

BLUE LETTER

The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Monthly Letter

No. 3722 • June 2012

FROM THE DIRECTOR

"I believe it was one of the best in-service trainings we've had," pretty much sums up the consistent message arriving in my e-mail recently regarding the 2012 Support Staff In-Service held at the 4-H Center, May 10-11. Each thank you note highlights the quality of presentations, the organization of the conference and the schedule which allowed time to visit peers.

Anyone who participated knew they were involved in a top-notch, professionally run conference. I would like to thank Chi Epsilon Sigma and Program and Staff Development for a job well done. When I spoke at the conference, it was apparent everyone was fully engaged. During the question and answer session, questions were thoughtful and centered on Extension and our mission. Thank you for all that you do. ■

– Tony Windham

4-H WHEP winners to attend National Invitational

A team comprised of youth from Saline and Drew counties will represent Arkansas at the national 4-H Wildlife Habitat Education Program Invitational to be held July 22-26 at Kingsville, Texas.

Senior 4-H'ers Mary Lewis, Seth Hardwick and Addison Jacobs from Saline County and Matthew Spencer from Drew County will be coached by Angie Freel, Saline County 4-H agent, and Gina Jacobs, Saline County 4-H leader, with Karen Cole of Drew County serving as alternate.

"We are very excited to win and get this opportunity to compete nationally," said Freel. "These kids have competed in Arkansas WHEP for many years and worked hard for this opportunity."

The state contest for the 4-H Wildlife Habitat Education Program was held April 27 at the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute on Petit Jean Mountain.

Nineteen senior 4-H'ers from throughout the state competed in Wildlife ID, Wildlife General Knowledge & Foods, Wildlife Management Practices, Wildlife Management Plan and Oral Reasons.

Forty junior 4-H'ers also competed with Drew County receiving first and second place team awards. In recognition of their accomplishments, Drew County Judge Damon Lampkin declared May 3, 2012, as Drew County Koinonia 4-H Club Day. ■



**DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION**

University of Arkansas System

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

Inside:

- Bike to Work Day
- 2012 Support Staff Conference Held at C.A. Vines 4-H Center
- 2012 Chi Epsilon Sigma Annual Meeting Held
- Breakthrough Solutions Program Selected for Regional Community Development Award
- What's New in Publications?
- Getting Started on Facebook
- Meet the New Employees
- Benefits Corner
- Gamma Sigma Delta Arkansas Chapter Announces Its 2012 Honorees
- Information Technology Update: Computer Use Policy Update: *Four Significant Changes*
- Grants and Contracts
- Personnel Changes

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

Bike to Work Day

A team of 25 bicyclists from the Cooperative Extension Service, including Susan Bobbitt, first lady of the University of Arkansas System, made a two-wheeled commute on May 18 for a National Bike to Work Day morning commute.

“We’ve spent the last eight Fridays preparing for Bike to Work Day,” said LaVona Traywick, Ph.D., associate professor-gerontology for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. “We’ve had an average of about 20 people for our ‘Friday Ride Days,’ and we expected most of them to make the big ride on May 18.”

The Bike to Work contingent began their commute at the University of Arkansas Systems office on North University Avenue in Cammack Village. The riders crossed the Big Dam Bridge, rode by the Clinton Library, the Capital Hotel, the state Capitol building and finally to the state extension headquarters.

Training began in March.

“We began Friday Ride Days as a way for our employees to improve their level of fitness, get some time away from the computer and have a little fun,” Traywick said. “We hoped these eight weeks of training will become a habit.”

The Friday Ride Days were put together by a core extension team of Traywick, Aly Signorelli, Martha Ray Sartor, Jon Flaxman, Bobby Johnson and J.J. Pitman. Bicycles for staff members to use were lent by Fike’s Bikes of Little Rock and the C.A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center.

Mike Carter of the University of Arkansas Systems office was the team’s outrider, ready to provide any winded riders a rest, or a Band-Aid if needed. ■



2012 Support Staff Conference held at C.A.Vines 4-H Center

One hundred and thirteen Extension classified support staff employees participated in the May 10-11 Support Staff In-Service Conference, held at the C. A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center. The theme of this year's conference was: "Get on Board the Extension Express!"

Those attending the conference participated in breakout sessions on a variety of topics, including: online security and computer upkeep, preparing soil samples for submission to the soil test lab, using fillable PDF forms for impact statements, conflict management, working with grant proposals and awards, using medicine balls for strength training and updates from the Human Resources and Financial Services offices.

