

BLUE LETTER

The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Monthly Letter

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

At the State 4-H O-Rama Awards of Excellence Banquet, Doug White, vice president of systems services at Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas, spoke about the new relationship between the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas and 4-H. He said they are excited to be involved and that this is a natural partnership because they are in the same towns, counties and cities as we are.

In addition to being one of the banquet sponsors and assisting our efforts to promote 4-H through social media, the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas' magazine *Arkansas Living* highlighted 4-H on the cover and as the lead story in the July issue. The magazine has a distribution of more than 400,000.

Farm Bureau, which has supported 4-H for decades, also sponsored the Awards of Excellence Banquet and will support 4-H's statewide community service projects and other 4-H needs.

Farm Credit, another friend of 4-H, funded the awards event Thursday afternoon at the Bud Walton Arena and paid for backpacks given to 4-H'ers who won competitive events during the O-Rama.

If you are a county agent working with 4-H youth, please encourage and work with the State O-Rama participants to send a thank-you card or cards to their local Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas, Farm Credit office and county Farm Bureau. ■

– Tony Windham



Prewett named 2012 Financial Manager of the Year

Kyeleen Whitehead Prewett recently was named the 2012 Financial Manager of the Year. The award was presented by the Central Arkansas Association of Government Accountants (AGA) Chapter at their Annual Awards Banquet on June 7 in North Little Rock. Each year, one award is presented to formally recognize a government employee who has demonstrated sustained outstanding leadership and notable contributions to financial management and to encourage increased interest, growth, development and distinctive leadership in the field of financial management. ■



**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

Design Boot Camp in-service completed

Participants in the inaugural “CES Instructional Design Boot Camp” in-service completed the final phase of the course in June at a week-long session on the U of A Fayetteville campus. Participants learned about digital photography, photo composition, storyboarding, recording and editing video, social media, the use of Camtasia software and completed a digital media integration plan for their course projects.

Faculty of the Extension Program and Staff Development Department and the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education at the Fayetteville campus served as instructors for the Boot Camp. Participants successfully completing the course were presented with completion certificates and copies of Camtasia/Snagit software. “Oscars” were also presented for both individual and group category winners. ■

➔ Edited Photos

Lindsey Sexton

➔ Best Overall Photograph

Kathryn Aughtry

➔ Best Educational Camtasia Video

Anita Kelly, “Aquaponics for the Home Gardener”

➔ Best Group Video

Blue Group – Samy Sadaka, Ashley Winberry, Erica Harris

➔ Nominees

Green Group – Anita Kelly, Carter Dunn, Dirk Philipp, Laura Connerly

Orange Group – Jon Barry, Kathryn Aughtry, Judy Robison, Stacey McCullough

Purple Group – Katie Teague, John Pennington, Jane Maginot

Red Group – Andy Plunkett, Katie Holland, Katie Cullum, Mark Peterson

Yellow Group – Jill Lambert, Julie Treat, Lindsey Sexton

➔ Oscar MVP for Overall Excellence

Anita Kelly



“Oscar” winners pose for a group photo with Dr. Windham. (From left to right, back row) Dr. Tony Windham, Lindsey Sexton, Kathryn Aughtry, Samy Sadaka, Ashley Winberry, (front row) Erica Harris and Anita Kelly.



Boot Camp participants pose for a group photo with Dr. Windham. (From left to right, back row) Katie Holland, Judy Robison, Karen Ballard, Kathryn Aughtry, Carter Dunn, Dirk Philipp, Dr. Tony Windham, Ashley Winberry, John Pennington, Jon Barry, Andy Plunkett, (front row) Lindsey Sexton, Anita Kelly, Jill Lambert, Katie Cullum, Julie Treat, Katie Teague, Stacey McCullough, Erica Harris and Samy Sadaka.



NEWS

- 523 4-H’ers attended the 2012 State 4-H O-Rama.
- Backpacks sponsored by Farm Credit were presented to winners of competitive events during State 4-H O-Rama.
- Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas donated eight iPod shuffles, \$25 iTunes gift cards, one iPad, a 32” HDTV and an Xbox 360 for social media contest winners.



4-H receives big helping hand from Arkansas Farm Bureau, Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas, Farm Credit

The 2012 Arkansas 4-H O-Rama has received a big helping hand from some good friends: Arkansas Farm Bureau, the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas and Farm Credit.

Arkansas Farm Bureau has been a longtime friend of 4-H, and this year again donated a significant amount of money to help Extension's youth development program continue its mission. Arkansas Farm Bureau is a nonprofit, private advocacy organization of more than 210,000 families throughout the state working to improve farm and rural life.

