

BLUE LETTER

The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Monthly Letter

No. 3773 • September 2016

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Change brings opportunity. Here at Extension, we've seen a lot of change, especially in the administrative suite. It is an honor to lead such a historically important organization – an organization dedicated to doing good. Extension's meaning and its mission lies in its people, and we have the best people to work for the benefit of all.

I want you to know that our organization is healthy. Tony Windham left it better than he found it – which is the goal of every extension director. I plan to do the same. In new roles on our team are Vic Ford, interim associate director - Ag and Natural Resources, and Martha Ray Sartor, interim associate director - Family and Consumer Sciences and 4-H. They are experienced leaders with deep roots in Extension, the Division of Agriculture and the Land Grant University System. We are in good hands.

To lead this organization is a professional highlight in my career and has great personal meaning. Many of you know I come from about as rural a background as is possible, growing up in the Ozarks without electricity and indoor plumbing during my early years. As this region was rapidly transformed from the horse-powered age to the space age, my family benefitted from the transformative power of the Land Grant system. I am a believer in its missions.

My leadership style will differ from those before, but our goals for the organization will be the same. To that end, I promise to work as hard as humanly possible to insure our success. Extension is about people, so while I know many of you, I plan to meet with all the units over the next couple of months so we can share ideas and you can get to know me a little better.

Today, too many people focus on the negative. We all know there are many, and daunting, challenges. Guess what, there have always been challenges, just ask your parents or grandparents. Most challenges are just problems waiting for a solution, and thanks to science and technology and education, we have countless opportunities to solve problems and to do good. Let's focus on opportunities.

I often hear "Is Extension still needed today?" Regardless of what area you work in, "there has never been a time in my career when Extension was needed more than today," to quote Dr. Gus Lorenz. This is absolutely true.

I also hear "Extension is the best kept secret in Arkansas." I don't like this one, but it is a long-standing challenge for us to solve. Let's look for opportunities to do so, because I am intensely proud to work for Extension and the Division of Agriculture. I hope you are too.



UofA

**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. RICK CARTWRIGHT
Interim Associate Vice President for
Agriculture - Extension and
Director, Cooperative Extension Service

– Rick Cartwright

2016-2017 Arkansas 4-H officers announced

The 4-H and Youth Development Department is pleased to announce the 2016-2017 Arkansas 4-H Officers. Arkansas has seven 4-H state officers consisting of three district officers and four at-large officers.

In order to be a state 4-H officer, youth must have demonstrated a high degree of responsibility and leadership ability in previous 4-H involvement, and each candidate must be totally dedicated to the total Extension education program. Officer candidates progress through an election process that takes place during the District and State 4-H O-Ramas.

Each candidate delivers a campaign speech, and their peers vote using voting machines provided by local election commissions. Additionally, the presidential candidates participate in an interview.

The officer team attended a three-day training in early August to prepare and practice developing effective public speaking skills to project a desirable image of 4-H at all times. They are provided opportunities throughout the year to hone these skills as they network with other stakeholders and agencies with the same mission.

Angie Freel serves as their adviser and Leigh Helms serves as their chaperone. ■



2016-2017 ARKANSAS 4-H OFFICERS, left to right: Mary Alice Cole, President, Izard County; Ethan Parker, Ozark District Vice President, Benton County; Olivia McClure, Ouachita District Vice President, Saline County; Lane Fritch, Officer at Large, Benton County; Mallory Perkins, Delta District Vice President, Lonoke County; Sara Beth Toll, Officer at Large, Prairie County; Cheyenne Gilliam, Officer at Large, Independence County.

Fred Miller wins national award for video

Fred Miller, a science writer and photographer with the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, received a first-place award in the category of videos for website - nonprofit, government or education from the National Federation of Press Women. The award was presented Sept. 10 at their annual conference in Wichita, Kansas. He won for a video titled "Up, Up, and Away: Using Infrared Aerial Photography for Soybean Drought-Tolerance Research."

From his office on the U of A campus, Miller provides communications services to the division's two statewide branches, the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station and the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service.

Aquaculture/Fisheries Field Day scheduled at UAPB

The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff will host Aquaculture/Fisheries Field Day on Oct. 6. The event will feature tractor tours, walking tours and educational posters that provide summaries of scientific results from the research and Extension efforts at UAPB's Aquaculture/Fisheries Center of Excellence.

Registration, a trap shoot, poster sessions and tours will begin at 8:30 a.m. at UAPB's Aquaculture Research Station off Oliver Road. Tours will run until lunch.

The walking tour will feature presentations on progress with plant-based diets and related nutrient considerations for bass, feeding largemouth bass during hot water temperatures, kaolin for columnaris infections and classroom aquaculture and aquaponics.

