.

I want to extend my appreciation to those involved in this cross-disciplinary effort – whose impact will be felt not only now, but also by future generations. ■

– Tony Windham

UALR offering tuition waivers for PhD programs

For the first time this fall, doctoral programs at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock will be eligible for the tuition waiver authorized under UA Board Policy 440.1.

UALR has offered tuition waivers to employees, spouses, and dependents since 1986 as a benefit and an opportunity for personal and professional development.

Not included in the waiver are juris doctorate degrees from the Bowen School of Law.

Paula Casey, UALR's interim Dean of the Graduate School, said that employees with questions about this program should contact her directly. Her number is 501-324-9965. ■



**DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION**

University of Arkansas System

University of Arkansas,
United States Department of
Agriculture, and County
Governments Cooperating

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DR. TONY WINDHAM
Associate Vice President for
Agriculture - Extension and
Director, Cooperative Extension Service

U of A Poultry Center of Excellence hosts U.S. Grains Council guests

Dr. Dustan Clark of the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Poultry Center of Excellence organized a two-day poultry short course for a group of 13 poultry industry guests from Colombia, Peru and Ecuador, June 18 and 19. The U.S. Grains Council and Arkansas Farm Bureau sponsored the group and provided translators and Grains Council representatives to assist the group.

The short course focused on poultry production improvement and management and utilization of Arkansas grains and soybeans as feed inputs. Assisting Dr. Clark was H.L. Goodwin, professor and poultry economist in the Division. Drs. Susan Watkins, Karen Christensen, Keith Bramwell and H.L. Goodwin, all of the Poultry Center, Dr. Burt Bluhm, U of A and Dr. Joshua Payne of Oklahoma State University all presented informative lectures on various aspects of poultry production. In addition, George's Incorporated hosted a tour of their feed mill and hatchery in Springdale, and the guests visited the Arkansas Broiler Research Farm at Savoy.

Arkansas Farm Bureau and the U.S. Grains Council plan at least two additional short courses for this fall for other members of constituent trade groups in Latin America. ■



During a break in the two-day Poultry Short Course in the lobby of the John W. Tyson Building, Fayetteville. Participants, left to right, are Mariano Tarnawiecki, Peru; Ramiro Delgado, Daniel Mazuera and Guillermo Serrano, all of Colombia; Dr. Burt Bluhm and Dr. H.L. Goodwin, U of A; Fernan Zapata, Peru; Juan Alvarez and Virginia Morales, Colombia; Cesar Diaz, U.S. Grains Council, Panama; Ana Maria Salinas Caro, USDA-FAS, Colombia; Jose Vargas, Peru; Salomon Chavez, Ecuador; Dr. Dustan Clark, U of A; Jaime Cuellar, U.S. Grains Council, Colombia; Edisson Garzon, Ecuador; and tour translators.

AETN to premiere new series 'Agri Arkansas' Sunday, July 27

The Arkansas Educational Television Network will be debuting a new monthly program, "Agri Arkansas," on Sunday, July 27, at 1 p.m., offering a channel to feature the experts, innovators and challenges presented by the state's largest industry.

"'Agri Arkansas' is not your granddad's farm report," AETN producer Kevin Clark said. "Our segments will reintroduce our audience to the source of their food."

Each episode will feature segments from around Arkansas and discussions with experts – many of whom you'll recognize. Former KAIT-TV news anchor and veteran reporter Tony Brooks will host the series.

Thanks to Phillips County Extension Agent Robert Goodson and Pope County Extension Staff Chair Phil Sims for working with AETN's film crew to obtain footage for the premiere. Preview the trailer at aetn.org/agriarkansas. ■



UAEX.EDU – Website update

We have a few new features on the website to tell you about (www.uaex.edu/websitehelp).

- Find and fill out the new 'Website statistics' form to request page stats (visitor traffic, etc.) on your web pages.
- Download the Accessibility help guides for your files (PDF, Word, etc.).
- Download and read the Design Style Guide illustrating all our page templates, snippets and fonts used on our website.

Upcoming OU10 training for counties

Recently the IT team has offered OmniUpdate version 10 training for all website editors. We had dozens of attendees over the past few weeks, and BeVerly Sims led the training sessions here at the LRSO.