This year Farm Credit provided funds and custom-printed backpacks to competitive event winners in advance of the school year. The Farm Credit system is a nationwide network of borrower-owned lending institutions that provides services to farmers, ranches rural homeowners and others.

A new friend to Arkansas 4-H is the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas, which co-sponsored the

banquet in addition to providing an electric vehicle demonstration on campus. The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas based in Little Rock is one of the top generation and transmission cooperatives in the nation with assets of about \$1.3 billion. The co-ops serve nearly half-million Arkansans.

"We are so grateful for the support being provided by these three organizations for our Arkansas 4-H program," said Anne Sortor, associate director-FCS and 4-H. "Their help is much-needed during these financially hard times, and we know we will be able to continue helping Arkansas' youth reach their full potential."

The 2012 O-Rama is the state's largest gathering of 4-H'ers and was held July 25-27 at the University of Arkansas campus in Fayetteville.

See photos from O-Rama on the Extension Flickr site at: www.flickr.com/photos/uacescomm/sets/72157630749712618/. ■



Citizenship Washington Focus

A total of 45 Arkansas 4-H members attended Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) under the supervision of Extension staff members Richard Klerk (Cross Co.), Michelle Carter (Bradley Co.) and volunteers Sue Oglesby (Polk Co.) and Chuck Wilson (Hot Spring Co.). The National 4-H Youth Conference Center hosted the week-long event where civic workshops, committees and field trips around the nation's capital were the order of business. The youth developed action plans to address important issues in their communities. A better understanding of the government's civic process was learned by those attending along with improving their leadership and communication skills and overall confidence. All members of Arkansas' congressional delegation met with the group. The 4-H members received many compliments on their contributions to the program and represented Arkansas 4-H very well. ■



Senators Mark Pryor and John Boozman visited with the CWF group. They answered questions and indicated their support for Arkansas 4-H.

AAE4-HA ExCEL Experience

Twenty members of the Arkansas Association of Extension 4-H Agents participated in ExCEL (Experience the Challenge, Experience the Leadership) May 17, 2012, at C.A. Vines 4-H Center. AAE4-HA members participated in experiential team building programs including ground-based team building initiatives, low ropes course elements and static high ropes course with 22 elements including a 300-foot zip line. Alicia Huguen, AAE4-HA president, said "I was excited that officers and members were able to come out and participate in this wonderful team building experience. It was interesting to see individuals step out of their comfort zones and receive support from their fellow association members to achieve milestones they never have before. It was a great day, and I look forward to future association outings." ■



Left to Right: Jeanie Zerr, Lance Blythe, Shannon Caldwell, Jan Yingling, Jesse Bocknick, Diane Mashburn, Erica Harris, Alicia Huguen, Pia Woods, Jessica Street and J.J. Pitman.

Grant-funded project addresses childhood obesity

Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness faculty are collaborating with UAMS on a grant-funded project (AFRI) to address childhood obesity. The project, Arkansas Grow Healthy Study, involves innovative research and educational programming that is designed to bring several complementary interventions to address aspects of the childhood obesity crisis. A key component of the project is development of a farm-to-school distribution network designed to enhance access to local fruits and vegetables for school children. The farm-to-school effort will begin in the fall of 2012 with the identification of project pilot schools to develop networking programs. One of the criteria for selecting a region is interest and capacity of area growers and the school system. Key steps in the process involve:

- Working with elementary schools to increase servings
- Conducting a systematic foodshed assessment
- Designing interventions to build capacity among potential farm-to-school stakeholders
- Piloting the entire farm-to-school program

The ultimate result of this four-phase pilot is to increase the number and variety of local vegetables and fruits served in selected Head Start preschools and public elementary schools in Arkansas. For more information contact Ron Rainey (rrainey@uaex.edu) or visit the project's website <http://growhealthy.uark.edu/index.html>. ■

Meet the *new* employees!



Mamunur Rasheed
Program Technician
Rice Research and Extension
Center, Stuttgart

- **What's your background?**

Basically I am a plant breeder.

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

I have more than nine years of experience in varietal development through conventional breeding. I worked mainly on the varietal development of potato and diversity of pumpkin, tissue culture of bitter melon and many other crops including rice. I am directly involved in transferring late blight resistant Rb gene to the susceptible popular varieties of Southeast Asia to develop LBR transgenic potato.

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

I am looking for any Ph.D. opportunities available here in UAEX or USDA.

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

I am working on panicle blight of rice with Dr. Yeshi Wamishe, UAEX, and Dr. Yulin Jia, USDA. This disease is a major issue now in the U.S. as it drastically reduces yield. I would like to accomplish the basic objectives of my project to find out the best bacterium inoculation method in the seedling stage of rice.

