

BLUE LETTER

The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Monthly Letter

No. 3757 • May 2015

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Arkansas delegations make a big impression in Washington

Arkansas had a chance to double-team the state's Congressional offices last month, sharing key points about the strength of Extension's programs. Sherri Sanders, Jerri Lephiew, Lisa Washburn, Amy Simpson and Keith Cleek were in the nation's capitol for PILD, the Public Issues Leadership Workshop held by the Joint Council of Extension Professionals. At the same time, a group of 4-H members were in D.C. as part of the National 4-H Conference. Members of both groups met with Congressional aides, each having a chance to make specific points about extension's programs.

The group emphasized to the Congressional staff the need for continued support of Smith-Lever funding and in return, heard messages of support.

The adults had breakfast with aides and later, the adults and youth, in various combinations were able to have photos taken with Reps. Rick Crawford and Steve Womack and Sens. John Boozman and Tom Cotton. The extension reps, along with chaperones Brian See and Leadra Martin, then hosted lunch with aides from Boozman's and Cotton's office. Both aides heard about each program area and county programs.

Lephiew summed up the message the group delivered to our elected representatives in the U.S. House and Senate: "Extension is a big deal." We appreciate the time spent by our agents and youthful advocates for making sure Extension remains a big deal.

— Tony Windham

Educational partner is finalist for ENVY award

The Lake Fayetteville Environmental Science Center, a water quality educational partner with the Cooperative Extension Service, was a finalist for this year's ENVY Award.

The ENVY Award trophy was established in 2005 by the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality to recognize a major contribution by an individual or organization for efforts to enhance and protect Arkansas' natural resources. The center, formerly known as the Aquatic Center, has been a cooperative effort between the Fayetteville and Springdale School Districts since 1974.

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DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION

University of Arkansas System

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



(Front) John Dillard; (second row, left to right) Kristin Rouse, Travis Clark, Heather Jackson, Alexandra Hunter; (third row, left to right) Lisa Washburn, Brian See, Keith Cleek, Jerri Lephiew, Senator Tom Cotton, Sherri Sanders, Amy Simpson and Leadra Martin.

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

Gerontological Society recognizes Extension employees

The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service was well represented at the awards ceremony during the Southern Gerontological Society's annual meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia, in April 2015.

Betty Oliver won the Best Practices Award for her work with the Arkansas Extension Homemakers Clubs. SGS offers the Best Practices Award to recognize outstanding and sustained applied practices that contribute to the quality of life of older adults.

Laura Connerly and **Kerry Rodtnick** were the winners of the Media Award for their video podcast series, *Small Steps to Health and Wealth*. The Media Award from SGS recognizes an outstanding media contribution to further understanding of aging and health in the region and to the mission of SGS.

The Applied Gerontologist Award was awarded to **LaVona Traywick**. This award is given to a SGS member in the field of applied gerontology. Award winners have a sustained record of leadership in the field of aging, are recognized in their fields, and have positively impacted the quality of life of older persons through developing innovative programs and delivery. ■



Wayne Moore, awards co-chair, presents the Applied Gerontologist Award to LaVona Traywick at the SGS conference in Williamsburg.

White County WHEP team brings home 1st and 2nd



Pictured left to right: Front: Letah Joe Eversole, Alexis Canter, Isabella Davis, Madison Taylor, April Mills. Back: Savannah Watkins, Carson McFatrige and Callie McDaniel.

White County 4-H brought home first- and second-place trophies and had three of the top five individuals in the state WHEP (Wildlife Habitat Education Program) contest April 24 at the U of A Rice Research and Extension Center in Stuttgart.

Eight junior 4-H members and one cloverbud member from White County competed in activities ranging from wildlife management practices to wildlife identification.

The first-place team consisted of Savannah Watkins, April Mills, Alexis Canter and Isabella Davis. The second-place team was Letah Joe Eversole, Callie McDaniel, Madison Taylor and Carson McFatrige. Isabella Davis was second-place overall individual, Letah Joe Eversole placed third overall individual and Savannah Watkins placed fourth overall as an individual.

The teams were coached by 4-H adult volunteer leaders Crystal Eversole, Misty Watkins, Krista Brimer and Shaula Mills. ■

ENVY Award (cont. from page 1)

“As home to the Lake Fayetteville Watershed Partnership, the study center has been a beacon for raising awareness about environmental stewardship and helping citizens learn more about the important resources the Lake Fayetteville Environmental Study Center provides to the community,” said Washington County Extension agent Colin Massey, who wrote a letter of support for the center’s nomination. Massey works with the center to coordinate semiannual Lake Fayetteville cleanup events. This year’s ENVY winner was three-time runner-up, the City of Fayetteville. ■

What’s new in publications? Find out at:

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

4-H Center upgrades lodging, menu offerings

At the C.A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center, there are changes you can touch, taste, feel and surf. J.J. Pitman, 4-H Center director, said the center's lodging rooms now have fresh color, new carpet, bedding and curtains and TVs have been added in two lodging units.