Terri Thompson, a business and social success trainer from Kentucky, spoke to the group on the second day of the conference about customer service and professionalism in the workplace.

In the conference's opening session, Extension Director, Dr. Tony Windham, presented an organizational update and answered questions from those in attendance. He also expressed his thanks for the work that support staff do across the state to help Extension achieve its mission. Dr. Windham then presented years-of-service awards to those attending the conference who had reached five-year milestones in their Extension careers.

Chi Epsilon Sigma, the professional association for Extension classified staff, also held its annual meeting during the conference. ■

Length of Service Award Recipients



5 YEARS OF SERVICE. (L to R) Holly Berry, Stone County; Rona Bullard, Financial Services; Judy Belle, Woodruff County; Marcia Shepard, C.A.Vines 4-H Center; and Dr. Tony Windham.



10 YEARS OF SERVICE. (L to R) LeVeda Tate, Izard County; Shadenna Rainbolt, Searcy County; Annette Brasel, Newton County; Glenda Sutherlin, Union County; and Dr. Tony Windham.



15 YEARS OF SERVICE. (L to R) Vickie Hale, Hot Spring County; Sharon Colvin, Columbia County; Anna Landrum, Pulaski County; Lynne Wooten, State 4-H Office; and Dr. Tony Windham.



20 YEARS OF SERVICE. (L to R) Janet Smallwood, Miller County; Denise Murdoch, Washington County; Ursula Crow, Warehouse-LRSO; and Dr. Tony Windham.



35 YEARS OF SERVICE. (L to R) Sandra Blocker, Lee County; Louise Williams, Mississippi County; Diane Cunningham, Monroe County; (not pictured) Onita Watson, Arkansas County-DeWitt; and Dr. Tony Windham.

2012 Chi Epsilon Sigma Annual Meeting held



(L to R) Cecilia Harberson and Louise Williams

The 2012 Chi Epsilon Sigma Annual Meeting was held on May 10, 2012, in conjunction with the 2012 Support Staff In-Service Training.

The officers for 2012-2013 are President - Pamela Ferrill; President Elect - Rin Morris; 1st Vice President - Shannon George; Secretary - Glenda Sutherlin; Treasurer/ Membership Chair - Denise Murdoch; Annalist - Diane Cunningham; Administrative Advisor - Diane Cunningham; and Past President - Louise Williams. The Directors for 2012-2013 are Delta District

Director - Judy Belle; Ouachita District Director - Beverly Brown; Ozark District Director - Debra Schneider and Little Rock State Office Director - Karen Clark.

Chi Epsilon Sigma currently has 75 members.

The 2012 scholarship recipients are Cecilia Harberson - Howard County; Della A. Frame, daughter of Denise Frame - Sharp County; and Justin Alan Huddleston, son of Vickie Huddleston - Lincoln County.

A collection of food items was donated to the Arkansas Foodbank, and \$244.90 was donated for the Change Angels Program to benefit the Arkansas Children's Hospital.

The Delta District Support Staff Member of the Year was awarded to Sandra McGinnis - Lawrence County. The Ouachita District Support Staff Member of the Year and the overall Support Staff Member of the Year was awarded to Kelly Thomason - Calhoun County. ■

Breakthrough Solutions Program selected for Regional Community Development Award

At the 8th Annual Conference of the National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals (NACDEP) held May 20-23 in Park City, Utah, the Team Award for Excellence in Community Development Programming for the 13-state Southern Region was awarded to the Breakthrough Solutions Program of the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture. The purpose of the Breakthrough Solutions Program is to equip communities and regions to become vibrant and sustainable in this 21st century economy. It provides a systematic and strategic approach to harnessing key drivers of change in a development process that is asset-based, community-driven and technology-enabled.

Breakthrough Solutions Curriculum Team members include representatives from the Arkansas Geographic Information Office, Arkansas Science and Technology Authority, AT&T Arkansas, CenturyLink, Cromwell Architects Engineers, ASU Delta Center for Economic Development, Ken Hubbell and Associates, the UALR Institute for Economic Advancement, the UALR Institute of Government and the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service.

Dr. Mark Peterson accepted the award on behalf of the Breakthrough Solutions Team. ■



(L to R) Stacey McCullough, Southern Region NACDEP Board Representative; Michael Wilcox, Jr., NACDEP President; and Mark Peterson, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service

What's new in publications? Find out at:

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

Getting Started on FACEBOOK

Getting started on Facebook can be simple. Once you've gotten your profile or page created, you are ready to customize your information to blend with the Division social strategy. Here are the guidelines to follow for your Facebook presence:

To set up a professional Facebook profile, use your UAEX e-mail address.