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

What brought me to Extension is the good working environments, and I love to help farmers.

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

I love reading and gardening. ■

Holly Wirth
AOS Program Coordinator
C.A.Vines 4-H Center



- **What's your background?**

I have an agriculture degree from the University of Kentucky. I have been a 4-H volunteer for over 15 years, and in the past 6 years, I have been a 4-H educator (agent) in Jefferson County, New York (Cornell University).

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

I have been involved in 4-H as a very active volunteer in several other states. As a 4-H educator in New York, I worked towards aligning programs with the national 4-H mandates. I feel I have learned many skills and gained experience in 4-H that will work together to benefit the AOS program at the 4-H Center.

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

I have two sons and two daughters I am very proud of. They are all in or have finished college and all were active in 4-H!

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

I would like to work with the great program of AOS and share ideas.

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

I have been interested in Extension work since college. I was introduced to Extension work through Lake Cumberland 4-H Camp in Kentucky while working as a nature counselor one summer.

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

Sheep and wool projects, gardening, rabbits and music are some of my hobbies. ■

What's new in publications? Find out at:

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

Information Technology Update

Projector and Video Conferencing Enhancements

An effort is underway to upgrade the digital projectors in several of the LRSO conference rooms and the auditorium. This will involve replacing some of the existing projectors and upgrading others. Conference room 206 is the first conference room to receive a new projector providing higher resolution images for improved clarity, a larger and brighter image and a new video connection port using HDMI compatible plugs and cabling.

Improvements to the video conferencing capability in Classroom 3 are under evaluation. The upgrades include a higher resolution camera and supporting hardware and software upgrades needed to support true high definition (1080p) video conferencing. ■

**Questions or assistance?
Contact the IT Call Center:**

Local Call: 501-671-2255

Toll Free: 866-779-3375

E-mail: callcenter@uaex.edu

BENEFITS CORNER

Tuition Information

Full-time (100%) appointed employees may enroll in undergraduate or graduate courses offered at any University of Arkansas System campus (except Medical or Law School) at 10% of the cost of tuition for courses offered by the employee's designated home campus. Attendance is at the discretion of the supervisor. You must designate a "home campus" that will stay with you throughout your career with Extension. Employees will pay 30% of the cost of full tuition for courses offered at any University of Arkansas campus other than the designated home campus.

Spouses and unmarried dependent children of full-time (100%) appointed employees may enroll in courses offered at any campus in the University of Arkansas System (except Medical, Law or Graduate School). Spouses and unmarried dependent children may take up to 132 undergraduate semester credit hours at 50% tuition at a designated "home campus" or at 60% of full tuition at any other campus within the University System.

Employees, spouses and/or dependent children will pay the difference between the cost of regular tuition and the discounted tuition charge for all electronically delivered courses such as CIV, Internet, web based or distance education courses.

Review Policy Number: C.E.S.P. 3-35 for additional details. ■

Grants and contracts for Month Ending June 30, 2012

Project Title	Award Amount	Principal Investigator	Granting Agency
Integrated Resource Management Tool to Mitigate the Carbon Footprint of Swine Produced in the U.S.	71,357.00	Karl VanDevender	Agriculture Experiment Station
High School 4-H Clubs Representing the State of Arkansas at National Conference and Events	20,000.00	Tom Troxel	Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission
Evaluation and Utilization of Resistance to Tarnished Plant Bug in Cotton	8,030.00	Glenn Studebaker	Agriculture Experiment Station
Dicamba Non-Crop	6,100.00	Ken Smith	Monsanto Company
TOTAL JUNE 2012 AWARDS	105,487.00		

Personnel changes

Please welcome the following:

Lurie L. Anderson

County Extension Agent - Agriculture, Jefferson County, effective July 16, 2012.

Sloane D. Holzhauser

County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences, Poinsett County, effective July 16, 2012.

Mamunur Rasheed

Program Technician, Rice Research and Extension Center, Stuttgart, effective July 10, 2012.

Holly R. Wirth

AOS Coordinator, C.A. Vines 4-H Center, effective July 9, 2012.

Extension says goodbye to:

Richard Evans

Program Coordinator, Community and Economic Development, effective June 29, 2012.

Christina L. Gordon

Education and Community Technician, Crop, Soil & Environmental Sciences, effective June 21, 2012.

LaDonna K. Turpin

Administrative Specialist, Community and Economic Development, effective June 29, 2012.

David A. Veasley

Landscape Specialist, Facility Maintenance, effective June 30, 2012.