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BLUE LETTER

July 2020
No. 3819



FROM THE DIRECTOR

A New Vision

First, I want to thank everyone for being so supportive and for all the social media contacts and emails that I have received welcoming me back to the Cooperative Extension Service side of the Division. I especially want to thank Dr. Rick Cartwright for his years of service and for the “virtual” three days he spent with me on Zoom letting me know about the various projects and efforts that he was involved in to try and make our transition to a new director as smooth as possible. This would be a challenge under the best of times and is certainly more interesting to try and pull off while we are social distancing.

As I am writing my first contribution to the Blue Letter in my new role, we have just come off one of the worst days in terms of positive tests and hospitalizations due to COVID-19 in the United States. Arkansas is struggling to gain ground against this virus for which there is still no cure or vaccine. This virus has directly affected our Division family, our ability to fulfill our mission and our mood. We continue to remain mainly in a work-from-home status at the state office and in many locations around the state. However, I am so pleased to see our numbers in terms of our outreach efforts and online content and to observe the many positive ways that so many of our employees continue to strive to fulfill our mission. Please keep up the good work, know you are making a difference in people’s lives and don’t get frustrated. For those who have returned to work on-site or never left, please continue

to be safe. It’s a saying so old no one knows for sure where it came from, but “this too shall pass.”

The extension service prides itself on leadership and leading by example. For this reason, I am encouraging all employees to wear their masks and practice social distancing both at work and at home. I would also ask that as an Extension team we help our communications group in their efforts to promote these policies until we see this pandemic through.

I want to extend a special thanks to our Workday transition team. I arrived at the state office in time to see that many of them worked nights and weekends to prepare for our go-live date. I have sat in on some trainings and live chats, and they have been very effective in my opinion. My personal experiences with Workday have been outstanding so far. I know that we are facing some challenges in some areas, but overall, it feels like a success to me. Our transition team has spent many hours making this possible and they are greatly appreciated. This is a massive first step in our efforts to become One Division!

Finally, I want to thank the individual unit leaders and administrative team members for taking the time to have very informative one-on-one meetings with me to make me aware of all the programs and opportunities that we have across the state. It has been incredibly valuable as I bring myself up to speed. ■

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7. 10,000+ Masks in 10 Weeks ...And much more!

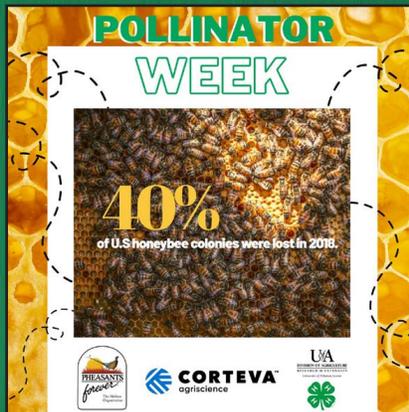
4-H Pollinator Habitat Ambassadors Reach 22,000+



Crittenden and Mississippi County 4-H Pollinator Habitat Ambassadors celebrated and promoted National Pollinator Week with a social media blitz. They created four videos and social media graphics to spread the word about the importance of pollinators and how we can help them. In one week, they reached 22,585 individuals through Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Through social media, Ambassadors also offered a behind-the-scenes look at honeybee keeping and shared information about the honeybee social structure, interesting

bee facts, (such as the Figure-8 waggle dance), and the parts of a honeybee. They also created a quick and easy honeybee hydration station for less than \$5.



The 4-H Pollinator Habitat program helps teen ambassadors develop leadership skills by teaching youth about pollinator habitats and establishing quality pollinator habits in their communities. Their future projects include a virtual day camp and working with local groups, such as schools and nursing homes, to establish pollinator habitats in their communities. ■

Division Bids Dr. Cartwright a Fond Farewell

Employees took advantage of two opportunities — one virtual and one in-person — to bid farewell to Rick Cartwright as he retired from his post as director of the Cooperative Extension Service.

More than 420 employees attended the virtual reception, held June 26. From his office, Cartwright heard heartfelt tributes from colleagues, and even found a few gifts planted in his office. Among those was a giant check showing the \$40,000 collected for the Rick and Lynette Cartwright 4-H Scholarship.

