

# BL

## BLUE LETTER

July 2018  
No. 3795



## Changing lives through hard work and commitment

The outstanding month of July is upon us, and we match its intensity with a *Blue Letter* of diverse and inspired content.

As the Director, I receive lots of feedback from stakeholders – internal and external, good and bad – depending on the circumstances. In the past couple of years, we have been getting more visible in the state and region, so the feedback has gotten more intense. That is a good thing, as we are becoming less and less the “best kept secret.” So thanks to all of you for your visibility efforts.

In recent months, some of the most positive feedback from external stakeholders has been about the work and personality of Dr. Laura Hendrix in Family and Consumer Sciences.

Dr. Hendrix is a truly committed lifelong learner and continues to build an impressive body of work based on her diverse experiences in Extension. Some of the feedback has noted her “hard work,” “commitment,” “professionalism,” “selflessness” and “practical answers.” All have noted the positive impact of Laura on their lives. I sincerely appreciate her dedication and hard work.

In truth, this is the type of feedback that makes Extension work so fulfilling and attractive as a profession – when people tell you, or sometimes the Director, when your work changes their lives and that they appreciate the hard work and commitment. We have many faculty and staff who do it every day, and I am honored to hear about you from the very people we serve – to be honest, this is less frequent than one would think.



**FROM THE DIRECTOR**

(See “*Changing Lives*,” page 10)

### INSIDE

Arkansas 4-H team wins national champion at Mid America Grassland Evaluation Contest  
4-He'rs attend Vet Science Camp at 4 H Center  
"Mad scientist" day camps in Lonoke and Prairie counties  
2018 U of A Livestock Judging Camp  
Calhoun Co. Forestry Team wins Arkansas 4-H Forestry Contest  
Moving Manila Forward wins SOAR Community Award  
Rachael Price earns volunteer manager certification

Upcoming Tech Tuesday webinars  
Division of Ag outreach, educational work recognized through APW awards  
Chi Epsilon Sigma gives Support Staff of the Year Awards  
Extension Service to sponsor five tax update schools  
Rural development pilot program needs applicants  
AIMS on the Go! Its now easier than ever  
Produce Safety team receives training in California

Keeping Arkansas Dollars at Home training for county agents  
Benefits Corner  
Soybean Science Challenge promotes Grow Your Own Protein community gardens  
Whats new in publications?  
Bring your technical questions here  
Scott Co. Veterinary Science Day Camp  
4-H National Shooting Sports Championships Event Calendar  
Grants and Contracts  
Personnel Changes





Cleburne County 4-H – Champion Overall High Point Team and First Place 4-H Team at the 2018 Mid-America Grassland Evaluation Contest. Left to right: Cleburne County staff chair Michelle Mobley, Stephen W., Luke W., Spencer B. and Macenna M.

## Arkansas 4-H team wins national champion at 2018 Mid-America Grassland Evaluation Contest

Arkansas 4-H students were national champions at the 2018 Mid-America Grassland Evaluation Contest in Springfield, Missouri, June 6. Arkansas 4-H teams placed first, second and fifth and took first, second, third, fourth and fifth high 4-H individuals. The competition included 18 FFA and 4-H teams from five states including Arkansas, West Virginia, Indiana, Ohio and Missouri.

Cleburne County 4-H was the champion, winning Overall High Point Team to edge out a West Virginia FFA team and was also was first place 4-H team. The team was coached by Cleburne County staff chair Michelle Mobley. Randolph County 4-H won second place 4-H team and was coached by staff chair Mike Andrews. Fulton County 4-H, coached by county agriculture agent Brad Runsick, placed fifth high 4-H team. High individual 4-H awards were as follows: first place – Luke W., Cleburne County; second place – Blaine H., Randolph County; third place – Macenna M.,

Cleburne County, fourth place – Stephen W., Cleburne County; and fifth place – Taylor D., Randolph County. 4-H teams from Madson and White counties and Pocahontas FFA also competed in the contest.

Congratulations to these young people for competing and for learning about managing grasslands and forages. ■

## Arkansas 4-H'ers learn the ins and outs of veterinary medicine at Vet Science Camp

Sixty Arkansas 4-H'ers attended the Vet Science Camp Friday, June 22, through Sunday, June 24, at the C.A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center in Ferndale.