Profile Picture

Your extension directory photo with approved social media cover graphic
(Contact Chris Meux)

- Current City** Office location
About Me Professional information about your specialty and who you work for (*county, department, etc.*)
Employer University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture
Contact Info Professional contact info
Website www.uaex.edu plus other extension sites you're connected to

TITLE

For a Facebook PROFILE, your Title should simply be your name. "Agent," "CEA" or "Extension" is not necessary. Your profile picture will help others identify that you are Extension personnel.

For Facebook PAGES and GROUPS, please follow the guidelines below:

GROUPS

Security: 4-H Groups should be "secret;" Other groups can be "closed."
Title: You are free to name the groups however you like.

COUNTY PAGES

Security: Pages are open to the public.
Title: UAEX Pulaski County
URL/Username: Facebook.com/uaex.pulaski

COUNTY PROGRAM AREA PAGES

Security: Pages are open to the public.
Title: UAEX Pulaski County – Agriculture
All 4-H pages should reflect their county:
Arkansas 4-H – Pulaski
URL/Username: Facebook.com/ARFamilies.pulaski

Program Area Title Examples

- ARFamilies.pulaski
- ARCommunities.pulaski
- ARHomeandGarden.pulaski
- ARAgriculture.pulaski
- ARNatural.pulaski
- Arkansas4H.pulaski

GET STARTED

- Add administrators to PAGES and GROUPS
 - o Department Social Media Contact
 - o Other content managers
- "Like" the Division of Agriculture page. "Like" other extension and topic-related pages.
- Begin publishing content

Having all Division of Agriculture social efforts similar will make our brand easy to find and follow.

Meet the *new* employees!



Stephany Rogers
Program Assistant - Youth
Saline County

- **What's your background?**

I'm originally from Saline County and went to Bryant High School until graduation in 2008. I recently graduated from the University of Central Arkansas

with a B.S. in family and consumer sciences.

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

In college, I interned for Laura Connerly in the family and consumer sciences department at the state office through UCA. I learned a lot about finances and how to set up an online class on Moodle while under her tutelage.

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

I love being out on the lake: whether its fishing, boating or swimming. I also love to sew, paint and scrapbook.

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

I would like to help bring in more children and their families to 4-H. Also, I'd like to make 4-H and the Extension office known to more people.

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

I learned about Extension about two years ago when Melanie Malone (Faulkner County) came to talk to one of my family and consumer sciences classes about Extension. I fell in love with the fact that the Extension Service works so much in the community and tries to help as many people as they can. I love that fact, and I am glad to be a part of this organization.

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

I love spending time with my family (especially my three-week-old nephew), boating, sewing and

scrapbooking, church-related activities with my college/careers group and just loving life. ■

R. Bryan Stobaugh
County Extension Agent - Agriculture
Crittenden County



- **What's your background?**

I am a third-generation row crop farmer who grew up in the Arkansas River Valley. Working in the field is a passion of mine passed down from my family.

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

My bachelor's degree is in biology and chemistry, and I have a master's degree in soybean breeding and genetics. Development of soybean lines to benefit Arkansas farmers has been my passion for the past several years.

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

I enjoy eating healthy and going to the gym on a daily basis.

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

Survival is the key the first year because there is so much to learn.

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

I have worked in the U of A system as a grad assistant, and I enjoy the "family-like" atmosphere that Extension gives.

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

I enjoy riding motorcycles and going to the gym. I always want to be outside even if it's just sitting on the boat at the lake for the day. ■



Michael Sullivan
County Extension Agent - Agriculture
Franklin County - Charleston

• **What's your background?**

I was raised on a cattle farm in Howard County. We also had a meat processing facility for 10 years, and I showed registered Charolais cattle along with a variety of commercial

heifers for five years while in the FFA. Working for two veterinarians in Russellville for three years allowed me a more scientific approach to animal husbandry and management. I am a new graduate of Arkansas Tech University with an agricultural business degree with an emphasis in animal science.

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

As a former livestock producer, active FFA member and ATU alumni, I hope to apply my past and present experiences as well as to educate producers on new ideas and more efficient practices.

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

I look forward to meeting everybody involved with Extension.

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

I would like to educate myself on as much as possible to better serve Franklin County and the state of Arkansas.

