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BLUE LETTER

June 2024

No. 3866



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Opportunities Abound

The month of June provided plenty of opportunities for Extension professionals to be out and about in the state. Between statewide conferences, field days, community festivals and events, 4-H contests, and lots and lots of farm visits, Extension faculty, staff, and administration have been keeping the state well-covered.

I have had the opportunity to make a couple of particularly notable visits this month. First, I traveled to Hope for the inaugural Director's Cut webinar, which we initiated remotely from the Hempstead County office. Terrie James and the rest of the Hempstead County staff treated us to some characteristically warm south Arkansas hospitality. It was great to see their new facilities and hear about the hard work that went into making it a reality. I am looking forward to these quarterly webinars and the opportunity they will provide to highlight some of the great things going on in Extension around the state.

The following weekend, my wife and I attended the Bradley County Pink Tomato Festival in Warren. On the way down, she asked if I was speaking at the event. "No," I said, "I don't know what kind of program they'll have, but I'm not on it." In fact, I was on the program, with a seat at the head table and everything. It worked out all right. It's not too hard to spend five or ten minutes talking about all the things that UA Extension is doing. That was especially true at that event. The Pink Tomato Festival had Extension fingerprints all over it, from the EHC groups that set up for and prepared the luncheon, to the 4-Hers who served the food, to the Master Gardeners who had every

inch of Warren in tip-top shape, to the ag agents who serve the tomato industry (and the rest of the south Arkansas agriculture sector) all year. CES was well-represented with agents and volunteers from around the region. It was extremely gratifying to hear so many civic leaders recognize Extension's contribution to the community and express their gratitude for it.

Visiting communities like Hope and Warren is one of the true joys of this job. Every community in the state undoubtedly has its own special character and its unique charms. Still, we all share so much in common – very much like a big, extended family (cliché as that may sound). And like a family, when one hurts, we all hurt. As we all know, the community of Fordyce, just half an hour up the road from where we were in Warren, has suffered an unspeakable tragedy in recent days.

There are no adequate words of consolation for this grief, nor words to explain such senseless violence. But we are going beyond words — taking action to help a community heal. For example, with the town's only grocery store closed during the investigation, we are serving as a drop-off location for non-perishable food items.

While our efforts may seem too little in the face of enormous trauma, I am reminded of what a pastor friend of mine called the ministry of presence; sometimes all you can really do for someone in their suffering is to be there with them. A lot of people across our organization are doing their best to be present with the good people of Dallas County right now. We should be prepared to settle into that role for a while. This one will take a long time to get through. ■

INSIDE SCOOP

2. The Director's Cut
 3. Train the Trainer
 4. 4-H Livestock Clinic
 5. Leadership Log
 6. Tech Corner
 7. Diabetic Cooking Class
- ...And much more!

Extension Educators & Agents Participate in

Soy Chef Changemaker Training

Expanding America’s Food Culture, along with the development of a Mid-South soy nutrition education workgroup and partnership with Extension was the focus of a 4-H Tech Changemaker training held at the 4-H Center last month. A grant from the Mid-South Soybean Association in partnership with B & B Legacy Farms funded the training. Participants included extension FCS educators Leigh Ann Bullington and Keith Statham-Cleek; FCS Nutrition Instructor Christine Sasse; Poinsett County FCS/4-H Agent Christie Wagley; Independence County FCS agent Julian Carpenter; Sarah Wood, assistant extension professor and Missouri State nutrition specialist; and Hannah Whittaker, nutrition and health specialist with University of Missouri Extension.

Karen Ballard, owner of B & B Legacy Farms and former extension evaluation professor, coordinated the training and led several sessions, including one on food politics. Mandie Smith, a clinical dietitian for the WellStar Healthcare



Christine Sasse (left) & Mandie Smith (right) stirring things up.

System in Georgia, shared information about food culture and the politics of change regarding food. Stephanie Spencer, certified Lifestyle Medicine, talked about the im-

portance of food as medicine and how food affects diet-related disease. Diedre Young, extension Soybean Science Challenge associate, and Keith Harris, coordinator, covered outreach with strategic partners, education and resources related to soy and research. Dr. Lynn Wilson, CPED professional assistant, and former extension administrative assistant Ginger Ellison served as research and education staff for the training.