This year's theme was "All About Immunology." The youth participants were led by professionals in the industry, including Dr. Heidi Ward, extension veterinarian, to gain a practical understanding of what veterinary medicine is all about.

4-H'ers participated in multiple hands-on stations learning about animal digestive systems, animal stress and the immune system. They were also taught how to properly use a microscope and its importance. The youth participated in sheep brain dissection where they identified parts of the brain, horse laminitis and wound bandaging and learned about zoo animal and alpaca health.

4-H'ers attended a panel to learn about veterinary careers. They also attended a career fair within the camp to learn about different opportunities in the veterinary science field which included Oklahoma State University's Center for Veterinary Health Sciences, the Arkansas Vet Tech Association and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

The Vet Science Camp was a huge success thanks to our chaperones, teachers and engaged 4-H'ers who were ready and willing to learn! ■

## Lonoke and Prairie counties turn youth into "mad scientists"

Mad Scientist was the theme for the 2018 4-H day camps in Lonoke and Prairie counties. More than 70 youth participated in the Cloverbud and Junior camps. As mad scientists, youth had the opportunity to code with Ozobots, utilize chemical reactions to blow up a balloon, make elephant toothpaste, launch film canister rockets, become engineers with marshmallows and toothpicks and were challenged to make a boat out of aluminum foil. Junior campers also learned about programming and circuits with Cublets and Snap Circuits. Camp evaluations indicate 96 percent of camp participants like to see how things are made or invented and get excited about new discoveries. Also, 92 percent of campers said they can do an experiment to answer a question. ■



Dr. Dustan Clark teaching students Brennan K. and Anna Lauren T. about sheep brain dissection.



Junior campers utilize Snap Circuit kits to experiment making lamps, fans and alarms operate.

## 2018 University of Arkansas Livestock Judging Camp

Each year the Department of Animal Science hosts a livestock judging camp where youth from across Arkansas and surrounding states can learn about livestock selection, update themselves on the current industry trends and improve their communication skills through presentation of oral reasons. Fifty-one students ranging in age from 6 through 17 participated in this year's camp which was held June 4-7.

Students competed in three divisions depending on knowledge level and experience. These students worked tirelessly learning all about sheep, cattle, hogs, goats and the reasons and terminology that accompany each species.



Participants in the U of A Livestock Judging Camp pause for a photo.

### Judging Contest Award Winners



**Beginner**  
Mikenley T. – 1st  
Levi W. – 2nd  
Martha G. – 3rd



**Intermediate**  
Jason C. – 3rd  
Landen W. – 2nd  
Jacey S. – 1st



**Advanced**  
Abby J. – 1st  
Madison M. – 2nd  
Jack H. – 3rd

The second day ended with some real fun at the Altitude trampoline park. On the last day, kids were put to the test on what they had learned in the form of a judging contest that consisted of six classes with three sets of oral reasons. The camp concluded with an awards presentation.

Judging contest award winners are shown in the photos at left, names listed left to right.

A big thank you goes out to Dianna and Butch Watson, Dr. Chelsey Ahrens, Carol Ann McAfee, past and present U of A livestock judging team members, parents, chaperones, Extension agents and all who helped contribute to make this camp a success. ■

## Calhoun County Forestry Team wins Arkansas 4-H Forestry Contest

The Calhoun County 4-H Forestry Team won the Arkansas 4-H Forestry Contest held May 8 at the Southwest Research and Extension Center in Hope. A total of five senior teams representing Bradley, Faulkner, Yell, Ouachita and Calhoun counties, as well as one junior team from Bradley County, competed in the one-day event. These 30 4-H'ers competed for top 4-H forestry honors in the areas of tree measurement, compass traverse, tree identification and forest insect and disease identification – each a component of the state and the national 4-H Forestry Contest. The winning senior team from Calhoun County will represent Arkansas at the National 4-H Forestry Invitational in Weston, West Virginia, July 29 - August 2. Congratulations to team members Evan B., Justin L., Mark S. and Tyree M. and the coach, Jaret Rushing. The 4-H Forestry Contest is held each year and led by the Arkansas Forest Resources Center faculty and staff members, Tamara Walkingstick, Caroll Guffey, Kyle Cunningham and Jon Barry, as well as Desha County staff chair Hope Bragg. Arkansas has taken the top honors for the last two years at the National 4-H Forestry Invitational, and we are wishing this year's team great success. ■



Tamara Walkingstick with Calhoun County Forestry Team members Evan B., Mark S., Tyree M. and Justin L.