The tractor tour will focus on "glowing" fish, a demonstration on the bacteria to control hydrogen sulfide, winter fish losses, recreational pond catfish stocking in fertilized and unfed ponds, F2 hybrid crappie for little to no reproduction in ponds and split pond intensive aeration including a yield verification data update.

Field day activities will be followed by a Catfish Farmers of Arkansas-sponsored luncheon. Mark Stoll, agri program manager for the Arkansas State Plant Board, is the luncheon speaker.

For more information about the Field Day, contact Casandra Byrd at 870-575-8123 or byrdc@uapb.edu. ■

What's new in publications? Find out at:

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

Hazelene McCray named EFNEP Supervisor of the Year

Hazelene McCray, Drew County family and consumer sciences agent, was presented the EFNEP Supervisor of the Year award at the 2016 EFNEP State Meeting Aug. 18 at the Extension state office in Little Rock.

McCray has been employed with the U of A Division of Agriculture for 10 years, working with the EFNEP program for 8 years.

Each year a deserving employee from one of Arkansas' 75 counties is chosen by his or her peers to receive this award. McCray was nominated by Drew County EFNEP Assistant Angelia Anderson.

"Her positive attitude is contagious to everyone she works with. She is also eager to learn, so that she can share various methods and ideas that promote healthy lifestyles with others. She works well with others outside of the county office and is respected by her peers across the state and other community leaders she partners with. She leads by example in her county. She is, without a doubt, proud of her job and the work that she does by helping others," said Anderson.

Drew County Extension and Arkansas are well served by Hazelene McCray. ■



Hazelene McCray

Independence County 4-H represents Arkansas at Great American Seafood Cook-Off: 4-H Edition

Independence County 4-H was chosen to travel to New Orleans earlier this month to represent Arkansas in the Great American Seafood Cook-Off: 4-H Edition. The three 4-H members competing were Kirstin Rouse, Delenn Kesselring and Eboni Walker. These ladies were chosen by the county due to their involvement in the 4-H cooking club. They prepared their seafood lasagna in 60 minutes and gave a presentation about the dish. The team did not place in the top three. While in New Orleans the team also took an educational tour and learned about Louisiana culture and history. ■



Team members after the competition, left to right: Linda Latus, 4-H program assistant; Delenn Kesselring; Eboni Walker; Kirstin Rouse; Julian Carpenter, 4-H/family and consumer sciences agent.

BENEFITS CORNER

Life-Changing Events

Significant qualifying life events can affect an employee's benefits or benefit eligibility, creating a need for coverage changes during the year. Examples of qualifying life events include marriage, divorce, birth, adoption or changing employment status from full-time to part-time.

Most benefits changes are effective the first of the month after the appropriate completed forms are received and processed by HR. Forms must be received within 31 days of an eligible qualifying event to be considered for processing. Should you experience a significant qualifying life event, please review <http://uaex.edu/support-units/human-resources/life-changing-events.aspx> for details and necessary forms.

Open Enrollment

Open enrollment begins Nov. 1, 2016. Any changes made during the open enrollment period will be effective Jan. 1, 2017. Materials will be mailed to your home address in late October, 2016.

Biometric Screening

Biometric screenings and health risk assessments must be completed by Sept. 30, 2016. UMR participants may still register for a biometric screening event located at another UA screening site. Don't see a screening site or time that works for you? Check out the MY COMPANY tab at www.OnlifeHealth.com to print the Physician's Screening Form. Follow the directions on the form for submission.

Make sure your address is up to date in Banner! ■

Washington County judging team wins 4-H Livestock Judging Champion title

Washington County took the title of 2016 Arkansas 4-H Livestock Judging Champions during the State 4-H O-Rama in Fayetteville Aug. 4. The all-girl team included Sagely Burnett, Corrine Burrus, Mesa Kutz and Dixie Miller. Dixie also won high point individual by 11 points.

Contestants evaluated six classes consisting of commercial heifers, performance Hereford bulls, wether dam ewes, market lambs, market hogs and market goats. In addition, they gave three sets of reasons and had one questions class.

Washington County will represent Arkansas at the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest in Louisville, Kentucky, in November held in conjunction with the North American International Livestock Exposition. ■



2016 Arkansas 4-H Livestock Judging Team Champions from Washington County, left to right: Mesa Kutz, Sagely Burnett and Dixie Miller. Not pictured: Corrine Burrus.

Franklin County 4-H wins Arkansas 4-H Livestock Skillathon Team championship

The 2016 Arkansas 4-H Livestock Skillathon Champion title belongs to the Franklin County team.

Franklin County snagged the title during the State 4-H O-Rama in Fayetteville Aug. 4. The team consisted of Cole Crumpacker, Bailey Durning, Gabby Sisk and Rebecca Wheelless.

