

BLUE LETTER

The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Monthly Letter

No. 3734 • June 2013

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Thank you for the tremendous response to the call to help tornado victims in Moore, Oklahoma. Your actions demonstrated the character of Extension employees and of our 4-H youth and adult volunteers. The collaboration with Extension employees in the disaster area allowed us to provide specific and critically needed items. Your generosity filled two 18-wheelers and one “chicken trailer.” Scharidi Barber and her team cooked a much appreciated omelet breakfast for over 200 volunteers on Memorial Day morning.

It was amazing to see the energy and single-minded purpose both county offices and the state office had in working quickly to send items that might help alleviate some of the suffering. What you accomplished showed that working for Extension is more than a job. It is a career one chooses to help others!

Thank you again for your efforts. ■

– Tony Windham



UofA
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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UAPB Agriculture Field Day set for June 27

The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Agriculture Field Day will be Thursday, June 27, at the UAPB Agriculture Research Station on Oliver Road, off University Drive.

The field day begins at 7:30 a.m. with registration and welcoming remarks at 8:30 a.m. Tractor tours will take participants to educational stops. The first tour leaves at 9 a.m. and the last one at 10:30 a.m. Research scientists and Extension specialists will be at each stop to explain their research, give updates and answer questions.

Demonstration stop topics include sweet potatoes, rice disease, Southern peas, ornamentals and livestock. Some of the specific topics at the stops will be “effectiveness of herb plants as pest barriers for vegetables,” “evaluation of woody ornamentals (trees and shrubs) in southeast Arkansas conditions,” “using cover crops for weed control and nutrient cycling in sweet potatoes” and “the influence of organic and inorganic fertilizers on the yield and nutritional quality of sweet potato varieties.”

Tours of the sweet potato foundation seed/biotechnology greenhouses, the swine complex, goat and cattle buildings and the value-added products center will also be a part of field day as will an antique tractor show.

Lunch will be provided by Tyson Foods, Inc. but only with a ticket included with registration materials.

Registration is free, but pre-registration is requested to aid in planning. To pre-register, contact Margaret Taylor at (870) 575-7144 or taylorml@uapb.edu. On-site registration ends at 10:30 a.m. on June 27. ■

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

Dr. Luke Roy joins Aquaculture/Fisheries Center at UAPB

Luke Roy has joined the Aquaculture/Fisheries Center of Excellence at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff as an Extension aquaculture specialist.

Roy graduated from Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., with a bachelor's degree in environmental science and geographical information systems. He received a master's degree in soil and water science from the University of California, Riverside and a doctorate in fisheries and aquaculture from Auburn University.

Before coming to UAPB, Roy worked as an Auburn University research fellow where he was stationed at the Alabama Fish Farming Center in Greensboro, Ala. His responsibilities included coordination of research demonstration trials and the catfish yield verification program in west Alabama.

"Roy brings more than six years of warmwater aquaculture Extension experience to the UAPB Aquaculture/Fisheries Center," said Carole Engle, director/chair of the Center. "His experience in catfish research verification and with the culture of a number of other species in inland warmwater ponds will be valuable to the Arkansas aquaculture industry." ■



Dr. Luke Roy

APAC's Max Franks recognized

At the Spring Training Association of Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (APTAC) Conference in Atlanta, Ga., Max Franks, program associate, was awarded the Certified Procurement Professional (CPP) certification as a counselor with the Arkansas Procurement Assistance Center (APAC).

The APAC program has been a part of the Community and Economic Development (CED) division of the Cooperative Extension Service since 1996 and with the University of Arkansas since 1988. APAC provides free assistance to Arkansas-based businesses through a grant with the Defense Logistic Agency (DLA) in the areas of economic development through federal, state and local government contracting.

The Procurement Technical Assistance Program (PTAP) was authorized by Congress in 1985 in an effort to expand the number of businesses capable of participating in the government marketplace. It is administered by the Department of Defense, Defense Logistics Agency (DLA).

In 2011, APTAC approved a new certification program, the Certified Procurement Professional. Certification is based upon demonstrated capability and knowledge in the wide range of subject areas required for successful procurement counseling. ■

18 people log nearly 20 miles for Bike to Work Day

Eighteen riders from Extension, UALR, the UofA Systems office and friends logged nearly 20 miles making the early morning commute for Bike to Work Day on May 17.

The group set off from the Cammack campus at 6 a.m. and ended at the Rose Garden next to the Pulaski County Courthouse at Broadway and Markham to be part of the Bike to Work Day news conference. After a quick breakfast at the Capitol, the group rode to the State Office.

