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DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION

University of Arkansas System

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Becky Reynolds: Time Cherished in Extension

Becky Reynolds grew up in Batesville, Arkansas, where she spent her childhood getting to know Extension in a very personal way. She was first exposed to Extension through her mother's home demonstration club. Her mom took her along to club meetings, which got Reynolds interested at a young age. It was this and other experiences that helped lead her toward a career in Extension.

"When I was in tenth grade, a 4-H club was started in my community," Reynolds said. "I was also impressed by our home economist at the time. She was a specialist for many years. I enjoyed my time with Extension programs and 4-H."

After Reynolds graduated from college, she went to work in Poinsett County as a 4-H agent. After eight years, she transferred to Little River County to work as a home economist agent – now known as Family and Consumer Sciences agents.

"I enjoyed working with the 4-H members and taking them on trips," Reynolds said. "It was wonderful to watch the growth of the 4-H kids."

Reynolds recognized the value of her personal experience with 4-H when she was growing up, and she wanted to offer that same thing to other youth.

"They develop more confidence going through the program," Reynolds said. "I noticed that my 4-Hers weren't scared of a class presentation or public speaking. Both of my daughters were in 4-H, and I just enjoyed working with the kids."


She retired in 2014 and has enjoyed traveling.

"In 2016 I went to Ireland with my mother," Reynolds said. "In 2018 we went to Europe. We went through Austria, Germany and Switzerland. My church group also went to Kentucky to see the Ark Encounter."

Family is important to Reynolds, and she enjoys spending time with them.

"I have two grandchildren who live in Ashdown, and I pick them up from school a couple of times a week," Reynolds said. "I take them to all kinds of activities like gymnastics and church events. My mother moved here in late 2014, so I spend a lot of time with her as well."

After nearly 40 years with Extension, Reynolds cherished her time there.

"That was the career I always wanted since before college," Reynolds said. "That's why I entered that field. I enjoyed working with people." 



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Former Cooperative Extension Service director inducted into Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame

Former Cooperative Extension Service Director Rick Cartwright is among the latest crop of individuals to be inducted into the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame for their contributions to the state's largest industry.

Cartwright and five other honorees were inducted March 25 during a ceremony at Embassy Suites in Little Rock. The event had been postponed earlier due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

"This has been a long two years, but it's a wonderful day for Arkansas agriculture," Butch Calhoun, chairman of the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame, told the crowd of more than 300. "We have an outstanding group of inductees from all areas of agriculture."

Cartwright, an internationally known rice pathologist, joined the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture in 1992. He served in numerous roles for both the Cooperative Extension Service and the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, the research arm of the Division of Agriculture. He served as director for extension from 2016 to 2020, when he retired.

"All of us at extension are thrilled to see him recognized for his contributions to Arkansas agriculture," said Bob Scott, senior associate vice president for the Division of Agriculture and current director of the Cooperative Extension Service. "He was a tremendous researcher and an expert rice pathologist, and he was a mentor and friend to me and many others."

Cartwright developed the scouting method and disease thresholds for Rice Sheath Blight and Rice Blast. He worked with infrared aerial photography to determine specific areas of rice fields infested with diseases. This concept of precision application saved countless trips across the field, helped increase farmer profitability and reduced disease resistance. His research extended to other crops as well.

"Dr. Cartwright built a long legacy of research and education that has been his life's work," Calhoun said. "He was an inspiration, a voice of reason and a staunch advocate for the role of extension work in improving Arkansas agriculture."


Cartwright thanked his family and colleagues, many of whom were present at the event.

"Today's recognition is a singular honor, and really it's not about me as an individual, it's about an awful lot of people who shaped me," Cartwright said. "People talk about self-made men and women, but that's not me. I was shaped by thousands. I accept this recognition on their behalf and honor those already inducted, quite a few who I have known and admired.

"I love agriculture, and I mean in the broadest sense of the culture of agriculture — and that's the people of agriculture," he said. "When you get older, you don't remember everything, but you will not forget the people who changed your life and held you up. In summary, I thank you — the people of agriculture."

Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward congratulated the inductees on behalf of Gov. Asa Hutchinson, who had designated March 21-27 as Arkansas Agricultural Week.

The Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame, sponsored by Arkansas Farm Bureau and the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce, honors past and current leaders whose work has benefitted the farm industry, their communities and the economic development of the state.

With the newest inductees, there are now 175 honorees in the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame. 



Rick Cartwright, retired extension director, addresses the audience at the 2022 Arkansas Ag Hall of Fame ceremony.

Message from the director



Dr. Bob Scott

This month, I attended the Tri-District Administrative Conference in Benton. I had the chance to speak to all of our county agents for the first time since I became director. Many agents and administrators saw each other for the first time, and it was a great event. We have a great mix of new and “seasoned” agents out there; however, we have more newer agents overall. This was a great opportunity to put faces with names and for my administrative team to hear first-hand from the counties. Already we have addressed a few issues, and others are being reviewed. I also want to brag on my District Directors team - Carla Due, Kevin Lawson, and Jerry Clemons. They are the most involved and active group that I have seen in that office. Sometimes, I forget that two of them are newer than me in their current positions. I feel that we have an excellent administrative team across the board going into 2022.