On his final day, Cartwright was feted with a drive-through retirement celebration in the LRSO parking lot. About two dozen vehicles with well-wishers came through, bedecked with balloons, signs, and in Yeshi Wamishe's case, rice plants fresh from Stuttgart. Ples Spradley blared "Happy Trails" as



We will miss you, Dr. C!

he rolled through, while another played "Hail to the Chief."

Photographers from two television stations took video and interviewed Cartwright. The Democrat-Gazette ran a story about his departure. ■





Ballot Issue Training for Agents

Talking about constitutional amendments doesn't have to be political. Extension agents have provided neutral information about all statewide ballot measures since 2004, providing voters with information they need to make informed decisions.

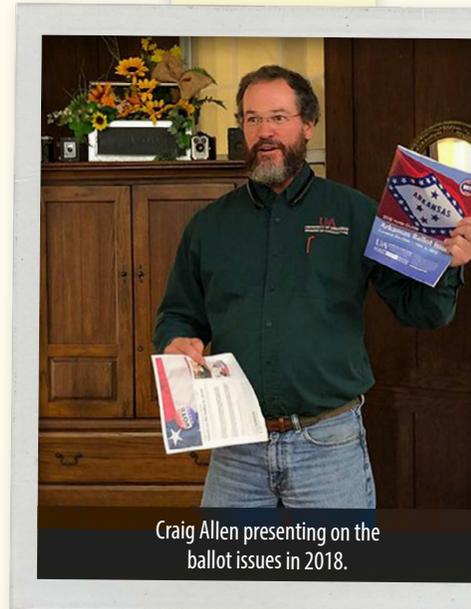
Upcoming trainings for county agents can help demystify the ballot issues and their policy impact. Sign up in Learn for one of three trainings and get answers to the questions of:

- What are the issues?
- What does a FOR or AGAINST vote mean?
- What materials will I receive to help educate my community?

- Where do I report my efforts in AIMS?

Trainings are open to all county agents. Pick from one of these times and dates:

- 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 19
- 3 p.m., Monday, Aug. 24
- 9 a.m., Tuesday, Aug. 25 ■



Craig Allen presenting on the ballot issues in 2018.

Latest Virtual Field Trip Spotlights Conservation Efforts at Farm



Host: (left) Dr. Mike Daniels (UADA), Speakers: Dr. Andrew Sharpley (UADA), Jeff Marley (AR Discovery Farmer) and Dr. James McCarty (Beaver Water District).

On June 23, the Soil and Water Conservation Virtual Field Trip (VFT) series hosted its sixth live broadcast – Protecting Water Resources Through Conservation on a Poultry-Beef Grazing Farm. During the one-hour VFT, Dr. Andrew Sharpley, distinguished professor in crop, soil & environmental sciences; Jeff Marley, Arkansas Discovery Farm owner and farmer and Dr. James McCarty, manager of Environmental Quality for the Beaver Water District discussed conservation practices used on Jeff Marley's farm that help protect the local Beaver Reservoir Watershed in Northwest Arkansas. Dr. Mike Daniels, a Crop, Soil & Environmental Sciences professor, served as host.

The subject matter experts answered audience questions live.

There were 89 participants from 17 states and one participant from Canada. The VFT recording can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/w5XUddEmVkm>. You can find more information and links for the Soil and Water Conservation VFT series at <https://bit.ly/NRCS-AR-Soil-and-Water-VFT-Webpage>. The Soil and Water Conservation VFT series is funded by USDA-NRCS. For more information, contact series coordinator Rita Watson, virtual education specialist in Community, Professional and Economic Development (CPED), at rwatson@uaex.edu. ■

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Soybean Breeding Program Releases New Cultivar

The Arkansas Agricultural Experimental Station has released its first indeterminate glyphosate-tolerant cultivar — UA54i19GT — developed by Leandro Mozzoni and his team. In over five years of testing, in 23 Arkansas environments, the cultivar had a yield comparable to the check average. In general, in Official Variety Testing and USDA Uniform Trials in the Mid-South, UA54i19GT performed better on silt loam soils and it seems to prefer environments south of I-40.

UA54i19GT has white flowers, gray pubescence and a tan pod wall at maturity. Its plants have a medium-tall height,

great standability and good phenotypic looks. UA54i19GT has 34.8% seed protein and 18.1% oil at 13% moisture, and the seed size is approximately 3,100 seeds per pound. It offers an acceptable disease package, including stem canker tolerance and moderate resistance to peanut rook knot nematode.