We have county specific OU10 training coming up in August-September. The dates and locations are as follows:

- August 27 – Jonesboro
- September 4 – Fayetteville
- September 9 – Hope
- September 23 – Stuttgart
- September 30 – LRSO

These trainings will require two from each county office to attend. Specific sessions about accessibility and content for counties will be covered. We hope to see you there! ■

Chris Grimes earns Certified Professional Agronomist credential

Chris Grimes, soybean/wheat verification coordinator, has been named a Certified Professional Agronomist (CPAg) by the American Society of Agronomy and the CCA-Arkansas Certifying Board. He has passed two comprehensive exams covering nutrient management, soil and water management, integrated pest management and crop management.

Along with contributing to the agronomic community and gaining the required experience, he has made a commitment to focus on grower profitability while optimizing and protecting our natural resources.

To maintain his CPAg Certification, Chris must earn 50 hours of continuing education units (CEUs) every two years. CEUs must be divided between nutrient management, soil and water management, integrated pest management, crop management and professional development. In addition, CPAgs are required to earn credits through professional service and professional study related to the agronomy profession.

CPAg is a voluntary certification that establishes base standards for knowledge for individuals who practice the profession of agronomy. Only the elite of agronomy professionals have met the standards – exams, experience, education and ethics – set by the American Society of Agronomy to become certified. ■



Chris Grimes

‘Biggest Loser’ winner Becky Comet headlines wellness rally

Becky Comet, a winner on TV’s “The Biggest Loser,” will be the keynote speaker for the Extension Wellness Rally, Aug. 22, at the C.A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center.

The daylong event begins at 8 a.m. and runs through 5 p.m. and includes sessions on nutrition, strength training and fitness tech tools. There will also be vendors on hand and health screenings.

The rally is free of cost to FCS agents. Registration is \$30 and due Aug. 8. Late registration is \$45. Employees and clientele are welcome, and there are a limited number of scholarships available based on financial need.

To register online, visit www.regonline.com/WellnessRally. To obtain a paper copy, contact Lisa Brown at 501-671-2094 or lcbrown@uaex.edu. For scholarship information, contact Dr. LaVona Traywick. ■

Americorps*VISTA: What a way to give back!

The Corporation for National and Community Service has sponsored an AmeriCorps*VISTA project at UACES for four years. Eleven full-year members have served in many capacities during this timeframe. Corps members help market 4-H to other youth-serving programs, tap into out-of-school time networks and recruit and train youth and volunteers while adding value to what we do in our community. VISTAs help build program capacity and sustainability.

4-H is benefitting in summer 2014 with 10 additional summer associates. Associates serve for 10 weeks, conducting direct service to youth ages 5-19 and recruiting adult volunteer leaders in these programs. Programs located in the Central Arkansas area are:

- Central Arkansas Library System Youth Services – seven sites
- Life Skills for Youth
- Mosaic Church
- Positive Impact for Youth
- Greater Second Baptist
- Second Baptist Church
- Little Rock Air Force Base
- Our House
- Arkansas School for the Blind
- 4-H Center
- Operation Military Kids

We also have summer associates working at the LRSO and the 4-H Center to help with rubric development for activities and record books, volunteerism, marketing and teambuilding. For more information, visit www.americorps.gov. ■



Attending the Teen Star Hall of Fame Banquet on June 11, 2014, from left to right, Jeff Wright, Rebekah Hill, Shalondra Martin, LaShun Burton, April Bell, Christy Pettis, Luke Wendeborn, Sally England and Celeste Thornton. Not pictured: Jackson Alexander, Sarah Arnold, Ben Dyson and Trent Ueunten.

Rice Expo features Farm Bill education

The 2014 Farm Bill and a discussion and workshop on its potential effects on crop producers will take center stage at the Arkansas Rice Expo, Aug. 1, at the Grand Prairie Center.

"The 2014 Farm Bill, hands down, is the most complex Farm Bill ever written," said Dr. Bobby Coats, extension economist for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. "First, implementation will take time; and second, robust decision aid software will be required to assist a producer in fully evaluating all combinations of farm program and crop insurance options.

"We will discuss Farm Bill implementation progress to date, a realistic sign-up timeline and basic components of the bill," he said.