Educators and agents participated in two food labs focused on using whole soy to create meals. Participants made and sampled Soylicious Chocolate Mousse, Mandie’s Mari-nated Tofu, Soylicious Cajun Style Soybeans and Rice, and Southern Soy Hummus. Teams declared all dishes delicious, especially the chocolate mousse.

Teams discussed the challenges and opportunities to expand our food culture and worked on submission of Soy Chef Change-Maker Mini Grants. ■



Soy Chef Team Leaders and Trainers. Arkansas participants included Keith Statham-Cleek, Julian Carpenter, Leigh Ann Bullington, Christine Sasse, Christine Wagley, and Amber Hairston (not pictured).

New Debut!

The Director's Cut

Dr. Anderson debuted the new director’s webinar —The Director’s Cut — this month, traveling to Hope where he visited with staff from Hempstead County extension office and the Southwest Research and Extension Center. The new webinar will be a bit different. It will air quarterly, rather than monthly, and Dr. Anderson plans to add podcasts to the line-up as needed.

He also plans to take the webinars on the road to visit Extension sites across the state with co-host Julie Robinson,

associate professor-leadership, and the behind-the-scenes crew:

Executive Assistant Amy Hedges; videographers Kerry Rodtnick and Ben Aaron; Tracy Courage, extension communications director; Samantha Barker, program manager, and Andrea Price, video conference technician, both from IT. The webinars are recorded. If you missed the first one, watch it [here](#). ■

THE
DIRECTOR'S
CUT

Train the Trainer

Family & Consumer Sciences Agents Kris Boulton (Saline County), Anna Goff (Washington County), Janet Perkins (Van Buren County), Danielle Watson (Cleveland County), and Pia Woods (Jefferson County) hosted a train-the-trainer event focused on Textiles and Technology. The event included FCS county agents, FCS secondary teachers, and Extension Homemakers' Council members who wanted to hone their apparel and interior construction skills. Technology was used to show skills on the sewing machine using a flexible camera projected on the large screen so participants could see what to do. On May 2 and 3, the Little Rock State office auditorium was transformed into a creation hub with sewing machines, cutting mats and pressing stations.

This event coincided with the Quilt of Valor Ceremony,



Left to right: Anna Goff, Danielle Watson, Janet Perkins, Pia Woods, Kris Boulton.

which honored Chief Warrant Officer 3 Johnny Woodley, UADA facilities management warehouse specialist. A quilt of valor must be hand or machine-quilted and must be awarded in keeping with the service, sacrifice and valor of serving our nation. The Textiles and Technology event coordinators are already finishing the next quilt for an Arkansas recipient. Read about Johnny Woodley [here](#). ■

4-H Grassland Evaluation Contest Participants



Thirty-five 4-H members representing six counties around the state participated in the State 4-H Grassland Evaluation Contest held at the Livestock and Forestry Research Station in Batesville on May 1.

The contest helps educate students in the benefits, use and management of grasslands for livestock production and wildlife habitat. The contest is divided into four sections: soils interpretation, plant identification, grassland condition and wildlife habitat. This contest was made possible by the collaborative efforts of county agents, UADA specialists, and Quail Forever biologists Ryan Parker and Katrina Sims. The Arkansas Forage and Grasslands Council sponsored the awards and t-shirts.

The Champion Senior Team was from Independence County and was coached by Michelle Mobley, county ag agent. Carroll County's team placed second, and White County, third.

This year, the top two senior teams will represent Arkansas at the Mid-America Grassland Evaluation Contest in Springfield, Missouri.

The Champion Junior Team was from White County and was coached by 4-H Agent Jan Yingling. Teams from Madison County placed second and third. The Top 3 Individuals in the Junior Contest were from White, Independence and Randolph counties. Congratulations to the winners and all our hard-working 4-Hers! Gabbi Middleton (Independence) won first place in individual and team awards. Jason McCullough (Carroll) won third place in individual and team awards. ■



Champion Junior Grassland Evaluation Team from White County 4-H. Left to right: Braylen M., Jewel S., Andy F., Carleigh C.



Champion Senior Grassland Evaluation Team from Independence County 4-H. Left to right: Michael D., Shelby B., Samantha W., Gabbi M.



4-H Livestock Clinic

Twenty-five Saline County youth participated in the Saline County 4-H Livestock Clinic held June 3-5. The clinic focused on livestock basics for market goats, dairy goats, poultry, rabbits and cattle and included practice skill-a-thon contests.