## Moving Manila Forward soars ahead at Breakthrough Solutions Conference

Congratulations to Moving Manila Forward, recipient of the 2018 Breakthrough Solutions SOAR Community Award at the recent Breakthrough Solutions Annual Conference, for their exemplary vision and many accomplishments. Since they were formed just over a year ago:

- Two community surveys in Manila attracted 1,600 people, with 315 people completing at least one, nearly 10 percent of the town's population.
- Two farmers' markets featured 60 vendors, with more than 600 people attending.
- A shrimp fly-in took place, with the Manila Pilots Association flying in 200 pounds of fresh shrimp from the Gulf for a farmers' market event and dinner.
- Four Music in the Museum events were held in the museum downtown.
- The Blazin' BBQ Festival on April 23 attracted 75 vendors and more than 2,000 people. One hundred people came to see the movie the night before.
- More than 3,500 people have been attracted to events in downtown Manila, which has several vacant buildings.
- Three new businesses have moved into downtown.
- An area ministerial alliance was formed and held an Easter service.
- Thirty-four homes are being built in Mississippi County, with 30 of these being built in Manila.
- Five action teams have been formed, and an Action Plan rollout event is planned for August 14. ■



Breakthrough Solutions Soar award presented at Breakthrough Solutions Conference: From left to right, Wayne Wagner, Manila mayor; Cathy Huddleston, Manila treasurer; Dr. Pamela Pruet, Family and Consumer Sciences agent; Chris Cheadle, Moving Manila Forward agriculture and food action team chair; Ray Benson, staff chair and agriculture agent; Melinda Faubel, Breakthrough Solutions partner with AT&T Arkansas; and Dr. Mark Peterson, professor of Community and Economic Development.

## Rachael Price earns volunteer manager certification

Rachael Price, program technician - family and consumer sciences, earned the certified volunteer manager accreditation from Arkansas Public Administration Consortium and was recognized for this accomplishment at a May 10 ceremony at the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service in Little Rock. The certified volunteer manager program is designed for administrators, directors, managers and coordinators of volunteers and volunteer programs and teaches them how to effectively manage their volunteer staff.

The Arkansas Public Administration Consortium offers specialized, affordable professional training and training-related services. The trainings focus on those that serve the public including state, county and local government employees, elected officials and nonprofit professionals. APAC is a cooperative program of the University of Arkansas - Little Rock, University of Arkansas - Fayetteville and Arkansas State University. ■



Rachael Price

**Correction:** In a June 2018 *Blue Letter* article, Laura Hendrix, who was awarded group facilitator certification at the same ceremony, was identified as assistant professor when her correct title is associate professor.

## Upcoming Tech Tuesday webinars



**Tuesday, August 14:** Social Media – Team Management (Kim Rowe, Sarah Enoch, Tyler Caston, Carla Due and Amy Cole)

**Tuesday, September 11:** Videos – Best Practices (Kerry Rodtnick)

Second Tuesday of every month, starting at 9:00 a.m.

To view the recordings, visit <https://uaex.edu/techtuesdays> ■

## Division of Ag outreach, educational work recognized through APW awards

Kristin Higgins, Mary Hightower and Fred Miller won several awards at Arkansas Press Women's annual luncheon in June. Topics included ballot issues, dicamba and zombies. (No kidding.)

Higgins, a program associate in the Public Policy Center, is president of Arkansas Press Women.