The expo will also feature a cross section of Division of Ag programs including healthy cooking demos, 4-H activities for children and a farmers market. ■

Lochmann, Engle elected to key positions in World Aquaculture Society

Dr. Rebecca Lochmann, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Aquaculture/Fisheries Center fish nutritionist, and Dr. Carole Engle, the center's director, have been elected to key positions in the World Aquaculture Society (WAS). Dr. Lochmann is president-elect and Dr. Engle is a director on the organization's board.

Founded in 1969, the World Aquaculture Society has more than 3,000 members in about 100 countries, representing the global aquaculture community. The organization has chapters in the United States, Japan, Korea, Latin America, the Caribbean region and the Asian-Pacific region. Through its diverse membership and international networks, WAS provides leadership for enhanced international communications, collaboration and information exchange.

A member of WAS since 1989, Dr. Lochmann has served as director and president of the U.S. chapter and currently serves as secretary of WAS and chair of the Policies, Rules and Regulations committee.

Dr. Engle has been a member of WAS since 1988 and is a past-president and former director of the U.S. Aquaculture Society (USAS), a chapter of WAS. She was active on the USAS board during the development of student subunits and encouraged students at UAPB to form one of the first subunits. ■



Dr. Rebecca Lochmann



Dr. Carole Engle

BENEFITS CORNER

Need answers to your medical or dental insurance questions?

Contact the vendor(s) directly.

Each vendor has dedicated customer service representatives that are trained, knowledgeable and have access to your records to assist you with your questions and claim issues. Each vendor will be able to instruct you on the surest way to rectify the problem or discuss ways to appeal the decision.

Vendor contact numbers are located on the back of your ID card(s).

- UMR – 1-888-438-6105
- Delta Dental – 1-800-462-5410 or 501-835-3400

Contact Human Resources (501-671-2219) *if you are unable to get your questions answered or claims problem resolved after speaking with the vendor(s).*

Not sure what benefit elections you have in place or who is listed as your beneficiary?

Banner Self-Service: Type in your User ID and your Employee ID Number to access and review your benefit elections.

CEDAR – Human Resources Your Personnel Records: Group Benefits Enrollment Form and/or your Retirement Enrollment Form

A friendly reminder: Please keep your home address updated in Banner Self Service. The name shown on your social security card is the best way to present yourself when requesting or providing information to Human Resources or Financial Services. This includes when leaving voice mails or email. ■

Gail Kizer retires after 50 years with Extension

Gail Kizer was terribly shy when she first started working as a secretary for Extension in the summer of 1964 in Drew County. It was supposed to be just a summer job in between semesters at the University of Arkansas at Monticello. But that all changed.

"I got in there and just dearly loved that job," she said. "I didn't go back to school and I've been here for 50 years."

That's quite an accomplishment, noted Steve Kelley, her supervisor and staff chair in Drew County.

Kelley said it's going to be a difficult task finding someone to fill Kizer's shoes. She has quite the institutional memory, he noted.

Kelley said Kizer is always good to remind him about things he needs to be doing and has easily adapted to changes over the years. He also shared these wonderful adjectives to describe Kizer: dependable, trustworthy, honest and helpful.

Kizer will retire from her post as administrative support supervisor on the last day of July. She can hardly imagine a day when she won't need to set the alarm.

She's looking forward to having more time to ride her horse. Since she was 25, Kizer has been a barrel racer. A few years ago, she retired her horse and stopped competing in the exciting sport herself. But she still loves trail rides and to watch her niece take her own horse around those hair-pin turns.

Kizer also enjoys baking cakes. She'll make an easy birthday cake, sure, but she prefers to stretch her skill set.

"The bigger the cake, the better," she said. "You give me a challenge and I'm happy."

To relax after a busy day, Kizer loves to hop on her zero-degree turn riding lawn mower and neaten up the five acres around her home. "It takes me a little over four hours to mow and I love it. I love to work outside."

She has flowers on the property but has never had time to tend a garden. That's on her to-do list for post-retirement.

Kizer has always been a country girl at heart and said she loves to "get her hands dirty." That was an attitude that came in handy when she worked for Extension, since she was often dealing with soil samples and other messy materials that made their way into her office.

She doesn't know what retirement will bring, but said she'll just take it day by day, pray on it and look ahead.