Other extension activities include Master Gardener plant sales, getting ready for field work and getting busier every day in 4-H as clubs meet again and groups travel to the C.A. Vines 4-H Center.

We finished the interview process for the vice president position for the Division of Agriculture. This is an important position that impacts the future of the Cooperative Extension Service. Both candidates did a great job with their interviews. This week University of Arkansas System President Dr. Donald R. Bobbitt announced that he will recommend Deacue Fields, Ph.D., as the next vice president for agriculture. Fields is currently dean of the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

Until next time, I hope you will visit a plant sale and get out and enjoy Spring! ☺

Cooperative Extension Service 2022 summer interns announced

As college students prepare to enter the workforce, those with a passion for agriculture and helping others are searching for hands-on ways to apply their skills. The Cooperative Extension Service recently created a new learning opportunity for students at this intersection of interests.

In late 2021, extension announced the reinstatement of an internship program for college students interested in pursuing careers as extension agents. Extension’s three district directors- Carla Due, Kevin Lawson, and Jerry Clemons- selected 11 interns from universities in Arkansas and Mississippi for the 10-week paid program.

The interns’ main program areas will be 4-H and agriculture, but Scott and Due both said students will take part in all program areas within extension regardless of their major.

The 11 interns hail from across Arkansas and from Tennessee (by way of Mississippi). To learn more about each intern, [see the full article here.](#) ☺

Bobbitt to recommend Dr. Deacue Fields as VP of Agriculture for UA System

University of Arkansas System President Dr. Donald R. Bobbitt announced April 20 that he will recommend Deacue Fields, Ph.D., currently dean of the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, as the next vice president for agriculture for the UA System.



Deacue Fields, Ph.D.

“I’m grateful for this opportunity to continue strengthening the impact of the Division of Agriculture as we embrace the land-grant mission of serving our state,” Fields said. “Going through this process has reinvigorated my passion for agriculture and shed light on numerous opportunities for the division to cultivate partnerships and collaborate during this next chapter.”

Pending formal approval from the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas in May, Fields is expected to take over the position July 1.

To learn more, [read the full article here.](#) ☺

Spring Master Gardener Plant Sales

Marion County - April 22

Garland County - April 22-24

Arkansas County - April 30

Craighead County - April 30

Madison County - April 30

Prairie County - April 30

Faulkner County - May 14

To find a plant sale near you, visit
www.uaex.uada.edu/plant-sales



The 2022 Extension Retiree Luncheon is April 28!

Join us for the largest gathering of CES retirees of the year! The 2022 Extension Retiree Luncheon will be held **April 28, 2022 at the Benton Event Center** (17322 I-30, Benton).

We look forward to seeing you!

10 a.m. - Registration with coffee & pastries

11 a.m. - Program with lunch following

Michael Vowell Retires

Michael Vowell began working for Cooperative Extension in September of 2015 and retired on March 5, 2022. Michael was an institutional printer in the CES Printshop. He retired with 6 years of service.

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May Birthdays

Eva Johnson - May 1

Paul E. Cooper - May 2

Richard A. Klerk - May 4

Shirley Shelton West - May 5

Glenda Sutherlin - May 6

Kim Hughes - May 7

Gus Lorenz - May 9

Earl W. Wilson - May 10

Terrence Kirkpatrick - May 10

Lillie Teel - May 10

Donna B. Swift - May 11

Kris Rutherford - May 11

Robert H. Rhodes - May 12

Clyde Stuart Jr. - May 17

Dianna Cox - May 17

Debie Head - May 17

Harold B. Williams - May 18

Deborah Dority - May 18

William L. Russell Jr. - May 19

Teresa H. Booth - May 21

Vicki Brakefield - May 21

Charlotte Freeman - May 22

Kathryn P. McElderry - May 23

Donald Johnson - May 24

Dana Stringfellow - May 25

Faye Suitt - May 26

James R. Peachey - May 28

Larry Smith - May 29

Donald Slate - May 30

Darlene Zeh Millard - May 31

Scholarship donations

The following gifts were recently received to support professional development opportunities for faculty and staff of the Cooperative Extension Service.

CES Retiree Scholarship

Tom Leslie

In memory of Pat Cole Hayden

Darlene Millard

In memory of Pat Cole Hayden

Frank Plafcan

Memorial Pat Cole Hayden

Portia Short

In memory of Pat Cole Hayden

Honorary or memorial donations should be forwarded to the Development Office, ATTN: Brian Helms, Cooperative Extension Service, 2301 South University Ave., Little Rock, AR 72204.

If joint recognition is desired, please indicate. To ensure proper notification is sent, please also include in whose honor or memory the gift is made and the mailing address of the person to receive the notification.

Pat Cole Hayden Passes

Pat Cole Hayden, age 79, of Mountain View, passed March 29, 2022. Pat retired from Extension in 1995. She worked in St. Francis and Mississippi counties before serving in the district office until retirement. Funeral services were held on April 2, 2022, at Macedonia Cemetery, Jonesboro.