Clark County 4-H/Agriculture agent Cindy Ham taught the youth about routine care, equipment needs, and selection of market goats. Saline County Ag Agent Nicole Nichols taught the youth about dairy goat breeds, nutrition and selection. Andrew Bolton, UADA Poultry Science Instructor, taught the

youth how to care for chickens, measure the abdominal circumference, and answered poultry-related questions. 4-H Youth Livestock Instructor Allison Harman, assisted by interns, taught the youth about cattle anatomy and nutrition. She also demonstrated routine show cattle care. Saline County 4-H agent Katie West led a rabbit care discussion and a guided student-led showmanship demonstration.

After two energy-filled days of learning, the youth tested their knowledge through a rotation of skill-a-thon contests. ■



Clinic participants test their knowledge of chicken breeds and egg judging as part of the Poultry Skill-a-thon practice.



Clark County 4-H/Agriculture agent, teaches clinic participants about the anatomy of a market goat.

Bradley County Pink Tomato Festival

People are sometimes willing to pay a little more for quality, and that was certainly true at the 68th annual Bradley County Pink Tomato Festival, where a 20-pound box of the celebrated fruit sold for \$2,050 — as much as an ounce of gold.

Bradley County Extension folks play a significant role in helping the annual festival run smoothly every year.

Agent John Gavin worked with tomato growers and made sure hundreds of pounds of Bradley County's finest got delivered to festival and contest sites. He also coordinated the

tomato packing contest and served on the All Tomato Luncheon committee along with Extension Homemakers Club members. EHC members from Bradley and Cleveland counties planned the menu and prepared and plated the food. The luncheon raised more than \$2,000 and will be used to fund future community service projects.



Extension employees attend the All-Tomato Luncheon at the Bradley County Pink Tomato Festival on June 15, 2024, in Warren, Arkansas. From left: Robin Hollis, Jeff Weaver, Michelle Carter, Penny Vance, Hazelene McCray, Danielle Watson, John Gavin, LaTaaka Harvey, John Anderson, Tracy Courage, Ronda Best, and Diane Clements (retired).

Bradley County 4-H members served the plated lunches to guests. Robin Hollis, the administrative specialist, helped with both the luncheon and the festival's new pie contest. Read more [here](#). ■



LEADERSHIP LOG

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iLEAD III Reflects on Leadership and Career Journey

by John Thomas, Managing Director, Arkansas 4-H Foundation
Think about your career and who or what has been the brightest part of that timeline. In the most recent gathering of the iLead III cohort on May 17, participants were asked to reflect on this question, and it solicited a wide variety of responses. Stories ranged from leaders early in their careers, even at high school age jobs, all the way to their current roles. Read details [here](#).



Snapshot of LeadAR Class 20 seminar experiences in south Arkansas.

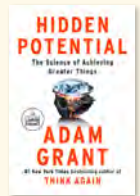
LeadAR Class 20 Golden Triangle Tour

Last month, LeadAR Class 20 embarked on a journey through the heart of south Arkansas, delving into the rich history, vibrant industries, and bright future of the region. Our tour centered around the Golden Triangle region of the state which encompasses the cities of Camden, El Dorado and Magnolia. Read details [here](#).

Leadership Lunch and Learn

Book Review: *Hidden Potential: The Science of Achieving Greater Things*

The May Leadership Lunch and Learn focused on “*Hidden Potential: The Science of Achieving Greater Things*” by Adam Grant, reviewed by Kristi Carpenter, an extension staff and organizational development specialist at the University of Georgia. Read details [here](#). View recording [here](#). ■



Lonoke Master Gardeners Win State Awards

Twelve Lonoke County Master Gardeners and county agent Kyle Sanders attended the recent 2024 Master Gardener State Conference in Hot Springs, hosted by Garland County Master Gardeners. Lonoke won three of the coveted 2023 state awards in the 50 and under group.

Anita Williams was awarded the first ever Mimi Cox Mentoring Award; Angela Ryland, Master Gardener of the Year; and Cozy Nook Studio and Gallery Café Owner Terri Taylor, Business Friend of Master Gardeners.

Arkansas Master Gardener State Coordinator Randy Forst welcomed Master Gardeners to the award banquet. Dr. John D. Anderson, director of the Cooperative Extension Service, presented the prestigious awards with Forst. Dr. Anderson praised Master Gardeners for

their positive impact throughout the state.