"This door is fixing to close and I'm going to see what's ahead," she said. "And I'm excited to see what that's going to be." ■

New FTP server launch Aug. 18

Need to share files with a co-worker? What do you do when your files or presentations are too big to e-mail? Use our FTP (File Transfer Protocol) server. FTP is a convenient way to share large files with multiple users locally or in remote locations.

Our current FTP server is aging and is in the process of being replaced with new hardware and software. Watch you e-mail in-box for the New FTP Server announcement to get full details. ■

Welcome Home winner

Congratulations to Susan James in the IT department for correctly identifying the most people in our Welcome Home promotional videos. She ID'd 15 of the 18 people visible in the videos.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Tony Windham | 10. Jarrod Hardke |
| 2. Melanie Malone | 11. Jim Robbins |
| 3. LaVona Traywick | 12. Julie Treat |
| 4. Willa Williams | 13. Melissa Beck |
| 5. Kenny Simon | 14. Jeremy Ross |
| 6. Sherri Sanders | 15. Nikki Dawson |
| 7. Scharidi Barber | 16. Aly Signorelli |
| 8. Mark Peterson | 17. Ray Blevins |
| 9. Tom Riley | 18. Max Franks |

BONUS – Chris Meux's left hand

What's new in publications? Find out at:

<http://www.uaex.edu/publications/new.aspx>

Barracuda spam filtering

Based on the positive feedback from the recent Barracuda spam filtering survey, IT is moving forward with Barracuda. Survey highlights include:

- 158 survey responses
- 89% felt it lessened or stopped their spam
- 80% of survey participants received a quarantine notice
- 70% of those notified went to the Barracuda site to review their quarantined messages
- Overall satisfaction (score 1-5) 4.01
- Ease of use (score 1-5) 3.75

You can find more information about Barracuda on the IT webpage <http://www.uaex.edu/IT> under the link named “Email” in the left navigation column. ■

Meet the *new* employees!



LaTunjha Camper-Bell
Program Assistant
Monroe County

• **What’s your background?**

Human resources, customer service management and payroll services.

• **What knowledge, skills and experience are you bringing to Extension?**

I have over nine years of management experience in customer service, about seven years in crew management, four years of payroll and four years of recruiting and human resources combined.

• **What are one or two things you would like your colleagues to know about you?**

I am a wife and the mother of two exceptional preteen ladies.

• **What would you like to accomplish your first year with Extension?**

I would like to enroll and work toward my bachelor’s degree.

• **What brought you to Extension? What was it about Extension that you value?**

The opportunity to help those in the community and the benefits that Extension offers.

• **What are your interests or hobbies outside of work?**

I enjoy having quiet time to myself, playing spades, engaging in family activities such as traveling, hanging out on the patio with my husband, watching my oldest play her trumpet and my youngest daughter sing. ■



Jason Cater
Assistant Professor/Extension
Veterinarian
Little Rock State Office

• **What’s your background?**

I grew up on a small commercial beef cattle operation in Monticello that has been in our family for six generations, including my boys. I graduated from the University of Arkansas in Monticello with a bachelor’s degree in animal science in May of 2000. I had two broiler breeder hen houses built and raised cattle for five years. I applied to veterinary school and began in July of 2005.

• **What knowledge, skills and experience are you bringing to Extension?**

I opened a large animal practice in Monticello after graduation in May of 2009. I practiced for five years, caring for livestock in several counties in the southeast corner of the state while still managing the farming operation. During this time, I was active on several

boards and associations related to agriculture. Having hands-on livestock production experience is a real asset when consulting with producers around our state.

- **What are one or two things you would like your colleagues to know about you?**

My wife's name is Sara and we have two boys, Weston, 11, and Tanner, 8. We all enjoy the outdoors, hunting, fishing and spending time together as a family.

- **What would you like to accomplish your first year with Extension?**

I plan to develop animal health programs that will help the livestock producers of the state maintain healthier herds, therefore improving production and increasing profits. I am also going to provide support and direction for the 4-H veterinary science program that is in its early stages. I plan to monitor closely disease issues that are affecting our state and keep producers informed of the challenges that we face.

- **What brought you to Extension? What was it about Extension that you value?**

Better hours which will allow more family time and excellent benefits brought me to Extension. I value the good people that work for Extension. I also value the information that Extension is able to bring to the people of our state.