She won three first place awards:

- First place – Website – “State Ballot Issues in Arkansas”
- First place – Newsletters – “Arkansas Ballot Issues – News and Notes”
- First place – Brochures – “Arkansas' Cottage Food Law: What the Law Allows”
- Second place – Blogs – Non-profit, government or educational – “What is considered a cottage food in Arkansas”

Fred Miller, Fayetteville-based science editor for Division of Agriculture Communications, won two first place awards:

- First place – News story online – “Researchers add gene editing to rice research toolbox”
- First place – Online publication – “Zombies are real, and closer than you think”
- Second place – News story online – “Mighty mites manifest massive manual”

Mary Hightower, director - Communication Services for the Division of Agriculture, won:

- First place – Specialty articles – “As floodwater heads to gulf, ag damage estimate widens” and “Arkansas farmers await impact of 'big water'”
- First place – Public service campaign – Dicamba research – U of A System Division of Agriculture

The three were recognized June 30 at the APW luncheon at *The Saline Courier* in Benton. The state winning pieces were entered into the National Federation of Press Women annual contest, which will be awarded at NFPW's national conference in September in Pennsylvania. ■



Mary Hightower and Kristin Higgins

## Chi Epsilon Sigma gives Support Staff of the Year awards

Christa Littlefield, administrative specialist for Franklin County, received the Chi Epsilon Sigma (CES) Ozark District Support Staff of the Year award at the CES annual meeting at the Support Staff Conference at the C.A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center in April. She has been with Extension for 26 years.

Christa was nominated by her FCS agent, Casey Jarding, who said, “As a new agent, I would not be able to do what I do if it was not for Christa. Christa never misses a beat and provides me with a wealth of knowledge of what has or has not been effective in the past, which I greatly appreciate. She is always the first person I come to with questions regarding civil rights compliance, financial guidelines, 4-H volunteers and everything in between. She makes my work look so much more professional by proofreading my work and making eye-catching flyers for our programs.”

Susan James, administrative specialist for Information Technology, received the CES Support Staff of the Year award for the Little Rock State Office. Susan was nominated by Diana Morian in IT who says, “Without Susan, the department would be in total chaos. She is our rock and manages all things administrative. She supports 23 specialists along with other duties that she routinely handles.”

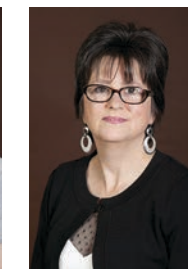
Dana Stringfellow, administrative specialist for Sevier County, received the CES Support Staff of the Year award for Ouachita District. She has been with Extension for 19 years. Gay Flaherty, administrative specialist for Pike County, presented the award to Dana and said, “I feel sure if someone looked up administrative assistant or secretary in the dictionary...there would be a picture of her.” Dana was nominated by her peer, Roxie Jones, who said, “Dana is the most organized person I know. You can always call on her with questions or problems and she has an answer. She takes excellent notes at trainings and shares them with others to help them. She handles her office professionally and makes everyone else's workload lighter.” ■



Christa Littlefield



Susan James



Dana Stringfellow



## Extension Service to sponsor five tax update schools

Know a professional tax preparer, farmer, small business owner or anyone else interested in income tax preparation? You can refer them to one of our two-day income tax schools. This year's curriculum will include extensive coverage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

Each class runs from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and meets the guidelines for 16 hours of continuing professional education. Registration is \$250 per person.

We are excited to be welcoming a new slate of experienced instructors this year. Representatives from the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration will also conduct sessions. We are an approved IRS Continuing Education Provider.

### School Dates and Locations

**Jonesboro** – Nov. 8-9      **Hot Springs** – Nov. 26-27  
**Fort Smith** – Nov. 12-13      **Little Rock** – Nov. 29-30  
**Fayetteville** – Nov. 15-16

Additional information, including registration information, can be found on our website: <http://www.uaex.edu/business-communities/business-entrepreneurship/tax-school.aspx>

For more information, contact Casey Hill or Kim Magee at (501) 671-2072. ■

## Rural development pilot program needs applicants

Create Bridges, a two-year pilot program to help rural regions grow their economies through the retail, tourism, accommodations and hospitality industries is seeking participants, with applications due Aug. 3.



