

# BLUE LETTER

The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Monthly Letter

No. 3726 • October 2012

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

We will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of the creation of the Land-Grant University system; the 125th anniversary of the research mission and the 50th of the inclusion of the forestry focus this month.

To help celebrate, each of the research and experiment stations will hold a Division of Agriculture open house or field day in October.

The Smith-Lever Act, which created the Cooperative Extension Service, was signed in 1914, and we will celebrate the 100th anniversary in 2014.

The University of Arkansas was established in 1871 as a result of the Morrill Act signed in 1862, but was initially named the Arkansas Industrial University. The Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station was added to the university's mission in 1888. The Division of Agriculture was created in 1959 to administer the research and Extension programs of the LGU mission.

The Division of Agriculture has played a major role in agriculture's success in Arkansas. Our research has resulted in new knowledge and technologies, and the Cooperative Extension Service has played a major role in transferring current knowledge and practices.

Today, agriculture (including forestry) is essential to the economy of Arkansas: \$16 billion in value added; roughly 16% Gross State Product and more than 250,000 jobs, or one in every 6 jobs.

– Tony Windham

## 2012 Division of Agriculture Day

*Celebrating agriculture in the land-grant university experience!*

Join the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture in celebrating 150 years of the Morrill Act, 125 years of the Hatch Act and 50 years of the McIntire-Stennis Act. Attend an event at a Division of Agriculture station near you!

### October 12th:

- Arkansas Forest Resources Center, Monticello
- Northeast Research & Extension Center (Blytheville fall festival)

### October 13th:

- Southeast Research & Extension Center, Monticello
- Rice Research and Extension Center, Stuttgart
- Lon Mann Cotton Research Station, Marianna
- Pine Tree Research Station, Colt

### October 20th:

- Arkansas Agricultural Research & Extension Center, Fayetteville
- Fruit Research Station, Clarksville
- Vegetable Research Station, Alma
- Rohwer Research Station
- Livestock and Forestry Research Station, Batesville

### October 27th:

- Southwest Research and Extension Center, Hope

**UofA** DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE  
RESEARCH & EXTENSION  
*University of Arkansas System*

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DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE  
RESEARCH & EXTENSION  
*University of Arkansas System*

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

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



# Njue named chair of Agriculture Department at UAPB



Dr. Obadiah Njue has been named chair of the Department of Agriculture at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. Njue previously served as an Extension horticulture specialist at UAPB.

In his new role, he will be responsible for academic programs and the supervision of Agriculture Department faculty

and staff. He will manage instructional budgets and collaborate with the assistant research director in oversight activities related to agricultural teaching, research and 1890 Extension activities. Njue is also

responsible for curriculum development, program assessment and teaching effectiveness.

Before coming to UAPB in 2005, Njue worked for nearly 10 years in academic and administrative positions at Wiley College in Marshall, Tex. He has a doctorate in agriculture (horticulture) from Mississippi State University and master's and bachelor's degrees in botany from Panjab University in Chandigarh, India.

"We look forward to Dr. Njue's contributions to the Agriculture Department in his new capacity," said Dr. James O. Garner Jr., dean of the UAPB School of Agriculture, Fisheries and Human Sciences. "He brings a broad set of skills to the position, including teaching, research, Extension and administrative experience." ■

## Meet the *new* employees!



**Jarrod Hardke**  
Assistant Professor  
Rice Research and Extension  
Center, Stuttgart

- **What's your background?**

I was born and raised on a rice and soybean farm near Carlisle, Ark., in Prairie County. I worked for Extension as an entomology

seasonal technician for seven summers through high school and college.

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

I have bachelor's degrees in crop management and pest management with minors in agricultural business and environmental, soil, and water science from the University of Arkansas in 2006. I have a Ph.D. in field crop entomology from Louisiana State University in 2011. I spent 1.5 years with Pioneer Hi-Bred as a research scientist.

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

I would like to increase grower knowledge of optimum management practices and appropriate

selection of varieties/hybrids to maximize productivity and profitability.