During the three-day event, each Master Gardener participated in presentations and garden tours. ■



Terri Taylor of Cozy Nook Studio and Gallery Café, Lonoke County. Business Friend of Master Gardeners award winner.



Left to right: Angelia Hudson, Jean Fortenberry, agent Kyle Sanders, Ronya Hammonds, Chris Gentry, Jan Turner, Anita Williams, Angela Ryland, Sheila Thurmond, John Bridges and Sandy Puckett.



CIO UPDATES: UADA Cloud Storage Migration Update



The UADA Box-to-OneDrive copy/migration of your individual Box folders/files to your @uada.edu OneDrive cloud storage account began on Friday, June 14. Reminder: This project does not impact your UARK Box folders/files.

Now that the migration process has started, we ask that you please not move any folders/files around within or outside of the Box Migration folder in your UADA OneDrive account. Doing so will cause the recurring (delta) syncs to copy the same folders/files again to the Box Migration folder in your UADA OneDrive account. We will let everyone know when all syncs have been completed.

Public WIFI Dangers

Many Wi-Fi users choose to use public networks instead of their devices' data plans for accessing the internet remotely. But the convenience of public Wi-Fi can be risky. If you're not careful, hackers may quickly access your connection and compromise sensitive information stored on your device and in online accounts. Here are some steps you can take to minimize the risk:

- Check the validity of available Wi-Fi hotspots. If more than one hotspot appears claiming to belong to an establishment that you're in, check with the staff to avoid connecting to an imposter hotspot.
- Make sure all websites you exchange information with have "https" at the beginning of the web address. If so, your transmitted data will be encrypted.
- Install an app add-on that forces your web browsers to use encryption when



connecting to websites -- even well-known sites that may not normally encrypt their communications.

- Adjust your smartphone's settings so it does not automatically connect to nearby Wi-Fi networks. This gives you more control over where and when you connect.
- If you use public Wi-Fi hotspots on a regular basis, consider using a virtual private network, which will encrypt all transmissions between your device and the internet. Many companies offer VPNs to their employees for work purposes, and individuals may subscribe to VPNs on their own.
- When transmitting sensitive information, using your cellphone data plan instead of Wi-Fi may be more secure.

Provided by the [Federal Trade Commission](#) (FCC).

Zoom Pro Tip

As a part of the new Zoom Workplace app comes a new way to view your meetings – Multi-Speaker View. No more hunting for the current speaker in gallery view or waiting for the view to change to the current speaker



in speaker view. Your speakers all sit side by side at the top of the window while the rest of the gallery is still visible below. A fun, new way to engage in Zoom meetings!

Hacks from Hump Day



- [Flash Fill in Excel](#)
- [New IT Help Desk \(TDX\)](#)
- [Microsoft Edge Profiles](#) ■

2024 TECH TUESDAY WEBINARS

Have you missed any past Tech Tuesday webinars or want to join future webinars? Check out the recordings and other resources on the [Tech Tuesday Blog page](#). More Tech Tuesday topics coming soon!



Diabetic Cooking Class Hosted

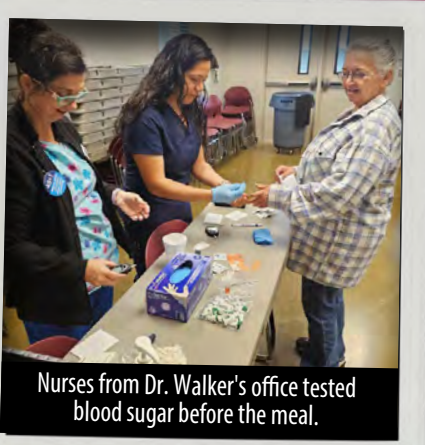


Sevier County FCS Agent Janet Cantrell recently partnered with Dr. Randy Walker's Family Clinic to offer a Diabetic Cooking Class. Cantrell, with help from Pike County FCS Agent Eva Langley and Little River FCS Agent Tina Munoz, provided a healthy lunch to attendees, including a dessert that didn't spike blood sugar levels. Dr. Walker provided a dietitian, Beth Polo-Beckel, who shared important information to those living with diabetes and how to best plan their meals. The



Left to right: Tina Munoz, Janet Cantrell, and Eva Langley presented attendees with a well-balanced lunch that would help lower their A1C.

Walker Family Clinic also provided free blood sugar readings before and after the lunch to help attendees see how a well thought out lunch can help lower their A1C levels. ■



Nurses from Dr. Walker's office tested blood sugar before the meal.