"We had a great group and a great ride," said LaVona Traywick, associate professor of gerontology. "Not only are we glad to see the enthusiasm for biking growing since last year but also the efforts being made by everyone to add more physical activity to their days." ■



2013 Support Staff Conference and classified support staff service awards

One-hundred and four classified support staff personnel participated in the annual Support Staff Conference in-service training program at the C.A. Vines 4-H Center May 16-17.

The focus of this year's conference was on the new Extension web site development process, with half of the breakout sessions dealing with web site-related topics. Dr. Kyleen Prewett, chief financial officer and leader of the web site development process, opened the conference by telling participants where the process has come so far, what will be happening in the next phase and what role support staff will play in the next phase.

Dr. Tony Windham gave an organizational update and presented service awards to support staff personnel

who have reached a five-year interval in their careers with Extension. The 16 individuals receiving service awards at the conference have given 295 total years of service to Extension!

In addition to the web development-related sessions, presented by members of the Web Development Committee and PSD staff, other sessions were conducted by Human Resources and Office of Affirmative Action, Financial Services, FCS AgrAbility and Health programs and the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services office.

Keynote speaker on the last day of the conference was Jennifer Siccardi, assistant in Governor Mike Beebe's office. ■

Length of Service Award Recipients



FIVE-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS. (L to R) Dr. Tony Windham; Judy Fenton, Benton County; Crystal Ingle, Plant Pathology (Lonoke); and Cecilia Taylor, Fulton County. Not present for photo: Holly Beason, Horticulture (LRSO); Kristy Keel, C.A. Vines 4-H Center; and Leta Lampkin, Desha County.



TEN-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS. (L to R) Dr. Tony Windham; Misty Wilson, Benton County; Patti Tucker, Garland County; and Robert Chastain, C.A. Vines 4-H Center.



FIFTEEN-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS. (L to R) Dr. Tony Windham; Mona Norris, FCS (LRSO); Rin Morris, Jefferson County; Darlene Horne, C.A. Vines 4-H Center; and Veda Thompson, Human Resources (LRSO). Not present for picture: Gilbert Jones, Facility Maintenance (LRSO).



TWENTY-YEAR SERVICE AWARD. (L to R) Dr. Tony Windham and Christa Littlefield, Franklin County - Ozark. Not present for picture: Jan Rogers, CED (LRSO).



TWENTY-FIVE YEAR SERVICE AWARD. (L to R) Dr. Tony Windham and Eva Johnson, Ouachita District Office (LRSO).



THIRTY-FIVE-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS. (L to R) Dr. Tony Windham; Burnita Hearne, Crittenden County; Wilma Dorn, Jefferson County; and Gloria Taylor, Miller County.



FORTY-YEAR SERVICE AWARD. (L to R) Dr. Tony Windham and Brenda Hawkins, Faulkner County.

4-H, Extension delivering hope for Moore, Oklahoma, tornado victims

A pair of donated 18-wheelers and a converted “chicken trailer” are part of the Extension of Hope disaster relief effort carried out by employees of the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service and 4-H clubs for the city of Moore, Okla.

“Like most Arkansans, we wanted to help in any way we could,” said Dr. Tony Windham. “With our Extension of Hope shipments, we hope to make a difference for those whose lives have been torn apart.

“By working with our Extension colleagues in Oklahoma, we were able to focus our donations to do the most good for those helping repair the damage from the deadly storms,” he said. “We hope to continue our efforts in the coming weeks to help when the initial outpouring of aid begins to taper.”

In Cross County, 4-H members put their heads, hearts and hands to work collecting supplies at the extension office in the county courthouse.

Collection efforts were conducted by 4-H clubs and extension in Ashley, Boone, Craighead, Cross, Howard, Nevada, Polk and Sevier counties. ■



Sevier County Staff Chair Rex Herring loads up the bed of a pickup truck with items bound for Moore, Okla.



The Extension of Hope Trailer is stuffed after a collection in Cabot.



Members of the Polk Co. 4-H Lead 4 Life Teen Club accept donations for the Moore, Okla., tornado relief effort.

EHC president recognized

Ann Ashcraft of Malvern, along with four other Arkansans, was inducted into the Senior Arkansas Hall of Fame, May 14, 2013, at the State Capitol Rotunda, Little Rock. Ashcraft is president of the Hot Spring County Extension Homemakers Council and has served on several boards and councils, including the Area Agency on Aging Board of Directors.