The Community and Economic Development team and collaborative partners University of Kentucky, Oklahoma State University and the Southern Rural Development Center will develop and pilot a process to build capacity for strengthening these sectors. Regions comprised of two to five counties can apply. The program will include a forum for retail employers, workforce development professionals and industry leaders in the region, which will serve as a launching point for the rest of the project. After that initial meeting, the region will explore relevant data, facilitate a business retention and expansion program and implement workforce initiatives to meet identified regional needs.

“A primary goal of this program is to build local capacity to address needs specific to the region,” Stacey McCullough, CED assistant director, said. “Strategies may include business education and training, but they may also involve infrastructure or services to support these businesses.”

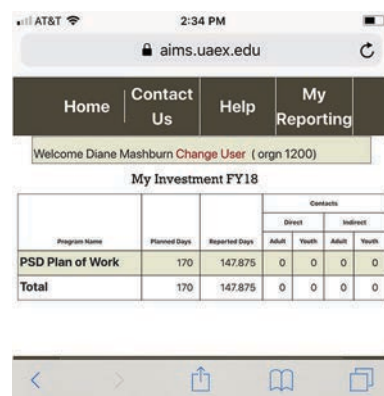
If you are interested in learning more, reach out to Julianne Dunn at [jbdunn@uaex.edu](mailto:jbdunn@uaex.edu) or 501-671-2158. ■

## AIMS on the Go! It's now easier than ever

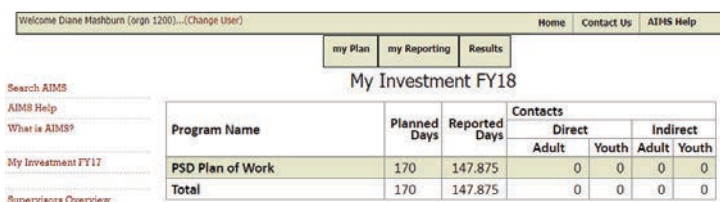
Telling Extension's story to stakeholders has become more and more important as time goes on, but do you have all the information you need to accurately talk about your efforts?

Basic information to tell your program's story and more is easily accessed in AIMS, but only if they are entered first. Now the process has been made even easier. Thanks to the hard work of Steve Hall in Information Technology, AIMS is now even more mobile friendly, so you can access and enter your data from the field, your vehicle or wherever you happen to interact with clientele.

From your mobile device, now you can check the status of your reporting and enter in contacts, time and other basic information about your programming efforts. Access to AIMS from your phone is the same as from a computer – [aims.uaex.edu](http://aims.uaex.edu). AIMS will detect what kind of device you are using and display accordingly.



Mobile AIMS homepage.



Desktop AIMS homepage.

Guides related to using AIMS can be found at [www.uaex.edu/AIMShelp](http://www.uaex.edu/AIMShelp). For more information or to request an AIMS training for yourself or your staff, contact Diane Mashburn in Program and Staff Development. Also feel free to email Diane with any feedback on the new mobile AIMS capability! ■

## Produce Safety team receives training in California

Members of the Produce Safety team, including Dr. Amanda Perez, assistant professor for Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Josh Hardin, program associate - Food Systems and Safety, headed out west to UC Davis last month to dive in to the world of fruit and vegetable post-harvest handling. The “Skills Enhancement for Produce Safety Alliance Grower Trainers” was designed for produce safety trainers and covered discussions on many of the more difficult portions of the Produce Safety Rule, such as agricultural water, water testing, soil amendments and wildlife intrusion.

The highlight of the training was getting to share the experiences of the group, which represented Produce Safety trainers across the country. Groups had the valuable opportunity to work through specific cases of produce safety risks faced in the field. The team was able to glean new resources, including better, more innovative ways to deliver the federally mandated Produce Safety Rule to growers. Upon finishing the course, the team was awarded a certificate of completion and came home ready to implement all of their acquired knowledge in upcoming grower trainings.

Want to learn more about these areas of the Produce Safety Rule or have growers in your county that need to be trained? If so, see our website for upcoming grower trainings at [www.uaex.edu/arkansas-produce-safety](http://www.uaex.edu/arkansas-produce-safety). ■

## Save the date – Sept. 12 – Keeping Arkansas Dollars at Home training for county agents

The Arkansas Procurement Assistance Center, APAC, is hosting county agents at the Little Rock state office on Sept. 12 from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. for a training on how to educate small businesses and local leaders in your area on the economic impact of government contracting.