Axe-Throwing Offered

Arkansas 4-H offers a contest that no other 4-H program in the country offers — axe-throwing. And kids love it.

Ealier this month, 45 4-H members from 11 Arkansas counties competed in the Outdoor Skills Challenge, which tested their skills in axe-throwing, knot tying, fire building, canoeing, kayaking and atlatl, an ancient device used to throw spears. Read more [here!](#) ■

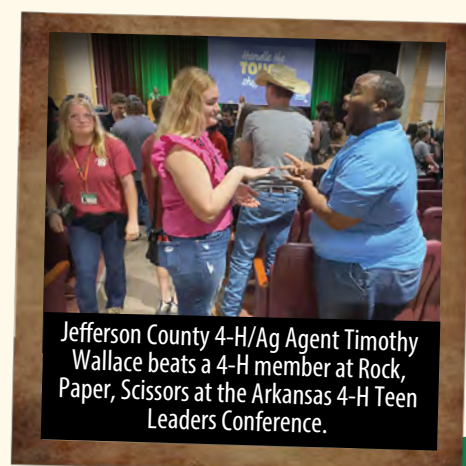


4-H members can now participate in axe-throwing at the Outdoor Skills Challenge.

4-H Teen Leaders Conference



Arkansas 4-H Teen Leaders Conference took place June 5-7 at the 4-H Center. Everything went off without a hitch due to Bethany Leonard's leadership and help from five agents. Jefferson County Ag/4-H agent Timothy Wallace was the self-proclaimed "captain" of the agents and showed them how to navigate TLC and led chaperone duties. He also showed the kids that it is ok to have fun and be respectful at the same time. The adults and kids both loved him! ■



Jefferson County 4-H/Ag Agent Timothy Wallace beats a 4-H member at Rock, Paper, Scissors at the Arkansas 4-H Teen Leaders Conference.



Three 4-H Teams Qualify for

National Livestock Judging Contests

The 2024 State 4-H Livestock Judging contest was held at the Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Arena in Fayetteville on April 25. The growth in this contest has been huge with 157 4-H'ers from 20 counties competing this year! Farm Credit of Western Arkansas provided a hamburger lunch for all contestants and volunteers. Additionally, the Arkansas Pork Producers Association and the Arkansas Cattlemen's Association sponsored awards. A special thank you to the U of A Livestock Judging Team, UA Rich Mountain Livestock Judging, and U of A Animal Science faculty and students who volunteered.



The Champion Junior Livestock Judging team from Greene County 4-H. Left to right: Jackson R., Avery R., Ryleigh L., Tate G., Coach Blake Davis.

Polk County 4-H was the Champion Team, coached by 4-H

Volunteer Jeremy Huff. They will represent Arkansas at the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest in Louisville, Kentucky. The Reserve Champion Senior Team was from Benton. Coached by Benton County 4-H Agent Jessica Street, this team qualifies for the National Western Round-up in Denver, Colorado.



The Champion Senior Livestock Judging team from Polk County 4-H. Left to right: Coach Jeremy Huff, Ruby H., Bella H., Ryan W., Claire W.

Nevada County 4-H had the third-place senior team and was coached by Nevada County Ag Agent Stacey Stone. In the Junior Division, Greene County 4-H was the Champion Team. They were coached by Greene County 4-H Agent Blake Davis.

The full list of contest winners can be found at JudgingCard.com. ■

Hawk Family at LRSO

LRSO is host to a lot of urban wildlife. One of the most visible examples is the family of red-tailed hawks that nests above the parking lot. This summer we watched as a hawk pair raised a little fuzz-headed chick into a fledgling. In early June, that fledgling could be seen flopping around the grounds trying to figure out the whole flying thing. ■



BBQ Skills

4-H members participated in four district BBQ contest around the state last month. Participants could choose to grill either chicken thighs or ground turkey patties. Each participant set up their workstation to allow food safety, and created their own recipes, so no two entries were the same. This made for some exciting spice combinations. The top two seniors from each division at each contest recently competed at the state BBQ contest at the Poultry Federation's annual Poultry Festival. ■



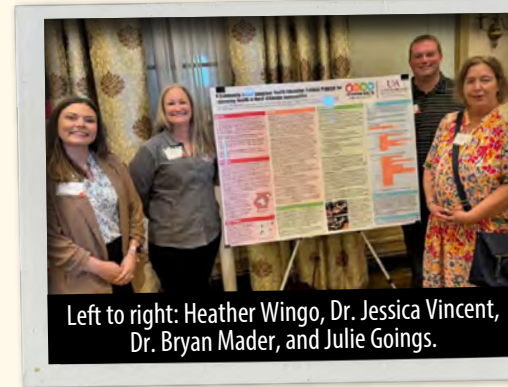
Guy K. checks the temperature of his chicken.