The contest consisted of individual and team portions. The individual contests included breed ID, equipment ID, retail meat cut ID, hay and wool judging, a quality assurance exercise and a quiz. The team contests included a quality assurance exercise, meat and carcass evaluation, an animal breeding scenario and exercise, evaluation of performance and marketing information and livestock feeding.

Franklin County will represent Arkansas at the National 4-H Livestock Skillathon Contest in Louisville, Kentucky, in November held in conjunction with the North American International Livestock Exposition. Additionally, Katlyn Hicks of Grant County was the high point individual by 18 points. ■



2016 Arkansas 4-H Livestock Skillathon Team Champions from Franklin County, left to right: Cole Crumpacker, Rebecca Wheelless, Gabby Sisk and Bailey Durning.

Personnel changes

Please welcome the following:

Tia Blakely

Program Assistant, Hempstead County, effective July 21, 2016.

Brianna Brassfield

County Extension Agent - 4-H, Sebastian County, effective August 1, 2016.

Karen Clark

Administrative Specialist, Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, effective June 18, 2016.

Amanda Daley

4-H Program Assistant, White County, effective August 1, 2016.

Andrew Sayger

County Extension Agent - Agriculture - 4-H, Pulaski County, effective July 18, 2016.

Crystal Strain

Administrative Specialist, Logan County - Booneville, effective August 1, 2016.

Extension says goodbye to:

JaNan Abernathy

Budget and Position Control Manager, Financial Services, effective August 23, 2016.

Julie Blair

County Extension Agent - Staff Chair, Searcy County, effective August 11, 2016.

Serena Fuller

Associate Professor - Nutrition, Family and Consumer Sciences, effective August 15, 2016.

LaTaaka Harvey

County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences, Arkansas County - DeWitt, effective August 12, 2016.

Tania Johnston

Administrative Specialist, Prairie County - DeValls Bluff, effective August 15, 2016.

Mindy Sloan

Program Assistant - SNAP-Ed, Stone County, effective August 31, 2016.

LaVona Traywick

Associate Professor - Gerontology, Family and Consumer Sciences, effective August 11, 2016.

Tony Windham

Associate Vice President for Agriculture-Extension, effective August 31, 2016.

Grants and contracts

for Month Ending August 31, 2016

Project Title	Award Amount	Principal Investigator	Granting Agency
4-H Science: Building a 4-H Career Pathway	\$ 5,000	Angie Blacklaw-Freel	National 4-H Council
Wildlife Enterprise Workshops	8,000	Becky McPeake	Mississippi State
Competitive Efficacy: Delta Soy/Cotton	6,000	Bob Scott	Monsanto Company
Acetochlor (ME) Plus Dicamba Formulation Development for Soybeans	8,760	Bob Scott	Monsanto Company
Test Crop Purchase Newport Extension Center Weed Science	4,000	Bob Scott	Bayer Crop Science LP
2016 Sugarcane Aphid Research – Best Management Practices	10,000	Glenn Stuebaker	United Sorghum Checkoff Program Board
Multi-State Evaluation of New Insect-Resistant Soybean Cultivars – Field Trial Agreement	20,000	Gus Lorenz	Bayer Crop Science LP
BioAg Product Assessment in Soybean	4,585	Jeremy Ross	Monsanto Company
National Conference Support for 4-H Members	19,796	Michael Looper	Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission
2016 Sugarcane Aphid Research – Best Management Practices	23,000	Nick Seiter	United Sorghum Checkoff
Drew County United Way	1,000	Steve Kelley	Drew County United Way
Enhanced Pest Control System for Mid-South Soybean	18,340	Terry Spurlock	Louisiana State University
United Sorghum Fungicide Research	10,000	Terry Spurlock	United Sorghum Checkoff Program Board
Evaluation of Weed Control in Provisia Rice	4,200	Tom Barber	BASF Corporation
Competitive Efficacy: Delta Soy/Cotton	6,000	Tom Barber	Monsanto Company
Warrant Ultra Use in Roundup Ready Plus Systems – South	7,008	Tom Barber	Monsanto Company
Warrant Ultra Herbicide Use in Cotton – Medium-Fine Soil	5,840	Tom Barber	Monsanto Company
Evaluation of Tillage Radish as a Cover Crop in Arkansas Cotton	16,391	Tom Barber	Agriculture Experiment
Enhanced Pest Control Systems for Mid-South Soybean Production	18,748	Travis Faske	Louisiana State University
Development of Disease Management Strategies for Peanut Production in Arkansas	18,932	Travis Faske	National Peanut Board
Total Awards for August 2016	\$215,600		

Save the Date:

State Faculty Conference, Little Rock State Office – December 5, 2016

Division of Agriculture Awards Luncheon, Embassy Suites, Rogers – January 13, 2017