When compared to previous glyphosate-tolerant releases by the Division, UA54i19GT significantly outperformed them in breeding trials by an average of 3.8 bu/ac. This research was made possible by a grant from the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board. ■

Pre-foundation rows of UA54i19GT (tested as line code R13-14635RR) grown at the Rice Research and Extension Center (RREC), near Stuttgart, AR in 2019.

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University of Arkansas System

R13-14635RR



Clay County Demonstration Aids Agritourism with Installation of Corn Maze

An extension team worked with Pumpkin Hollow to install a corn maze using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS).

The team included Allison Howell, CEA–Agri Clay County; Pearl Webb, program associate – Discovery Farms; Matt Fryer, soil health instructor; and Mike Daniels, water quality specialist.



Allison Howell, CEA-Agri Clay County, uses GPS to lead Mechelle of Pumpkin Hollow through the corn to cut the maze.

Darrel and Ellen Dalton own Pumpkin Hollow, one of the state’s largest agritourism enterprises that gets more than 20,000 visitors annually from several states and countries. Halloween festivities, which include a haunted barn, hayrides, corn maze and a pumpkin patch, are one of its biggest draws.

In the past, the Daltons installed the corn maze by hand using a grid constructed of ropes, poles and measuring chains, which often

took two weeks to install. With today’s technology, the Daltons sent extension a hand-drawn maze that Pearl Webb geo-registered into GIS. Matt Fryer then imported the design into a hand-held Trimble GPS unit. Allison Howell and Mike Daniels navigated with the GPS unit to mark the maze while Pumpkin Hollow employees followed with a zero-turn mower. Using this approach, the maze took just under three hours to install. ■



An aerial view of the 2020 corn maze at Pumpkin Hollow (Clay County).

Virtual Babysitting Basics Workshop



Carrie Pelfrey, BSN, RN demonstrated how to administer CPR.

The Pope County U of A System Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Services held a virtual Babysitting Basics workshop via Zoom from June 23 – July 2. The workshop was held four days, over a two-week period, in two-hour increments.

CPR and choking rescue techniques from Carrie Pelfrey, education coordinator at St. Mary’s Regional Medical Center. ■



Twelve area youth participated in Babysitting Basics via Zoom hosted by Pamela Luker, CEA FCS Agent with Pope County Extension Service.

Youth ages 9-19 learned how to become responsible, caring, trustworthy, respectful and competent babysitters. Students received information on safety and security precautions, the business aspect of babysitting, nutrition and age appropriate activities. Participants also learned the fundamentals of infant and toddler

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Yan Huang, Research Team Awarded \$150,000 Grant Renewal

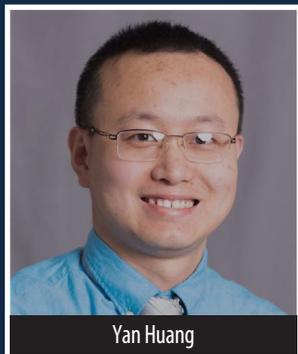
Yan Huang, assistant professor in the Department of Animal Science, leads an interdisciplinary team that

was recently awarded a \$150,000 grant from the Arkansas Biosciences Institute to study “The Role of Neonatal Non-Shivering Thermogenesis in Preventing Childhood Obesity.”

The team includes Jamie Baum (Department of Food Science), Charles Maxwell (Department

of Animal Science) and Sami Dridi (Department of Poultry Science).

Obesity is a global health problem, and Arkansas ranks seventh in the United States for the highest obesity rates, with the adult obesity rate at 35 percent. Huang’s team will use a combination of cell culture and animal models to evaluate cellular mechanisms related to the production of leaner, healthier meat from animals. Potential applications in the treatment of obesity-related metabolic diseases in humans — such as type 2 diabetes, heart disease, insulin resistance, hypertension and many types of cancer — may be developed from this research. ■



Yan Huang

Kelly Vierck Receives AMSA Student Teacher “Clever” Award

Kelly Vierck, assistant professor of animal science in Bumpers College and the U of A System Division of Agriculture, was recently named the Ph.D. recipient of the 2020 American Meat Science Association (AMSA) Student Teacher “Clever” Award.