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

I had a wonderful agriculture teacher in high school who showed me how much fun it was to teach people new skills, specifically kids. Our program was a grooming/showmanship clinic for 4-H kids that our local FFA would host. Extension is the perfect opportunity to educate Arkansans on new things flowing through the U of A.

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

I enjoy a wide variety of activities that range from hunting, fishing, camping – well, just about anything outdoors. ■

BENEFITS CORNER

Delta Dental can pay up to \$1,500 in benefits per year for you and each covered family member. Once maximum is reached, Delta pays no more benefits for the year.

Maximum not reached in plan year – You may be eligible to have some of your unused maximum carry over into the future. Two criteria: (1) Get at least one dental service during the year – for example, your checkup and cleaning. (2) Use less than half of your \$1,500 benefit, meaning Delta pays less than \$750 in benefits for you during the year.

Each year that you meet these two requirements, \$375 is added to your "carryover total". The maximum

carryover that you can accumulate is \$1,500. Meet these two criteria for 4 years without using any of the carryover balance, and you will have \$3,000 available for use - \$1,500 annual maximum + \$1,500 carryover. Have a year where you need more dental work – a crown or implant – Delta can pay up to \$3,000 in benefits that year.

Check your balance – Delta Dental posts annual electronic statements on the web by March 1 of each year. Log in as a subscriber at www.DeltaDentalDental.com to view your claims and maximums. ■



Gamma Sigma Delta Arkansas Chapter announces its 2012 honorees
<http://gsd.uark.edu/awards.faculty.html>

Computer Use Policy Update:

C.E.S.P. 4-19 was recently updated. There were four significant changes

1. Clarification that IT requires maintenance access to CES computers. IT employees will be respectful of the users' privacy to the best of their ability. IT does monitor network traffic for performance reasons.
2. Users are discouraged from downloading CES data (spreadsheets, documents, etc.) on non-UAEX computers outside of office networks. This was part of an audit finding regarding the protection of sensitive financial/personnel information.
3. Users are discouraged from loading non-work related software and data on their CES computers.
4. Additionally, guidance is provided when a non-maintenance or someone other than the computer's assigned user requests access to data on someone else's computer. The intent is to ensure the request has multiple levels of approval and documents the reason for the request. ■

Questions or assistance? Contact the IT Call Center:

Local Call: 501-671-2255

Toll Free: 866-779-3375

E-mail: callcenter@uaex.edu

Grants and contracts for Month Ending April 30, 2012

Project Title	Award Amount	Principal Investigator	Granting Agency
Soybean Enterprise Budgets and Production Economic Analysis	13,500.00	Archie Flanders	Soybean Promotion Board
Soybean Real-Time Weed and Disease Alerts	51,700.00	Bob Reynolds	Soybean Promotion Board
Soybean Weed Control	74,419.00	Bob Scott	Soybean Promotion Board
Improving Yield and Yield Stability for Irrigated Soybeans	7,000.00	Dharmendra Saraswat	Soybean Promotion Board
Technological Aids for Information Dissemination to Soybean Producers	37,318.00	Dharmendra Saraswat	Soybean Promotion Board
Developing a New Threshold for Corn Earworm, <i>Helicoverpa Zea</i>	9,200.00	Glenn Studebaker	Soybean Promotion Board
Investigating Emerging Production Recommendations for Sustainable Soybean Production	27,276.00	Gus Lorenz	Soybean Promotion Board
Developing a New Threshold for Corn Earworm, <i>Helicoverpa Zea</i>	18,700.00	Gus Lorenz	Soybean Promotion Board
Educating Growers and Consultants on Insect Monitoring and Control	4,800.00	Gus Lorenz	Soybean Promotion Board
Soy Insect Protection 2 US 2012 Field Efficacy Trials	28,000.00	Gus Lorenz	Monsanto Company
2012 Cotton Lygus Open Field Efficacy Trials	44,000.00	Gus Lorenz	Monsanto Company
Field Trial Agreement	12,900.00	Gus Lorenz	Pioneer
Soybean Verification	147,500.00	Jeremy Ross	Soybean Promotion Board

Grants and Contracts – Month Ending April 30, 2012 (cont.)