In addition, "we're now serving up hot, fresh and complementary cinnamon rolls at 10 a.m. and popcorn at 2 p.m. for adult guests," he said. "We have new meal choices that put the emphasis on fresh and light."

Those choices include the new garden bar with more than 20 toppings and house-made ranch dressing. There's also the new homemade soup station and new homestyle entrees including tilapia with fresh mango salsa, chicken spaghetti, chicken Cordon Bleu and down home meatloaf, just to name a few.

Those who use our facilities will be happy to know we have new fiber optic lines and plan to have faster, more reliable wi-fi by July. ■



Faulkner Co. 4-H takes center stage at performing arts event

The annual Faulkner County 4-H Performing Arts contest, held April 21, featured the talents of 17 performers and ten different acts. The event was held at Salem Place Nursing Home in Conway and was emceed by Faulkner County 4-H Teen Leader president Leila Joy Richardson.

4-H Program Coordinator Leigh Helms said the "annual event provides 4-H members, ages 5-19, an opportunity to build confidence and communication skills. Having the event at Salem Place provided an opportunity for youth to develop and share their talents with the residents while highlighting the 4-H Youth Development Program."

The 4-H Program will return to Salem Place on May 14 for the County 4-H Fashion Revue Contest. ■



Faulkner County 4-H member Ben Gibson stands with the welcome sign prepared by the Salem Place Nursing Home staff.

BENEFITS CORNER

Changes to UA System Health Plan

Employees currently enrolled in the UA System health plan:

Employees enrolled in the UA System's health plan (UMR) will see a **12% premium increase** effective July 1, 2015. There will also be **plan design changes**. Due to the increase, the following changes may be made to existing elections from **May 4 to close of business on May 22, 2015**: Moving from the POS to Classic Plan, dropping spouse or dependent coverage or ending health plan participation. **If you choose to end your participation with the UA System health plan and you do not enroll in other health coverage, there may be a tax penalty associated with federal health care reform requirements.** Adding coverage is not an option unless you have a qualified family status change.

The UA System will also conduct an eligibility audit of dependents enrolled in the health plan. You will receive a letter from a third-party verification service notifying you of the audit process and required documents you must provide to complete the verification. Employees who need to make corrections to end ineligible dependent coverage can do so without penalty during the same election period listed above.

Detailed information has been mailed to you by U.S. Postal Service mail.

Grants and contracts

for the month ended April 30, 2015

| Project Title | Award Amount | Principal Investigator | Granting Agency |
|---|--------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Development of NAWF Monitor App for Enhanced Cotton Crop Management | 17,274 | Dharmendra Saraswat | Cotton Incorporated |
| Extension Short Courses Poultry and Grains | 1,500 | Dustan Clark | Corn & Sorghum Promotion Board |
| Sugarcane Aphid Research | 12,333 | Glenn Studebaker | United Sorghum Checkoff Program Board |
| Determining the Value of High Rates of Seed Treatment Insecticide in Corn | 19,000 | Glenn Studebaker | Corn & Sorghum Promotion Board |
| Management of Sugarcane Aphid in Grain Sorghum | 12,000 | Glenn Studebaker | Corn & Sorghum Promotion Board |
| Refining the Economic Threshold for Whorl Feeding Caterpillars in Non-Bt Field Corn | 8,000 | Glenn Studebaker | Corn & Sorghum Promotion Board |
| Field Trial Agreement | 10,000 | Gus Lorenz | Bayer Crop Science LP |
| Sugarcane Aphid Research | 12,333 | Gus Lorenz | United Sorghum Checkoff Program Board |
| 2015 Thrips Open Field Efficacy Trial | 30,000 | Gus Lorenz | Monsanto Company |
| Thrips Control with Alternatives to Neonicotinoids | 21,725 | Gus Lorenz | Cotton Incorporated |
| Insect Control in Grain Sorghum | 8,500 | Gus Lorenz | Corn & Sorghum Promotion Board |
| Management of Sugarcane Aphid in Grain Sorghum | 16,000 | Gus Lorenz | Corn & Sorghum Promotion Board |
| Refining the Economic Threshold for Whorl Feeding Caterpillars in non-Bt Field Corn | 8,000 | Gus Lorenz | Corn & Sorghum Promotion Board |
| Corn Verification | 117,000 | Jason Kelley | Corn & Sorghum Promotion Board |
| Evaluation of White Grain Sorghum Hybrids in Arkansas | 3,000 | Jason Kelley | Corn & Sorghum Promotion Board |
| Developing Profitable Irrigated Rotational Cropping Systems | 6,000 | Jason Kelley | Corn & Sorghum Promotion Board |
| Evaluation of High Input Practices to Increase Corn and Grain Sorghum | 29,000 | Jason Kelley | Corn & Sorghum Promotion Board |
| Evaluation of Differences in Fixed and Flex-Ear Corn Hybrids | 15,000 | Jason Kelley | Corn & Sorghum Promotion Board |
| Development of an Online Course - Intro to Biotech Crops | 9,000 | Julie Robinson | Corn & Sorghum Promotion Board |
| Arkansas Grass Sod Treatments for IFA Quarantine 2013-2015 | 5,000 | Kelly Loftin | Agriculture Experiment Station |
| Fire Ant Control in Soybean | 4,624 | Kelly Loftin | Soybean Promotion Board |
| Parkin Butterfly Garden | 700 | Leigh Ann Bullington | Arkansas Flower and Garden Show, Inc. |