Health Ambassador Program, Delta Rides

Extension's health team attended the 2024 National Health Outreach and Engagement Conference in Greenville, South Carolina, where they presented a poster session on the Extension Health Ambassador Program. Presenters included Dr. Bryan Mader, health specialist; Dr. Jessica Vincent, community health outreach specialist; Phillips County Extension Agent Julie Goings; and Heather Wingo, health program associate.

At the conference, the Arkansas High Obesity Project (ArHOP) team offered a session on Delta Rides,

the first project of its kind regarding public transportation and Extension work. Presenters included Mader, Goings and Darby Treat, Delta Rides regional program associate. ■



Left to right: Heather Wingo, Dr. Jessica Vincent, Dr. Bryan Mader, and Julie Goings.

Arkansas High Obesity Project

Members of the Arkansas High Obesity Project (ArHOP) Team recently attended the grand reopening and ribbon cutting at Beech Grove Park in Forrest City. The updated park now features ADA-accessible playground equipment and a paved walking trail, thanks to the Feeding America Community Accelerator Initiative and the CDC's High Obesity Program. ■



Heather Wingo, Dr. Jessica Vincent, Dr. Teresa Henson, Leslie Whiting (CDC Project Lead), Dr. Bryan Mader and Vivian Okanume.

Arkansas High Obesity Project Team

The ArHOP team attended the 2024 Center for Disease Control (CDC) DNPAO National Training last month in Atlanta to represent recipients of the High Obesity Program (HOP). While there, Dr. Jessica Vincent served on the Health Equity Panel and Discussion: Advancing Health Equity through SPAN, HOP, and REACH and Celebrating 25 years of REACH. ■

Left to right: Community volunteer, Feeding America Community Accelerator Initiative Members, Mayor Larry Bryant, Marla Lane, St. Francis County Agent, and Mishanna Lanes, ArHOP Regional Associate and community volunteer.



Grow Your Own Protein Seed Request Program

The Soybean Science Challenge's Grow Your Own Protein program just wrapped up its ninth year of providing free soybean seeds to school and community gardens in Arkansas and across the country. The program started in 2016 with 12 gardens in Arkansas. This year, more than 125 gardens in 11 states – from Florida to Washington and Louisiana to New York - requested seeds.

The community garden program's seed application process starts in January and goes through late May. The soybean seeds are donated by B&B Legacy Farms and mailed from the state office to requesting gardens from March to May, in time for planting. For a garden to receive soybean seeds, the garden needs to be educational/school related, 4-H based, or serve the food

banks or other hunger-related projects in the area in which they are planted.

The Soybean Science Challenge is a partnership between the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board and the Cooperative Extension Service. For additional information, please contact Dr. Julie Robinson at jrobinson@uada.edu or Keith Harris at kharris@uada.edu. ■



Fair Judging School

Family and Consumer Science Agent LeeAnn Blevins hosted a fair judging school at the Baxter County Fairgrounds on May 14 for folks interested in judging at the county fairs. More than 30 participants attended the training which covered the basics of fair judging, horticulture, photography, food preservation, household arts, and food preparation.

Sessions were taught by county agents LeeAnn Blevins, Baxter County; Chelsea Conway, Sharp County; Ashley Edgemon, Boone County; Anna Harlan, Stone County; MaLinda Mathis, Fulton County; with Chris Roofe, Searcy County; and Fulton County Master Gardeners Ralph Moore and Debbie Moore. ■



Agent LeeAnn Blevins hosted a Fair Judging School at the Baxter County Fairgrounds.

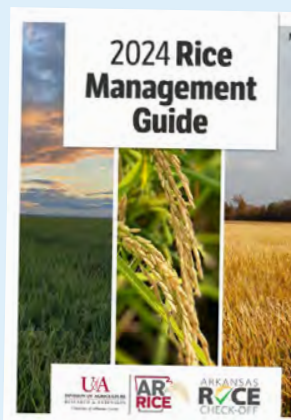
Learning the Ropes in Rice

Ralph Mazzanti wants to be sure extension agents remain the best source for research-based information for our rice growers.