Project Title	Award Amount	Principal Investigator	Granting Agency
Technology Transfer – Ashlock	45,600.00	Jeremy Ross	Soybean Promotion Board
Investigating Emerging Production Recommendations for Sustainable Soybean Production	104,824.00	Jeremy Ross	Soybean Promotion Board
The Production of Edamame and Other Specialty Soybeans in Arkansas	5,000.00	Jeremy Ross	Soybean Promotion Board
The Interactive Website	30,000.00	Jeremy Ross	Soybean Promotion Board
Agronomic Maximization of Soybean Yield and Quality	38,000.00	Jeremy Ross	University of Minnesota
From the Ground Up	84,432.00	Karen Ballard	Soybean Promotion Board
A Team Approach to Weed Management in Soybean	40,593.00	Ken Smith	Soybean Promotion Board
Achieving Maximum Yield Potential in Soybean	37,600.00	Lanny Ashlock	Soybean Promotion Board
The Promotion of Edamame and Other Specialty Soybeans in Arkansas	6,800.00	Lanny Ashlock	Soybean Promotion Board
Improving Yield and Yield Stability for Irrigated Soybeans	24,600.00	Leo Espinoza	Soybean Promotion Board
Enhancing Sorghum Nitrogen Use Efficiency Through Fertilizer Management	20,000.00	Leo Espinoza	United Sorghum Checkoff Program Board
DOD/USDA Partnership: Child Youth Deployment Support Project	49,250.00	Maureen Rose	Kansas State University
Arkansas Discovery Farm Program: Addressing Sustainable Water Issues Associated with Crop Production	18,300.00	Michael Daniels	Soybean Promotion Board
Addressing Substantiality of Mid-South Soybean Production with Regard to Water Use Efficiency Utilizing the Arkansas Discovery Farms Program	50,000.00	Michael Daniels	Soybean Promotion Board
An Arkansas Discovery Farm for Cotton	20,000.00	Michael Daniels	Cotton Incorporated
Soybean Research and Promotion Coordinator	133,260.00	Rick Cartwright	Soybean Promotion Board
Developing a New Threshold for Corn Earworm, <i>Helicoverpa Zea</i>	9,200.00	Scott Akin	Soybean Promotion Board
Corn Insect Handbook Publication	5,000.00	Scott Akin	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Enhancing Variety Testing – Arkansas	6,500.00	Tom Barber	Cotton Incorporated
Soybean Diseases	56,700.00	Travis Faske	Soybean Promotion Board
Integrated Management of Nematodes	29,162.00	Travis Faske	Soybean Promotion Board
Understanding <i>Neocosmospora</i> , <i>Thielaviopsis</i> and <i>Fusarium Virguliforme</i> in Early-Season Production Systems	20,050.00	Travis Faske	Soybean Promotion Board
Foliar Management in Full and Doublecrop Soybean Production Systems in Arkansas	9,400.00	Travis Faske	Soybean Promotion Board
Bacterial Panicle Blight Equipment	18,881.00	Yeshi Wamishe	Rice Research Promotion Board
TOTAL April 2012 Awards	\$1,339,465.00		

Personnel changes

Please welcome the following:

Ryan C. Doherty

Weed Science Program Tech II, Southeast Research and Extension Center, effective May 1, 2012.

R. Bryan Stobaugh

County Extension Agent - Agriculture, Crittenden County, effective May 1, 2012.

Stephany R. Rogers

4-H Program Assistant - Youth, Saline County, effective May 7, 2012.

Extension says goodbye to:

David S. Akin

Extension Entomologist, Entomology, effective May 31, 2012.

Jarett W. Chapman

Program Technician - Cotton, Crop, Soil & Environmental Sciences, effective April 18, 2012.

Vhonda N. Davidson

Program Assistant - Youth, Hempstead County, effective May 7, 2012.

Misty D. Gilbee

County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences, Randolph County, effective May 18, 2012.

Noel Goodwin

County Extension Agent - Agriculture, Prairie County - Des Arc, effective May 31, 2012.

Larry F. Jernigan

4-H Program Assistant, Cleburne County, effective April 30, 2012.

Louella S. Kriigel

Administrative Specialist, Community and Economic Development, effective May 31, 2012.

Sharon R. Lowery

County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences, Poinsett County, effective April 23, 2012.

Terrie R. Martin

Food Service Worker, C.A. Vines 4-H Center, effective May 3, 2012.

Mae E. Norris

Program Assistant 4-H, Crittenden County, effective May 15, 2012.

Willie R. Price

Acting Program Director - APAC, Community and Economic Development, effective April 30, 2012.

Lindsey G. White

Program Assistant - Youth, Howard County, effective April 27, 2012.