- **What are your interests or hobbies outside of work?**

My hobbies include riding horses, hunting, fishing, working on the farm and gardening with a mule. ■



Elizabeth Sutton
County Extension Agent -
Water Conservation
Pulaski County

- **What's your background?**

I have a bachelor's degree in landscape design and urban horticulture and a master's degree in general agriculture with emphasis in extension education, both from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. I also have a teaching certificate for middle school 4-8 in math/science and language arts/social studies.

- **What knowledge, skills and experience are you bringing to Extension?**

I worked for the U of A Department of Plant Pathology for two years in strawberry and soybean research, then for close to 10 years for Dr. Rick Cartwright running his research lab. For the last six years, I taught junior high science at England, Arkansas.

- **What are one or two things you would like your colleagues to know about you?**

I value hard work and honesty and am devoted to my family.

- **What would you like to accomplish your first year with Extension?**

My goals for my first year are to become very familiar and active with the water auditing/water conservation part of my program. My plans are to present research-based, water conservation and turf best management practices to landscape/turf management clientele while expanding the base of water audits to property owners' associations and homeowners in the Pulaski County area to reduce water usage. I also plan to work closely with specialists in the area to develop further educational programming related to water conservation and turf management.

- **What brought you to Extension? What was it about Extension that you value?**

I have always known that I wanted to work in Extension. It just took a few detours in life to get here! I was very involved in 4-H growing up in Stone County – in fact, my whole family was involved in Extension programming. It made such a difference in our lives that I knew I wanted to be involved in making that same difference. It was a good thing! I saw first hand in my small county the value in bringing research-based education to the people of Arkansas so as to better their lives and livelihoods, especially because Stone County was so rural and people had to make the best of things to live there. While working for Rick Cartwright, I also observed the importance research makes in everyday people's lives because solid research-based education is invaluable for saving money, time and effort.

- **What are your interests or hobbies outside of work?**

I love to ride horses and raise goats, chickens, rabbits and pigs. We have a small farm outside Lonoke, and I spend every extra minute caring for our livestock, garden and farm. We are planning to expand the goat operation and are looking forward to our son showing our goats this fall. ■

Grants and contracts

for Month Ending June 30, 2014

Project Title	Award Amount	Principal Investigator	Granting Agency
Improving Technology Transfer for Profitable and Sustainable Soybean Production	\$ 19,701	Jeremy Ross	Soybean Promotion Board
Test Crop	5,500	Bob Scott	Bayer Crop Science LP
Dietary Phytate and Phytase Levels on Mineral and Antioxidant Status in Broilers 18 Days of Age	29,700	Susan Watkins	ABVista
Personal Finance Education at Rich Smith Development Properties	2,625	Laura Connerly	Family Service Agency, Inc.
Demonstration of Once Innovation LED Technology in Broiler Production	2,000	Susan Watkins	Once Innovation
Central Arkansas Water's Water Conservation Education 2014	28,594	Randy Forst	Central Arkansas Water
Effects of Hatching Egg Quality on Hatchability and Chick Livability Through 14 Days of Age	12,101	Richard Bramwell	Cobb-Vantress, Inc.
4-H STEM Programs in Cleburne, Conway, Faulkner, Van Buren and White Counties	25,000	Noah Washburn	BHP Billiton Petroleum (Deepwater), Inc.
Quad County 4-H Safety Camp	4,999	Jean Ince	Community First Wellness Hometown Health
Evaluation of Tri-San as a Hatchery Sanitizer	9,773	Susan Watkins	Cobb-Vantress, Inc.
Use of Aerial Imagery and Object-Based Software to Obtain Plant Inventory in an Open-Field Container Nursery	3,275	Jim Robbins	Agricultural Research Foundation
TOTAL NEW AWARDS FOR JUNE 2014	\$143,268		

Personnel changes

Please welcome the following:

Bethany G. Berger

Program Associate - Rice Entomology, Entomology, effective June 16, 2014.

LaTunjha L. Camper-Bell

Program Assistant - EFNEP, Monroe County, effective June 16, 2014.

Jason R. Cater

Assistant Professor - Veterinarian, Animal Science, effective May 27, 2014.

Nicholas J. Seiter

Assistant Professor, Entomology, effective June 25, 2014.

Elizabeth A. Sutton

County Extension Agent - Water Conservation, Pulaski County, effective June 2, 2014.