Mazzanti, the extension rice verification coordinator, offers weekly training sessions for agents at rice research verification fields.

The events draw all levels including new agents, seasoned agents and interns. Required reading for these sessions was the [2024 Rice Management Guide](#).

Find photos from sessions in Chicot and Lonoke counties on [Flickr](#). ■



Daniel Livingston, Scott Hayes and Ralph Mazzanti with a sign marking a cooperator in the Division of Agriculture's rice verification program.

Hot Spring County Offers Re-Entry Simulation

Hot Spring County was the latest county to host the Arkansas Re-Entry Simulation to give people an idea of the challenges people face after incarceration.

More than two dozen people participated in the May 17 simulation facilitated by Kristin Higgins of the Public Policy Center. Jessica Rodriguez, the county's FCS agent, organized the event by inviting station volunteers and participants. The simulation involves participants receiving an identity of someone released from prison and a series of tasks to complete over four 15-minute "weeks." Transportation was more important than most participants realized.

"This was a great simulation. This was very true to life for what offenders experience," one participant wrote on their evaluation.

For the remainder of the year, the Public Policy Center



is available on Mondays and Fridays to host simulations. Contact Kristin Higgins at khiggins@uada.edu for more information. ■

Pulaski County Announces

Master Gardeners Day

If you've ever visited some of central Arkansas' historic landmarks, parks and tourist sites, you may have admired the handiwork of the Pulaski County Master Gardeners who maintain nearly three dozen beautiful garden sites throughout the county.

One of the more visible sites is the garden at the historic 1889 Pulaski County Courthouse, where volunteers gathered June 20 to celebrate Pulaski County Master Gardeners Day. Pulaski County Judge Barry Hyde read a proclamation, designating the third Thursday in June as Master Gardeners Day.

Pulaski County Extension Agent Derek Reed helped facilitate the event and was interviewed by Channel 7.

The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette also ran photos of the event on June 21.

Read full story: <https://bit.ly/MG-Day>. See the Photo Gallery. Extension Instagram Reel.

See Channel 7 coverage.

[Channel 7 interview with MG](#)

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette photo. ■



Pulaski County Judge Barry Hyde talks to Pulaski County Master Gardener president Sara Jordan after proclaiming June 20, 2024 as Pulaski County Master Gardeners Day during a ceremony at the Pulaski County Courthouse rose garden on June 20, 2024, in Little Rock.

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Board Speaker



Nina Roofe

Nina Roofe, head of Family and Consumer Sciences, has been elected to serve a one-year term as speaker of the house of delegates for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Roofe, began her term on June 1 and will serve until May 31, 2025. Read the full story [here](#). ■

WALK ACROSS ARKANSAS

FALL 2024 COMPETITION BEGINS

SEPT 9 2024

Registration opens August 26th

UAA DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE RESEARCH & EXTENSION UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

SAVE THE DATE

Walk Across Arkansas

Winners have been announced for Walk Across Arkansas and a Fall Save the Date:

- Our UADA Facebook page announced winners at this [link](#).
- Teams are also featured on our website [here](#).

Mark your calendars, Fall 2024 Walk Across Arkansas registration opens Aug. 26, and competition will begin Sept. 9. ■



Got an event? Submit events for the UADA Calendar [here](https://calendar.uada.edu/): View other calendar events at calendar.uada.edu/. You can search for events by date, type of event, and by topics.

Accessibility: ALT Text. Flier, graphics, photos and any PDF you upload to social media need ALT text to be accessible.

- Photos — Describe what’s in the photo or mark it “decorative” if it doesn’t offer information
- Graphics — Describe the graphic or image.
- Fliers and PDFs — Retype information on the flier into the ALT text box.

Publications: Fact Sheets vs. MPs what’s the difference? Fact sheets are generally less than 8 pages in layout (fewer than 10 pages in Word). Here is a recent [example](#) of a fact sheet. If the publication is longer than 8 pages, our publication specialists will design a Miscellaneous Publication (MP). MPs can be as many pages as needed and covers and a table of contents. Here is an [example](#) of a recent MP.