Did you know that there were more than \$900 million dollars in available federal government contracts in Arkansas during the 2017 federal fiscal year? Do you know how many of those contracts went to Arkansas businesses? Less than 25 percent of available federal government contracts in our state were awarded to Arkansas companies in FY2017. Help us to keep Arkansas dollars at home! Come learn the skills you need to engage businesses in your area to bid on millions of dollars in federal, state and local government contracts.

Sign up today at <https://learn.uaex.edu/> for the Sept. 12 Keeping Arkansas Dollars at Home training. Call APAC program manager Melanie Berman at 501-671-2361 or e-mail her at [msberman@uaex.edu](mailto:msberman@uaex.edu) with any questions you may have about the upcoming training opportunity. ■

## BENEFITS CORNER

### 2019 Wellness Benefit

As Open Enrollment for 2019 approaches in November 2018, the University has chosen to end the wellness program administered by Onlife. The Onlife wellness program including coaching and access to the website will end July 31, 2018. The University will continue focusing on helping you improve your health and wellness, with the support of our own HR offices and UMR— the University's health plan administrator.

To qualify for the 2019 wellness incentive, you must complete two steps:

- 1. Complete an annual wellness exam conducted by a physician.** You must visit an in-network provider for an annual wellness visit *between Nov. 1, 2017, and Nov. 1, 2018*. Since the plan covers one wellness visit per plan year, you don't need to wait a full year between visits. As the wellness visit will be tracked by UMR automatically, there are no forms to complete.
- 2. You must complete the Tobacco/Nicotine Pledge during open enrollment in November 2018:**
  - o Non-users pledge to continue to remain tobacco-free.
  - o Tobacco users will commit to enroll in and complete a recognized tobacco cessation program in 2019.

The 2018 Flu Shot Clinic will take place at the Little Rock State Office. Date to be determined. ■



## Soybean Science Challenge promotes Grow Your Own Protein community gardens

The Soybean Science Challenge – Grow Your Own Protein Community Gardens are in full swing! The Soybean Science Challenge, in partnership with the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board and the Natural Soybean and Grain Alliance are again providing soybean seed and garden signs for the Grow Your Own Protein project. The Grow Your Own Protein project is part of a larger CDC Obesity Reduction Project. This project is working with targeted counties to facilitate systemic change in community awareness, practices and policies that will impact and reduce the prevalence of obesity among citizens.



Children participating in the West Memphis Boys and Girls Club Hope Community Garden.

We have 12 gardens across the state growing soybeans for various projects ranging from fresh produce for local community members in need, to supplementing school cafeterias with healthy options for summer programs. Soybeans are a complete protein and can take the place of meat, are a good alternative to allergens like nuts and are packed with nutrients and antioxidants.

For more information, contact Dr. Julie Robinson, [jrobinson@uaex.edu](mailto:jrobinson@uaex.edu) or Diedre Young, [dyoung@uaex.edu](mailto:dyoung@uaex.edu). ■

**What's new in publications?**

**Find out at:**

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

## Bring your technical questions here

Got tech questions? We have answers! Our Hump Day Hacks team is on standby the fourth Wednesday of every month to help you with hardware, software, website and other technical questions you need assistance with so you can get your job done faster and easier. Let technology be a help, not a hindrance!

These are casual sessions so no need to pre-register. Just join us on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 9 am!

- July 25
- August 22
- September 26
- October 24
- November 28

Link to join: [bit.ly/UAEX-Hump-Day-Hacks](http://bit.ly/UAEX-Hump-Day-Hacks)

Got a topic idea? Fill out this quick form at [https://uaex.formstack.com/forms/hump\\_day\\_hacks](https://uaex.formstack.com/forms/hump_day_hacks) and let us know how we can help! ■



## Scott County 4-H Veterinary Science Day Camp

Scott County 4-H youth participated in a Veterinary Science Day Camp on June 13.

Dr. Gena Keeling-Meierding, D.V.M., owner of Southside Veterinary Clinic in Waldron, brought her cleverly-designed, distressed cow, Bertha, to the class to give the kids some experience drawing blood and palpating. The students gloved-up, learned to use obstetric chains and then worked together to remove Bertha's calf using a calf-pulling ratchet.