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

Extension provides me the opportunity to aid in improving the overall success of rice producers and increase the sustainability of rice production in Arkansas.

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

My hobbies are duck hunting, golfing and watching movies. ■

**Connie Jordan**  
4-H Program Assistant  
Desha County

- **What's your background?**

I was born and raised in Detroit, Mich., and am the second of five children. I graduated from Cooley High School in 1989 and attended Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Ala. I am married to an outstanding gentleman, Andre, and we have two children, Promise, 12, and Isaac, 4.

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

I moved to Monticello Ark., in October 2005, to work for the Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home and Family Service. I held the position of a family teacher, as I would live in with eight juvenile youth girls, teaching them independent living skills they could use when they returned home. In 2010 my program ended, and I began working with the Department of Human Services as a program assistant – assisting abused and neglected children. I worked for DCFS for approximately 15 months before working with the Desha County 4-H program.

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

I have worked previously in different settings to bring money home to pay the bills. I have always been interested in the well-being of children, but I didn't realize careers like this existed. Once I realized the position is geared towards changing a child's outlook, I knew I had found my niche. I am now in a position that has everything to do with ministry.

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

I would like to introduce more children in our community to 4-H.

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

Prior to coming to Extension I did not know about 4-H, and I have realized the program offers so much to our youth. I feel many parents are not aware of the opportunities 4-H can provide their children. The one thing that I value about Extension is the methods used to teach young people.

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

I am the youth pastor at my church, and much of my time outside of work gives me the opportunity to teach children in a different capacity. ■

**Sarah Sowell**  
4-H Program Assistant  
Chicot County



- **What's your background?**

I grew up on a family farm close to Eudora, Ark. I received my high school diploma through Summit Christian Academy, a satellite school located in Texas. I went to college at the University of Arkansas at Monticello, where I received a B.S. degree in agri business and animal science.

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

I grew up on a row crop farm, where we also had pigs and horses. I also participated in 4-H for many years as I grew up.

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

I have a passion for working with children. It gives me great joy to see them learn new skills and have a great time with their projects.

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

I would love to see more children in Chicot County join 4-H and participate in more projects. I would like to see more and diversified clubs formed, such as community clubs, livestock clubs and afterschool clubs.

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

Working with children and seeing them grow and develop the life skills that 4-H helps to instill brought me to Extension.

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

I love spending time with my family. I enjoy riding my horses. I also enjoy going hunting with my husband. ■

**What's new in publications? Find out at:**

[http://www.uaex.edu/depts/Administration/blue\\_letter/Monthly\\_Publications\\_Report.htm](http://www.uaex.edu/depts/Administration/blue_letter/Monthly_Publications_Report.htm)

## Information Technology Update

### Novell is no more – Welcome to Active Directory

Novell served the LRSO well for many years, providing reliable access to shared files, folders and even the GroupWise e-mail. The recent demise of the Novell server accelerated plans to move to Active Directory as Cooperative Extension’s primary authentication source.

#### What is Active Directory?

Active Directory is a Microsoft product. As the name implies, it can be thought of as a phone directory with several special capabilities. One feature is the ability to provide access to networked drives and folders. Another feature controls logins and authentication.

#### User Drives and Shared Folders

Individuals still have access to their own folders on the LRSO network, mapped to your computer and connected each time you login to the LRSO network. You are the only person with access to this folder. Consideration should be given to placing important files there so they can be backed-up daily by our system administrators.

Shared folders are also available, but on a separate mapped drive for security purposes. Access can be defined such that only specified individuals can see or access a given folder. The shared folders can be set up by the system administrators with a simple request identifying who should have ownership and access.

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

Local Call: 501-671-2255  
 Toll Free: 866-779-3375  
 E-mail: [callcenter@uaex.edu](mailto:callcenter@uaex.edu)

## BENEFITS CORNER

### Are you enrolled in the UA Optional Retirement Plan (UAORP)?

The University’s retirement plan gives you the option of investing with TIAA-CREF (1-800-842-2776 or [www.tiaa-cref.org](http://www.tiaa-cref.org)) and/or Fidelity Investments (1-800-343-0860 or [www.fidelity.com](http://www.fidelity.com)). You may choose to invest with one or **both** of the companies.