Before you publish, you must complete an [323x form](#). You can find it by visiting <https://pubs.uada.edu/>, scrolling to the “For Employees” section and clicking

on the Employee Publications Submission Request. Need help? Contact our Publications team:
Oliver Williams: owilliams@uada.edu
Emily Davis: edavis@uada.edu

Need Print Services? Contact our print shop for estimates at printshop@uada.edu.

Some of what we do:

Printing: Business cards, brochures, stationery, envelopes, flyers, newsletters, forms, postcards, posters.

Binding Services: collating, cutting, drilling, folding, padding, coil binding, stapling and saddle-stitching.

Envelopes: custom printed envelopes in various sizes.

Stickers: available in various shapes, sizes and finishes.

Social Media: Communications now provides monthly social media kits with half a dozen graphics on topics relevant to the month. Graphics and suggested texts are emailed at the end of the month and are accessible on our Communications webpage under Social Media. Scroll down to Creating Content. Click Social Media Assets. Find assets grouped by season and month. ■

Grants & Contracts

PROJECT TITLE	AWARD AMOUNT	PI	GRANTING AGENCY
University of Arkansas Bridge Access Program	30,000	Bryan Mader	Extension Foundation
Development of Non-Invasive Techniques	8,200	Charles Richard Looney	American Embryo Transfer Association
Poinsett County 4H 2024 America's Farmers Grow Communities	5,000	Craig S Allen	Bayer CropScience LP
Quantifying Nitrogen Credits From Soybean	19,988	Jeremy Ross	Mississippi State University
Threat Of Theileria Orientalis Ikeda Genotype and Haemaphysalis Longicornis Neumann in Arkansas: Screening For Presence Of The Emerging	270,000	Kelly Loftin	NIFA
To Establish and Maintain an APEX Accelerator	673,914	Melanie Berman	US Department of Defense
TOTAL AWARDS FOR MAY 2024: \$1,007,102			

Benefits Corner

Assistance Programs

Whether you're dealing with stress, mental health concerns, a child with a learning disability, a parent who needs in-home care or a difficult colleague, the university offers resources to help.

The assistance programs provide resources for life's issues — no matter how big or small. You and your immediate family members can use the assistance programs for confidential, no-cost individual and family counseling.

There are two options: the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and the UnitedHealthcare (UHC) Member Assistance Program (MAP). Learn more about what each program offers by visiting [here](#).

Employee Discounts

Access Perks — our employee discount program — helps you save money when you shop. With over 700,000 participating merchant locations, Access Perks has the largest discount network in the country and features over 1 million discounts

at the world's best brands. Access Perks serves up savings throughout the country, so you can get the best deals near home, work and wherever you travel.

With Access Perks, you can save up to 50% on your everyday expenses, including:

- Automotive services
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- And more



Whether you're at home or on the go, Access Perks discounts are available online and via the mobile app. Learn more about discounts [here](#). For assistance email yourbenefits@uada.edu. ■

Personnel Changes

Welcome Aboard:

- James Gambill – Administrative Specialist I, Washington County
- Scott Stiles – Program Associate - Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness, Little Rock
- Katie Douglass – County Extension Agent - Agriculture, White County
- Mattie Ricker – County Extension Agent - Family & Consumer Science, Cross County
- Anna Barnett – County Extension Agent - Agriculture, Fulton County
- Michelle McVay – STEM Instructor - 4-H & Youth Development, Little Rock
- Jeremy Collier – Landscape Specialist - Facilities Management, Little Rock
- Mattye Brown – Administrative Specialist III, Hot Spring County
- Ashlin Lippe – 4-H Program Assistant, Boone County
- Brianna Sheppard – County Extension Agent - Family & Consumer Science, Woodruff County
- Allison Vetter – Project Director, Southern Region Risk Management Center
- Enny Passmore – Administrative Specialist III, Pulaski County
- Tanya Washington – Cash Manager - Finance, Little Rock

Farewell to:

- Cherie Bradley – Administrative Specialist II, White County
- Carlie Anna Bothum – County Extension Agent, St. Francis County
- Taylor Trennepohl – 4-H Program Assistant, Carroll County
- Katherine Marie Brown – Program Associate - Plant Pathology, Lonoke Agricultural Center
- Austyn Wright – Program Technician - Crop Soil & Environmental Science, Rice Research and Extension Center
- Taely Dedmon – County Extension Agent - 4-H, Sebastian County
- Crystal Strain – County Extension Agent - Family & Consumer Science, Scott County