Dr. Meierding demonstrated how to conduct a fecal floatation worm check from samples collected from animals on-site and instructed 4-H'ers how to suture using kits from the 4-H veterinary science program.

Jim Wilcox, Waldron vocational agriculture instructor, and Scott County Extension agents Shaun Rhoades and Debbie Miller also taught sessions during the day. Topics covered included internal and external parasite control, comparisons of livestock digestive systems, fetal pig dissection, microscope skills and cell staining. ■



Dr. Gena Keeling-Meierding instructs a young 4-H'er on calf-pulling techniques as Scott County agent Shaun Rhoades looks on.

## 4-H National Shooting Sports Championships

Arkansas 4-H attended the 4-H National Shooting Sports Championships June 24-29 in Grand Island, Nebraska.

Arkansas was represented this year with 14 youth from seven counties on four teams including Shotgun, Air Pistol, Small-bore Rifle and Muzzleloader. The contest consists of three days of shooting different events in each discipline area along with motivational speakers, social events and an Olympic-style opening ceremony.

The Muzzleloading team placed seventh overall and earned a third-place medal in bullseye. The Air Pistol team earned eighth overall, Smallbore Rifle placed ninth overall and Shotgun placed twenty-third.

Callie N. from Greene County earned seventh overall in Air Pistol and had two individual top five finishes. Callie also served as the emcee of the closing ceremonies as a National 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassador. Dustin M. from Benton County earned two top 10 finishes individually, including a third-place medal in Muzzleloading.

All of the 4-H'ers and coaches represented their clubs, counties and state in an admirable manner. These 4-H'ers met, competed and shared their experiences with more than 650 youth from more than 30 states. Results and event photos for the 2018 NSSC are available here: <https://4h.unl.edu/4hssnationalchamp/image-results>.

We want to give a big thanks to the Friends of NRA for their grant funding in support of this program. ■



Callie N. led the closing program at the NSSC. She is a national 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassador.



Arkansas 4-H NSSC team competitors and coaches.



## Event Calendar

**July 25** – 2018 Turfgrass Field Day at Arkansas Research and Extension Center, Fayetteville, <https://www.uaex.edu/media-resources/news/may2018/05-25-2018-Ark-Turfgrass-Field-Day.aspx>

**August 3** – Rice Field Day, Rice Research and Extension Center, Stuttgart

**August 8** – 2018 Soybean College, Newport Extension Center, Newport

**September 3** – Holiday: Labor Day

**September 6** – Muscadine Field Day, Fruit Research Station, Clarksville

**September 15-18** – Direct Agricultural Marketing Summit, Arlington, Virginia

**December 3** – State Faculty Conference, Little Rock State Office ■



## Grants and Contracts for Month Ending June 30, 2018

Project Title	Award Amount	Principal Investigator	Granting Agency
Deer Repellent Demonstration at the Alotian Club	\$ 63,224	Becky McPeake	Alotian Club, LLC
Quail Habitat Restoration Demonstration at the Alotian Club	86,221	Becky McPeake	Alotian Club, LLC
Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. Evaluation Agreement Statement of Work #2	26,600	Gus Lorenz	Dow AgroSciences LLC
Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. Evaluation Agreement Statement of Work #3	18,620	Gus Lorenz	Dow AgroSciences LLC
Beef Quality Assurance	8,722	Heidi Ward	Arkansas Beef Council
BASF Selontra Bait Trials 2018	10,000	John Hopkins	BASF Corporation
Economic and Agronomic Evaluation of Variable Rate Fertilization - Soil Test Board	35,478	Leo Espinoza	Agriculture Experiment Station
Food Literacy: Using Cultural Competency to Increase Awareness in Agricultural and Human Sciences	15,000	Lisa Washburn	University of Arkansas
Monitoring Potassium (K) Losses in Runoff on Arkansas Discovery Farms	9,790	Michael Daniels	Agriculture Experiment Station
Agricultural Marketing Resource Center (AgMRC) 2017-2019	100,000	Ron Rainey	Iowa State University
Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. Evaluation Agreement Statement of Work #1	19,950	Terry Spurlock	Dow AgroSciences LLC
Development of Disease Management Strategies for Peanut Production in Arkansas (PID #437, SID #AR-03 BID #1565)	25,753	Travis Faske	National Peanut Board
Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. Evaluation Agreement Statement of Work #4	15,960	Travis Faske	Dow AgroSciences LLC
Solanaceous Crop Survey	13,458	Vic Ford	Arkansas State Plant Board
<b>Total Awards for June 2018</b>	<b>\$448,776</b>		