The Senior Arkansas Hall of Fame was created in 1991 by the 78th General Assembly and honors Arkansans 65 and older who, through volunteering, have worked to improve and enhance the lives of seniors in Arkansas. ■

BENEFITS CORNER

Help Away From Home

Whenever you travel 100 or more miles away from home or to a foreign country, whether on business or for pleasure, all University of Arkansas benefit-eligible employees are protected through UNUM Worldwide Emergency Travel Assistance. This benefit is provided through your employer-paid Unum Basic Life and Long-Term Disability coverage. The program’s emergency travel assistance includes:

- hospital admission guarantee
- emergency medical evacuation

- medically supervised transportation home
 - transportation for a friend or family member to join the hospitalized patient
 - prescription replacement assistance
 - multilingual crisis management professionals
 - medical referrals to Western-trained, English-speaking medical providers
 - care and transport of unattended minor children
 - Within the U.S.: 1-800-872-1414
 - Outside the U.S.: + (U.S. access code) 609-986-1234
 - Via e-mail: medservices@assistamerica.com
- Reference number: 01-AA-UN-762490 ■

What’s new in publications? Find out at:

http://www.uaex.edu/depts/Administration/blue_letter/Monthly_Publications_Report.htm

Meet the *new* employees!



Kimberly Fryer
Administrative Specialist II
Animal Science

- **What's your background?**

I have been in the insurance industry for the last seven years.

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

I have many years of customer service and sales experience in everything from my family's private grocery business to statewide and nationwide insurance corporations.

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

I have 5 acres that used to be a blueberry field 100 years ago.

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

To help people in any way I can...and become part of the "family."

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

My mom has worked here part-time for over 10 years. I've heard over the years the good things that Extension does for its employees and the community, and I wanted to be a part of that.

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

I love to play frisbee with my boxer dogs, play guitar and write gospel music. ■



Sandra Sovick Harms
EFNEP Program Assistant
Mississippi County

- **What's your background?**

I grew up in northern Minnesota and attended a small rural school where my senior class was comprised of 22 people, counting a foreign exchange

student. My family is still involved in agriculture. After high school, I worked on my aunt and uncle's dairy farm. I later moved to Arkansas and returned to college. In May 2008, I graduated from Arkansas State University's College of Communications with a bachelor of science in journalism.

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

While finishing college and then after graduation, I worked full-time for *The Jonesboro Sun* as a photo-journalist for almost seven years. My time as a journalist taught me how to efficiently communicate complex subjects to diverse audiences. Before returning to college, I worked for a retail store where I oversaw the food court. I learned a great deal about safe food handling practices and ordering supplies while maintaining budget goals. In high school, I worked at a summer camp for developmentally disabled adults and was a nursing assistant at the local nursing home. I learned everyone has something valuable to teach me in life.

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

I interviewed for my current position the day before my wedding. My husband, Ross, father-in-law and great family friends ended up decorating for the wedding with my mom giving them directions. They did a splendid job.

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

I want to do the absolute best I can reestablishing the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) in Mississippi County. It has been a personal goal for me to help people since I was in high school. I feel I can truly help people by sharing nutrition information through my new job. There are so many Mississippi County residents who can participate in my program that I have no fear of running out of things to do anytime soon.

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

I grew up thinking everyone knew about Extension because my grandmother is a Master Gardner and EHC member in Minnesota. As an adult, I have learned not everyone was so fortunate. I value Extension's commitment to education in all aspects of life from

agriculture to financial literacy to food safety to 4-H and youth leadership development.

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

In my spare time, I love to cook. I'm an avid reader. Give me a good printed book and I can lose track of time immersed in the text in front of me. I obviously have a passion for photography and enjoy snapping my camera shutter. I am looking forward to many craft projects as I decorate my new home with my husband. ■



Angela Scott
Program Assistant - EFNEP
Pulaski County

• **What's your background?**

I have an associate of science degree in health sciences from Arkansas State University and received my bachelor of science in nutrition from the University of Central Arkansas. I was born and raised in central Arkansas.

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

I can bring nutrition education to the community to help prevent and control some diseases. Also, with my background, I hope to provide avenues for people to save money, eat healthy and be active and to point them in the direction of resources that are available to them.

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

I am married and have two wonderful school-age children.

I am a hard worker, and if you ever need anything, I will do my best to help out.

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

Mainly reach my goals and strive to do my best as a program assistant and reach out to as many people as possible. I can't wait to become more connected to my community leaders and make lasting impacts and friendships.

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

I was very interested in Extension because this will allow me to reach out and educate on a community-based level. I have always wanted to help out in a way that could use nutrition education to prevent disease, and this job was the answer. Extension has so many different programs available at no cost to community members. Extension is very valuable to them!