**Extension Contributions:** Extension will contribute an amount equal to 5% of a benefits eligible employee’s regular salary regardless of whether or not the employee contributes. Extension will match any contributions the employee makes over 5% up to a maximum employer contribution of 10%. At no time can the combined employee and employer contributions exceed the limitations established by the Internal Revenue Code.

If you are not in a benefits eligible role, you will not receive any employer contributions to your retirement plan, but you **can make voluntary unmatched contributions**. Contact the Human Resources Office for additional information or assistance.

Complete the **Salary Deferral Agreement** (EBEN-228) to make changes to your UAORP retirement plans. Complete this form if you want to start contributing to retirement, increase or decrease your percentage contribution, change your contribution mix between TIAA-CREF and Fidelity, change your contributions between traditional tax-deferred or Roth contributions or turn off your retirement contributions.

# Grants and contracts

for Month Ending August 31, 2012

Project Title	Award Amount	Principal Investigator	Granting Agency
Building Capacity to Manage and Diversify Southeast Asian Agricultural Farming	283,181.00	Ron Rainey	Office of Advocacy and Outreach
Southern Regional Risk Management Center at the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service	1,168,912.00	Ron Rainey	National Institute of Food and Agriculture
SNAP Nutrition and Education Program	1,560,535.00	Rosemary Rodibaugh	Arkansas Department of Human Services
Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Project for the Southern Region	22,000.00	Elena Garcia	University of Georgia
Implement Plan of Work SARE Professional Development Program-Enhanced Model State Program	10,000.00	Elena Garcia	University of Georgia
Arkansas Captains and Corporals Program	189,808.00	Michael Daniels	AR Natural Resources Commission
Expanding Marketing Opportunitis for Non-GMO Products	26,150.00	Ron Rainey	Soybean Promotion Board
Wheat Verification	71,900.00	Jason Kelley	Wheat Promotion Board
Team Approach to Weed Management in Wheat	23,625.00	Bob Scott	Wheat Promotion Board
Agronomics and Economic Factors to Maximize Profit in Wheat-Corn	9,000.00	Jason Kelley	Wheat Promotion Board
Herbicide Tolerance of DGT Germplasm	3,660.00	Tom Barber	Monsanto Company
MON 76754 Plus Sequential Treatments for Controlling Glyphosate-Resistant Weeds	12,200.00	Bob Scott	Monsanto Company
Operation Jump Start-Delta	4,000.00	Stacey McCullough	Winrock International
Large Scale Academic Drift Trial	18,910.00	Bob Scott	Monsanto Company
Soybean Tolerance to PRE Applied Warrant	6,100.00	Bob Scott	Monsanto Company
<b>TOTAL AUGUST 2012 AWARDS</b>	<b>\$3,409,981.00</b>		

# Personnel changes

## Please welcome the following:

### **Lauren D. Edgmon**

County Extension Agent - 4-H, Pope County, effective October 1, 2012.

### **Erica B. Fields**

Administrative Support Supervisor, Community and Economic Development, effective September 17, 2012.

### **Elizabeth Y. Johnson**

Program Associate, Family and Consumer Sciences, effective August 16, 2012.

### **Kathryn P. McElderry**

Program Technician, Family and Consumer Sciences, effective October 1, 2012.

### **Mateo R. Ramirez**

Program Assistant, Sevier County, effective August 22, 2012.

## Extension says goodbye to:

### **Kenneth W. Adams**

County Extension Agent - Staff Chair, Delta District, effective September 4, 2012.

### **Mark M. Bray**

County Extension Agent - Agriculture, Benton County, effective September 28, 2012.

### **Jeremy A. Bullington**

Weed Science Program Technician, Southeast Research and Extension Center, Monticello, effective October 15, 2012.

### **Kenneth L. Smith**

Extension Weed Scientist, Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences, effective October 15, 2012.