### Changing Lives, cont.

There are many examples in this issue of the Blue Letter of vibrant and dedicated Extension work, none more so than in 4-H. Please note that 4-H State O-Rama is coming up next week in Fayetteville, and based on the district results, it should be outstanding. I was fortunate to attend the Ozark District O-Rama in Clarksville recently and witnessed exceptional young leaders and their skills. I guess I was not prepared to hear a world class opera performance, or an incredible scientific presentation, or knowledge challenges that flummoxed me but seemed “piece of cake” to the participants, or public speaking that beat most any of the “professionals” I have had to sit and listen to over the years. Anyway, it was impressive, and reminded me of the “long reach” of this program, the impact being the young leaders who excel and go on to lead great lives and change the world. But that is 4-H. If you have a chance to support this program, through donations or volunteering, please do so – there are many ways to help.

Dr. Deacue Fields was recently hired as Dean of the Bumpers College at the University. He comes to us from Auburn University, with a background in Ag Economics extension, teaching and research work. Dr. Fields has a strong interest in Extension, 4-H and recruiting of students from within Arkansas. We hope that all of you get to meet him and help achieve the future goals of the college as he tries to grow it over the next few years. I am sure he would appreciate any ideas or feedback you have for the college. I think we all know that one of the Land Grant University missions is education and preparation of the next generation and that we all have a role to play.

In spite of July, I hope you all have a great summer and I know you will continue to work hard, pursue excellence and stay visible. I will do my best to help each of you.

*Dr. Rick Cartwright*

## Personnel changes

### Please welcome the following:

**Hanan Douglas**, County Extension Agent - 4-H, Miller County, effective June 4, 2018

**Trent Frizzell**, Program Technician - Rice Agronomy, Crop, Soil and Environmental Science, effective May 21, 2018

**Xinyan Keel**, Custodial Worker, Vines 4-H Center, effective June 7, 2018

**Karley Mishner**, EFNEP Program Assistant, Crittenden County, effective June 1, 2018

**Jennifer Morrow**, Program Assistant - 4-H, Howard County, effective June 1, 2018

**Chris Russell**, Clerical Assistant, 4-H and Youth Development, effective June 11, 2018

### Extension says goodbye to:

**Jon Barry**, Assistant Professor/Extension Forester, Forest Resources, effective June 29, 2018.

**Jon Brown**, SNAP Technical Assistance Coordinator, Family and Consumer Sciences, effective June 15, 2018.

**Sammy Cline**, Livestock Market News Reporter, Animal Science, effective June 29, 2018.

**Amy Crawford**, Program Assistant - EFNEP, Union County, effective June 13, 2018.

**Polly Greenbaum**, Accountant, Credit Union, effective June 29, 2018.

**Jan Hammond**, Livestock News Reporter, Animal Science, effective June 29, 2018.

**Bobby Johnson**, Senior Project/Program Director, Cammack Operations, effective June 29, 2018.

**Annie Lester**, Program Assistant - 4-H, Sharp County, effective June 29, 2018.

**Megan Perkins**, Program Technician - Weed Science, Crop, Soil and Environmental Science, effective June 29, 2018.

**Tracey Sherman**, CES Program Assistant, Fulton County, effective June 29, 2018.

**Janet Slate**, Administrative Specialist, Vines 4-H Center, effective June 29, 2018.

**Rickey Wiedower**, Livestock News Reporter, Animal Science, effective June 29, 2018.

**Wade Wiedower**, Livestock Market News Reporter, Animal Science, effective June 29, 2018.

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

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture offers all its Extension and Research programs and services without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.