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

I love to garden year round with my family and grow all kinds of spectacular flowers in my flowerbeds. I have so much fun cooking with my family. Many of the physical activities we enjoy as a family include playing Wii sports and dance games and competing in basketball and softball. ■



Mark Your Calendar

Date	Place
Thursday, July 4	Holiday – Independence Day
Friday, August 2	Arkansas Rice Expo, Grand Prairie Center, Stuttgart
Thursday, August 15	Pine Tree Research Station Field Day, Colt
Monday, September 2	Holiday – Labor Day
Thursday, September 12	Fruit Research Station Field Day, Clarksville, Muscadine Field Day
Tuesday, October 8	Beef & Forage Field Day, Southeast Research & Extension Center, Monticello

Grants and contracts

for Month Ending May 31, 2013

Project Title	Award Amount	Principal Investigator	Granting Agency
Extension Short Courses: Poultry and Grains	\$ 12,000.00	Dustan Clark	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Determining the Value of High Rates of Seed Treatment Insecticide in Corn and Grain Sorghum for Controlling Above-Ground Seedling Pests	19,000.00	Glenn Stuebaker	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Insect Control in Grain Sorghum	8,000.00	Gus Lorenz	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Developing Profitable Irrigated Rotational Cropping Systems	35,940.00	Jason Kelley	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Evaluation of High-Input Practices to Increase Corn and Grain Sorghum	30,000.00	Jason Kelley	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Weed Control Programs in Arkansas Corn	21,494.00	Tom Barber	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Assessment of the Occurrence and Distribution of Mycotoxins in Sorghum in Arkansas	2,000.00	Travis Faske	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Management of Southern Rust With Emphasis on Threshold-Based Crop Protection	28,000.00	Travis Faske	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Insect Management in Mid-South Cotton: AR II	10,000.00	Glenn Stuebaker	Cotton Incorporated
An Arkansas Discovery Farm for Cotton	7,500.00	Michael Daniels	Cotton Incorporated
Cotton Research Verification/Applied Research	74,208.00	Tom Barber	Cotton Incorporated
Development of a Replant Decision Aid for Cotton Producers	13,500.00	Tom Barber	Cotton Incorporated
Development of Management Strategies for New Cotton Cultivars	26,000.00	Tom Barber	Cotton Incorporated
2013 Air National Guard Camp Grant	9,091.00	Maureen Rose	Kansas State University
Rice Enterprise Budgets and Production Economic Analysis	10,000.00	Archie Flanders	Rice Research Promotion Board
Weed Management in Rice	100,519.00	Bob Scott	Rice Research Promotion Board
Rice Insect Control	41,372.00	Gus Lorenz	Rice Research Promotion Board
Rice Verification	179,504.00	Jarrold Hardke	Rice Research Promotion Board
Arkansas Rice Performance Trials	76,416.00	Jarrold Hardke	Rice Research Promotion Board
Continuation of the DD50 Program to Include Seeding Date Effect on Grain Yield and Development of New Cultivars	70,612.00	Jarrold Hardke	Rice Research Promotion Board
A Team Approach to Improved Weed Management in Rice	91,406.00	Tom Barber	Rice Research Promotion Board
Rice Breeding Program Pathology Tech Support	1,753.00	Yeshe Wamishe	Rice Research Promotion Board
Development of Practical Diagnostic Methods for Monitoring Rice Bacterial Panicle Blight Diseases and Evaluate Rice Germplasm for Resistance	57,000.00	Yeshe Wamishe	Rice Research Promotion Board
Development of Short-Term Control for Bacterial Panicle	44,924.00	Yeshe Wamishe	Rice Research Promotion Board
NRA Foundation County 4-H Shooting Sports	13,520.00	Anne Sortor	The NRA Foundation
Columbia County United Way Funds	5,000.00	Shirlye Hopkins	United Way of Columbia County
Total New Awards for May 2013	\$988,759.00		

Personnel changes

Please welcome the following:

Shalae N. Bradford

Program Assistant - EFNEP, Pulaski County, effective May 1, 2013.

Kimberly A. Fryer

Administrative Specialist, Animal Science, effective April 22, 2013.

Sarah L. Hamm

Administrative Specialist, Washington County, effective April 16, 2013.

Katherine M. Hurd

Program Technician, Plant Pathology, effective April 29, 2013.

Angela L. Scott

Program Assistant - EFNEP, Pulaski County, effective May 1, 2013.

Sandra L. Sovick

Program Assistant - EFNEP, Mississippi County, effective May 6, 2013.

Extension says goodbye to:

Michelle L. Freels

Travel Coordinator/Accounts Payable, Financial Services, effective April 12, 2013.

Whitney J. Gordon

4-H Program Assistant, Little River County, effective May 3, 2013.

Connie L. Jordan

Program Assistant - 4-H, Desha County, effective April 17, 2013.

Jacqueline King

County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences, Monroe County, effective May 1, 2013.

Holly R. Wirth

AOS Coordinator, Vines 4-H Center, effective April 9, 2013.