

# BLUE LETTER

The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Monthly Letter

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR

### Welcome Home to our new web site

March 12 will mark the 25th anniversary of a paper that changed the way humans interact. It was the day Tim Berners-Lee proposed an “information management” system that would eventually become the World Wide Web. By coincidence, we are also marking a milestone in the way the Cooperative Extension Service communicates by officially launching our redesigned web site to the world this month.

More than two years in the making, from focus group meetings to ironing out a thousand details that affect a user’s visit, our new web site has three key features meant to improve our ability to digitally serve our clients. They are:

- Revamped navigation – Content has been regrouped based on client preferences
- Improved search – Our new Google search appliance allows users to fine-tune their search
- Responsive design – With 55 percent of Americans owning a smartphone and 41 percent using a tablet, making our web site usable on those two platforms in addition to desktops and laptops is essential.

Thanks to Kyleen Prewett who led this massive effort and to Karen Ballard, Sam Boyster, Bob Reynolds and to the dozens of committee and migration leaders and content contributors who have made [www.uaex.edu](http://www.uaex.edu) what it is today.

In the coming weeks, we’ll be asking you to talk about and show our new web site to our clients. It’s their web site. Welcome them home.

– Tony Windham

## ExtensionGetFit

The Little Rock Wellness Committee would like to announce an **8-Week Employee Wellness Program called “Extension Get Fit”** for the Little Rock State Office. This program will start on Monday, March 24, 2014, and end on Sunday, May 18, 2014. The program will include weekly activities held during lunch breaks such as walking, bike riding and fitness classes. A kick-off party is scheduled for Monday, March 17, 2014, to announce the program and all the activities. We encourage everyone to sign up through the Walk Across Arkansas registration system. Let’s all get fit and be healthy!

For any questions, please contact Dr. LaVona S. Traywick or Dr. Lisa Washburn. ■



**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

# Dr. Carole R. Engle receives U.S. Aquaculture Society Distinguished Service Award

Dr. Carole R. Engle, director of the Aquaculture/Fisheries Center of Excellence at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, has received the United States Aquaculture Society Distinguished Service Award.

The award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding personal contributions to the U.S. Aquaculture Society, a chapter of the World Aquaculture Society and/or the U.S. aquaculture industry. It emphasizes significant leadership and overall impact in research, education, Extension or industry development in the field of aquaculture.

“Dr. Engle fit all of the categories for this award,” Mike Freeze, owner of Keo Fish Farms and president of the National Aquaculture Association, said. “She has taken an unknown aquaculture program at a small university to a world class center of aquaculture excellence. She has increased the level of industry support for the UAPB Aquaculture Center from nonexistent to the highest level.”

Under her leadership, the UAPB Aquaculture/Fisheries Center of Excellence developed the university’s first research-based Master of Science program and its first doctorate program. Dr. Engle’s research focus is catfish production economics and farm management, catfish marketing, optimal management of catfish farms, aquaculture economics and marketing. ■



Dr. Kevin Hopkins, president, U.S. Aquaculture Society, presented the U.S. Aquaculture Society Distinguished Service Award to Dr. Carole R. Engle, director of the Aquaculture/Fisheries Center of Excellence, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. Photo courtesy of Fish Farming News/Rick Martin photos.

## Bauer Duke receives new appointment at UAPB



Bauer Duke

Bauer Duke has been appointed as an Extension aquaculture specialist with the Aquaculture/Fisheries Center of Excellence at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. In this position, he will provide Extension educational programming to high school teachers who wish to integrate aquaculture into their curricula, to water gardening enthusiasts and to the commercial aquaculture industry.

“More and more high school teachers in Arkansas are finding that students are drawn to working with fish in aquaculture production systems in the classroom,” Dr. Carole Engle, director of the Aquaculture/Fisheries Center of Excellence, said.

“To be successful raising fish and plants, the students must learn and understand a wide variety of biology, chemistry, physics, math and engineering skills. Thus, hands-on fish production systems are an excellent way for students to experience the relevance of STEM (*Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics*) disciplines.”

Duke first joined the Aquaculture/Fisheries Department in 1997 as manager of the Aquaculture Research Station, where he maintained 113 research ponds and several research buildings, coordinated research facilities and activities and provided public awareness through station tours and events open to the public. During that time he worked with the Department’s teaching faculty, researchers and Extension specialists. ■

## Faulkner County 4-H’ers have the blues

Faulkner County 4-H members Taylor McKinney and Rachel Harris recently organized a used blue jean drive for the Aeropostale Clothing Company’s “Teens for Jeans” service project. The 4-H members secured drop-off locations throughout the county and at their respective schools. Thanks to the participation of numerous supporters throughout the community, a total of 247 pairs of jeans were collected. The donations were delivered to the Aeropostale location in Park Plaza Mall and will be redistributed throughout the state. ■



Faulkner County 4-H’ers deliver jeans to the Aeropostale location in Park Plaza Mall: (left to right) Faulkner County Teen Leader president Taylor McKinney, store manager Jason Ward, and 4-H Shooting Sports member Rachel Harris.

## BENEFITS CORNER

### 2013 Flexible Spending Account Reimbursement (Health Care Participants Only):

If you participated in the Health Care Flexible Spending Account (FSA) in 2013 and still have an account balance, you have until March 15, 2014, to incur expenses that may be applied to your 2013 FSA balance. All eligible requests for reimbursement from your 2013 FSA accounts must be received by UMR no later than March 31, 2014.