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April grants and contracts (cont.)

| Project Title | Award Amount | Principal Investigator | Granting Agency |
|---|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Increasing Water Use Efficiency for Sustainable Cotton Production | 20,500 | Leo Espinoza | Agriculture Experiment Station |
| Soil Fertility Requirements for Corn | 34,000 | Leo Espinoza | Corn & Sorghum Promotion Board |
| Perry County 4-H Big B Day - Injury Prevention Fair | 2,000 | Mary Jane Cody | Arkansas Department of Health |
| Arkansas Discovery Farm Program | 5,000 | Michael Daniels | Corn & Sorghum Promotion Board |
| Sugarcane Aphid Research | 12,333 | Nick Seiter | United Sorghum Checkoff Program Board |
| Management of Sugarcane Aphid in Grain | 12,000 | Nick Seiter | Corn & Sorghum Promotion Board |
| Refining the Economic Threshold for Whorl Feeding Caterpillars in Non-Bt Field Corn | 8,000 | Nick Seiter | Corn & Sorghum Promotion Board |
| U of A EFNEP and ADH WISEWOMAN Project | 5,000 | Serena Fuller | Arkansas Department of Health |
| Evaluation of the Impact of Meat and Bone Meal Nutritional Variability on Broiler Performance | 19,781 | Susan Watkins | H.J. Baker Bros. |
| Assessment of Early-Season Fungicide Application on Suppression of NCLB and Importance of Lesion Nematode in Corn | 9,356 | Terry Spurlock | Corn & Sorghum Promotion Board |
| Comparison of Spatial Dynamics of RKN and Other Diseases in Fields Undergoing Two Different Management Strategies | 18,000 | Terry Spurlock | Corn & Sorghum Promotion Board |
| Provisia Rice and Herbicide System Testing | 9,400 | Tom Barber | BASF Corporation |
| HPPD-Tolerant Soybeans: Evaluation of Mesotrione-Based Weed Management Programs in Medium Soils | 9,000 | Tom Barber | Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc. |
| Weed Control Programs in Arkansas Corn | 11,819 | Tom Barber | Corn & Sorghum Promotion Board |
| Application Technology and Demonstration Program | 20,000 | Tom Barber | Corn & Sorghum Promotion Board |
| Development of Effective Weed Control Programs in Corn | 36,634 | Tom Barber | Corn & Sorghum Promotion Board |
| Management of Southern Rust With Emphasis on Threshold-Based Crop Protection | 24,276 | Travis Faske | Corn & Sorghum Promotion Board |
| Assessment of Early-Season Fungicide Application on Suppression of NCLB and Importance of Lesion Nematode in Corn | 16,157 | Travis Faske | Corn & Sorghum Promotion Board |
| Novel Strategies for Managing Blast Diseases on Rice and Wheat | 25,000 | Yeshi Wamishe | Agriculture Experiment Station |
| TOTAL NEW AWARDS FOR APRIL 2015 | \$664,245 | | |

Personnel changes

Please welcome the following:

Carly Bokker

Program Associate - Soybean, Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences, effective April 13, 2015.

Lauren Brown

County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences, Union County, effective March 16, 2015.

Kim Krummel

Program Assistant - EFNEP, Washington County, effective April 1, 2015.

Lauren Milum

Administrative Specialist, Marion County, effective April 6, 2015.

Denise White

Administrative Support Supervisor, Ag Economics and Ag Business, effective April 13, 2015.

Rachel Will

Administrative Specialist, Jefferson County, effective March 16, 2015.

Extension says goodbye to:

Lisa Bagley

Head Housekeeper, Vines 4-H Center, effective April 23, 2015.

Sarah Hawkins

Institutional Services Assistant, Facility Maintenance, effective March 30, 2015.

Sondra Jones

Institutional Services Assistant, Facility Maintenance, effective March 30, 2015.

Shaliece Pearson

Institutional Services Assistant, Facility Maintenance, effective March 30, 2015.

Louise Robinson

Grant and Contract Analyst, Office of Sponsored Programs, effective April 7, 2015.

Jan Rogers

Administrative Specialist, Community and Economic Development, effective April 1, 2015.