The Student Teacher “Clever” Award is sponsored by the AMSA student membership, and Vierck will be honored during the 66th International Congress of Meat Science and Technology and the AMSA 73rd Reciprocal Meat Conference awards presentation on August 3.

“I am extremely honored to be receiving the Clever Award from the American Meat Science Association,” Vierck said. “Through my time instructing classes at Kansas State and Texas Tech, I have been immensely fortunate to work with an outstanding group of mentors and students who have helped me grow into an effective and innovative instructor.”

Vierck joined the U of A Department of Animal Science faculty ranks as an assistant professor in June and will be focusing on meat science and muscle biology. She aims to further develop the department’s meat science program while aiding in the growth and preparation of students as future scientists in the meat industry.

“I look forward to establishing an exemplary meat science education program at the University of Arkansas,” Vierck said. “Through the implementation of experiential, hands-on labs and lectures, I want to bring cutting-edge research and industry-focused knowledge full circle to develop students into career-ready alumni who are demanded by the meat industry.” ■



Kelly Vierck

10,000+ Face Masks in 10 Weeks

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Washington County EHC members have facilitated the making and delivery of more than 10,000 masks. Several Washington County 4-H members and Master Gardeners helped.

Of the 10,000-plus sewn masks, nearly 6,000 were made by Loose Threads EHC using their quilt fabric to help those in need.



Mask Presentation at Washington County Sheriff's Department. Far right is Martha Brown, Washington County EHC Council President.

These masks have been donated to more than 60 sites. In Northwest Arkansas, the need for masks continues to grow.

Huge thanks to Martha Brown, Washington County EHC president, for coordinating the matching of need requests to donations available and personally delivering thousands of masks over the past few months. ■

Social Skills
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Tech Corner



Secure Your Zoom Meetings

- Do NOT advertise the link to register or the link to join on a public website or social media site.
- Do advertise upcoming virtual Zoom events on public sites, listing a contact email to request meeting registration/joining information.
- As meeting host, know and review the [Zoom In-meeting security options](#).

Reminder: Email Security Option is Available

All employees have the ability to send encrypted emails. This will allow you to send sensitive data through email to any internal and external recipient. Sensitive information consists of both Personally Identifiable Information (PII) and Protected Health Information (PHI). For details on both, see our webpage on sensitive data located [here](#).

Emails will be automatically encrypted if you include Encrypt somewhere in the subject line. It is not case sensitive, and you can use different variations. Examples: Encrypt, encrypt, encrypted, encryption, etc.

Telework Tuesday



Join IT for their weekly open office drop-in session for answers to your software/hardware questions. Anything from Box, Zoom, Outlook, OneDrive to monitors, printers, cabling and all other techie stuff.

When? Every Tuesday from 2 – 3 p.m. Look for the link to join in the Weekly Tech Talk newsletter delivered to your inbox on Monday afternoons. ■

UPCOMING TECH TUESDAY WEBINARS



- **Tuesday, August 11: Game On – Workday Topic TBA**
Did you miss the Workday Ready Tech Tuesday topics? Visit <https://uaex.edu/techtuesdays> to view recordings.

ACAAA Members Presenting at National Meeting

ACAAA members will showcase their extension program work at the NACAA AM/PIC in late September. Members with accepted presentations for the 2020 NACAA AMPIC in Virginia Beach, VA are:

Agronomy and Pest Management

- Stewart Runsick - *How Does Nitrogen Rate and Timing Affect Corn Yield?*

Animal Science

- Sherry Beaty-Sullivan - *Southwest Arkansas Small Ruminant College*

Early Career Development

- Terrell Davis - *Using Technology to Build an Audience*
- Blair Griffin - *Peer to Peer Training for County Agents in Arkansas*

Horticulture

- Sherri Sanders - *The Impact of Mineral Particle Film on Blackberry Diseases and Insects and Primocane Fruit Quality and Yield*

Sustainable Agriculture

- Sherri Sanders - *Educating the Public on Sustainable Agriculture and Local Foods in White County*

Members with accepted posters for the 2020 NACAA AMPIC are:

Applied Research

- Brad Runsick - *Bermudagrass Hay Yield Response to Different Fertilizer Sources*
- Michael Paskewitz - *Building Soil Fertility through Hay Feeding*
- Brian See - *Horn Fly Control Method Comparison on Beef Cattle*
- Allison Howell - *Impact of Cover Crops on Profitability and Sustainability in Cotton*
- Blair Griffin - *Knotroot Foxtail Control in Bermudagrass*
- Robert Goodson - *Making Informed Decisions on Irrigation Timing*

Extension Education

- Kevin Lawson - *Enlist Herbicide Demonstration*
- Russ Parker - *2019 Corn Irrigation Timing*
- Zach Gardner - *Bermudagrass Stem Maggots*
- Amy Tallent - *Cultivating Community Through Gardening*
- Keith Perkins - *Developing Future Leaders - Lonoke County*
- Andrew Sayger - *Returning Profits in Rice Production*

Congratulations to our state poster winners. Brad Runsick won the Applied Research category, and Kevin Lawson was the winner in the Extension Education category. ■

Front Page News You Can Use

Looking for a news story to use in your local paper? Look no further than the front page of uaex.edu. And if you click on view all news, you'll see all of our archived news stories back to 2014.

If you want to be on the email list to receive our news stories, email Mary Hightower at mhightower@uaex.edu and Communications will add you to the distribution list. ■

The screenshot shows the top of the uaex.edu news page. At the top, there's a banner for "COVID-19 Myth Busting" with a "Get the Facts" link. Below this are four circular icons representing different services: "Attend an Event", "Search our Directory", "Find Your County Agent", and "Get E-News". Underneath these icons is a "NEWS" section with three news items, each with a "Learn More" link. The first item is about a new interim head of rice station at Stuttgart. The second is about a webinar on agricultural law. The third is about the Double Your Dollar program extending to northwest Arkansas farmers markets.

Benefits Corner

How to Change Beneficiaries in Workday

Go to your Workday page and select Benefits.

1. Select Change Beneficiaries.
Click add for each person.
This is where you load your beneficiary information:
name, date of birth, address, etc.
2. To add your beneficiaries to your life insurance,
you will elect Change Benefits.

On Benefit Type, elect Beneficiary Change Only and current date. Select Open.

This page shows all your life insurance elections.
Click Continue. This is where you assign beneficiaries.



Click on the + to select your beneficiary. To the right is the primary and contingent along with percentage. If you have more than one beneficiary, you will need to click the + to continue to add beneficiaries. You will need to add beneficiaries for each benefit. ■

Grants and Contracts

PROJECT TITLE (GRANTS & CONTRACTS)	AWARD AMOUNT	PI	GRANTING AGENCY
Seed Quality Protocol-An Extension Cotton Specialists Project	2,500	Bill Robertson	Cotton Incorporated
Trecepta RIB Evaluations for Yield and Efficacy in the Coastal Region	17,290	Gus Lorenz	Monsanto Company
Hot Spring County Virtual Reality Field Trips	5,000	Rachel Bearden	Arkansas Farm Bureau & Federation
Southern Risk Management Center at the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service	904,320	Ron Rainey	National Institute of Food & Agriculture
Development of Disease Management Strategies for Peanut Production in Arkansas	28,808	Travis Faske	National Peanut Board
USF0411/Field Corn/Efficacy,Tassel/Timing/University	3,000	Travis Faske	Monsanto Company
TOTAL AWARDS FOR JUNE 2020: \$960,918			

Personnel Changes



Welcome aboard:

- Kayla Kelsey - 4-H Program Assistant – Montgomery County, Mt Ida
- Whitney Howerton - County Extension Agent – Program Assistant, Carroll County, Berryville
- Alan Honey - Program Tech – Newport Extension Center, Newport

Farewell to:

- Kay Stokes - Administrative Specialist III, Prairie County, De Valls Bluff
- Kaitlyn Wilson - County Extension Agent – 4-H, Pope County, Russellville
- Presley Capps - County Extension Agent – 4-H, Nevada County, Prescott
- Rick Cartwright - Senior Associate Vice President for Agriculture – Extension, Little Rock
- Cody Griffin - County Extension Agent – Staff Chair, St. Francis County, Forrest City
- Maxwell Coffin - County Extension Agent – Agriculture, Lonoke County, Lonoke