Health Care Reimbursement Expenses include co-insurance, co-payments and physician charges that exceed medical plan limits or "reasonable and customary" fees, annual physicals, routine lab exams and x-rays, dental work not covered by a plan, eye exams, glasses and contact lens, hearing exams and hearing aids, guide and service animals, specially designed shoes, guide for a handicapped individual, medical data maintenance and retrieval, legal fees required for commitment to an institution or hospitalization. ■

What's new in publications? Find out at:

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

## Meet the *new* employees!



**Karen Christensen**  
Extension Poultry Specialist

• **What's your background?**

I have worked in the poultry industry for many years after completing my B.S. degree at Washington State University. My

husband and I moved to Arkansas 16 years ago when I went to work for a major poultry integrator in Fort Smith. I went back to school and completed my Ph.D. at Mississippi State in 2010.

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

I hope that my industry experience brings an additional dimension to the technical expertise in Extension and at the University.

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

I hope to develop a strong working relationship with the industry and provide training and information to them. The poultry industry in Arkansas is very important.

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

The opportunity to work with a varied group, from industry to backyard enthusiasts, as well as the opportunity to work with such an amazing group as is here at the University. Extension can really make a difference in the industry, enthusiasts and students.

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

My husband and I raise and show registered Simmental cattle. ■

**Rick Korte**  
Physical Plant Manager  
C.A.Vines 4-H Center

• **What's your background?**

I have been a custom home builder and commercial contractor.

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

I have 30 years of experience in management, new and remodeling construction, maintenance and repair.

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

Having lived in Ferndale for 30 years, you could be anywhere, and if people realized you were from Ferndale, they would immediately say how much they loved the 4-H Center and how pretty it is.

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

To become a part of and contribute to the already established 4-H team.

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

After building custom homes for 30 years, I was looking for a new challenge in life. The future of our younger generation is important. 4-H stands for Head, Heart, Hands, Health.

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

Playing with my three dogs. I did triathlons for 20 years, and now I just bicycle ride. ■



**Amanda Lingo**  
Administrative Support Supervisor  
State Office, Little Rock

• **What's your background?**

My background is in bookkeeping, accounting and payroll.

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

I have over 15 years of secretarial experience and over five years of bookkeeping, accounting and payroll experience.

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

I have been married to my husband Greg for 16 years, and we have three sons. Greg Jr. (Keith) is 15, Grant is 11 and Gunner is 15 months.

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

I would like to understand Financial Services' role in Extension.

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

The family atmosphere and the benefits package brought me to Extension.

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

Keith and Grant both play baseball and football, so when we aren't working we are usually practicing or heading to a game. We are proud Lonoke Jackrabbits! ■



**Mandy Tolbert**  
Program Associate, Plant Pathology  
Southeast Research and Extension  
Center

• **What's your background?**

M.S. in agronomy from Iowa State University and B.S. in agri-business from the University of Arkansas at

Monticello.

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

I have two years of experience in cotton and tomato entomology research, one year in rice pathology research and five years in rice breeding and genetics research.

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

If I don't know the answer, I'll figure it out or find someone who can!

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

To become an integral part of the plant pathology team.

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

The constant assistance available to farmers for any situation that may arise.

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

Spending time with my family, reading and enjoying nature. ■

# Grants and contracts

## for Month Ending February 28, 2014

Project Title	Award Amount	Principal Investigator	Granting Agency
Department of Defense Deployment Support Camp Grant	\$ 40,000	Maureen Rose	Kansas State University
Arkansas 4-H Mentoring Program Year 4	123,000	Noah Washburn	National 4-H Council
Clark County 4-H Shooting Sports	7,300	Amy Simpson	West Central Arkansas Planning and Development District, Inc.
Educational Programming for the City of Conway Horticulture Program	25,000	Hank Chaney	City of Conway
Effects of the Introduction of Feed Grains Into Mid-South Soybean Production Systems	20,800	Jeremy Ross	Mississippi State University
Lockheed Martin 4-H Robotics	5,000	Noah Washburn	National 4-H Council
2014 NRA Foundation Multi-County 4-H Shooting Sports Non Cash Awards	42,492	Anne Sortor	The NRA Foundation
<b>TOTAL NEW AWARDS FOR FEBRUARY 2014</b>	<b>\$268,592</b>		

## Personnel changes

### Please welcome the following:

**Richard J. Korte**

Physical Plant Manager, Vines 4-H Center, effective February 3, 2014.

**Amanda L. Lingo**

Administrative Support Supervisor, Financial Services, effective February 10, 2014.

**Andrew A. Moritz**

4-H Program Assistant, Washington County, effective January 16, 2014.

**Amanda C. Tolbert**

Program Associate - Plant Pathology, Southeast Research and Extension Center, effective February 3, 2014.

**Charles R. Wilson**

Windows Administrator, Office of Information Technology, effective January 6, 2014.

### Extension says goodbye to:

**Edna M. Golden**

Program Assistant - SNAPEd, Van Buren County, effective January 24, 2014.

**Mary A. Guiden**

Program Assistant - EFNEP, Desha County, effective January 27, 2014.

**Shay G. Morgan**

County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences, Johnson County, effective January 31, 2014.

**Mona L. Norris**

Administrative Support Supervisor, Family and Consumer Sciences, effective January 31, 2014.