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UofA
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

August 2024

No. 8

Faulkner County teen wins Arkansas 4-H Governor's Award

Kacie Clark of Faulkner County is the third member of her family to be a finalist for the Arkansas 4-H Governor's Award, and on July 24, she clinched the highest honor awarded in Arkansas 4-H and received a \$3,000 scholarship.

Arkansas Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders announced Clark, 18, as the winner in a recorded message played during the Arkansas 4-H Awards of Excellence ceremony at the University of Arkansas.

More than 250 4-H members from across the state were convened on the campus for the annual Arkansas 4-H State O-Rama. During the week-long event, 4-H members elected new officers and participated in more than 30 competitive events, ranging from archery and ATV safety to public speaking, poultry judging and performing arts.

"I feel like I'm going out with a bang," Clark said of her 13 years in 4-H. "I feel very honored. All of us have done so much in 4-H. Any one of the other finalists would have deserved it."

Three other 4-H members were finalists for the award with Clark: Connor Henry of Arkansas County; Josiah Lillard of White County; and Zach Gardner of Washington County. They each received a \$1,000 scholarship.

"All four of you have achieved amazing things for yourself and your communities," Gov. Sanders said. "I'm proud of each of you."



Kacie Clark, a 4-H State Officer from Faulkner County, received the Arkansas 4-H Governor's Award and a \$3,000 scholarship.

Finalists are chosen based on their accomplishments in leadership, citizenship, community service, 4-H projects and activities, and overall contributions to Arkansas 4-H. The four scholarships are sponsored by 4-H alumni Dr. Joel Anderson, chancellor emeritus of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. The 4-H Governor's Award winner's silver tray is sponsored by former 4-H member and agent Darlene Millard.

"I am struck by the level of passion and excitement each of our finalists demonstrated," said Debbie Nistler, assistant vice president for 4-H and youth development. "They are amazing examples of the spirit of 4-H, and Kacie truly embodies that spirit."

Learn more [here](#). ■

THE INSIDE STORIES

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Message from the Director



Northeast Rice Research & Extension Center hosts inaugural Rice Field Day

The new Northeast Rice Research and Extension Center in Harrisburg welcomed more than 250 attendees to its inaugural rice field day to hear region-specific updates from researchers and extension specialists.

Arkansas is the nation’s top rice producer, with the top four rice producing counties in the state located in the northeast corner. With two-thirds of Arkansas rice planted each year in the northern half of the state, the new Arkansas Agriculture Experiment Station location has given researchers with the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture an opportunity to generate data specific to a large portion of Arkansas growers.

“This farm is unique,” said Rich Hillman, chairman of the Riceland Foods Board of Directors. “Studying this soil, studying the dirt in this part of the state that so many farmers raise their crops in, this farm and the work on it will definitely pay dividends for generations to come. This is something to be very proud of for the folks that are in this area.”

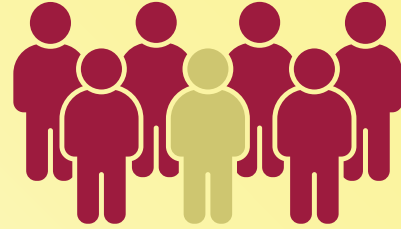
Hillman added that the educational facilities at NERREC, created for school-aged children to learn about rice and agriculture production in Arkansas, will impact thousands of students who are surrounded by agriculture but may not know much about what’s grown around them.

Read more [here](#). ■



The new Northeast Rice Research and Extension Center was freshly manicured and ready to welcome guests to the inaugural NERREC Rice Field Day on August 8.

Join the Extension Cord Editorial Board!



Are you interested in contributing to the **Extension Cord newsletter**? We are currently seeking a new member to join our editorial board. Please contact Amy Hedges at ahedges@uada.edu for details.

a FARM to TABLE event
BENEFITING ARKANSAS 4-H YOUTH

DINNER *at the* **VINES**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH, 2024

C. A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center | Lakeside at the Rose Garden

RESERVE TICKETS [HERE](#)

[HTTPS://WWW.ARKANSAS4HFOUNDATION.ORG/DINNER-AT-THE-VINES.ASPX](https://www.arkansas4hfoundation.org/dinner-at-the-vines.aspx)

Corn College offers tours, training for Arkansas corn producers

On Aug. 6-7, 2024, the Division of Agriculture held its inaugural Corn College. Its purpose was to educate extension agents, growers, consultants and other agriculture industry professionals about various aspects of planting, growing and harvesting corn in Arkansas, as well as controlling relevant variables including weeds, insects and other pests.

The first day of the college was held specifically for Cooperative Extension Service agents, specialists and researchers. The second day was open to the public. Jason Kelly, extension wheat and feed grains agronomist for the Division of Agriculture, designed much of the school's curriculum and said he hopes the school will become an annual event. The Division of Agriculture has hosted similar schools for rice, soybeans and other crops for many years.

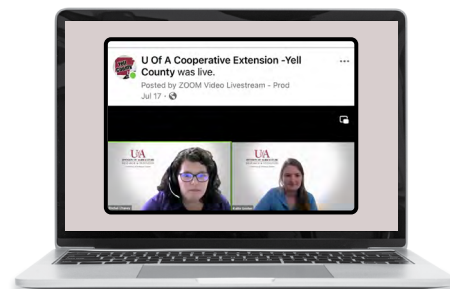
Alongside Kelly, other instructors for the college included Jason Davis, extension application specialist; Terry Spurlock, professor of plant pathology; and Chris Henry, associate professor and extension water management engineer, all with the Division of Agriculture.

View photos from the event at: <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBDwam>. ■



River Valley FCS Lunch & Learn offers tips for healthy living

Yell and Logan County FCS Agents Rachel Chaney and Kaitie Golden are hosting a monthly River Valley FCS Lunch & Learn series on the third Wednesday of each month at noon. These informative sessions are available via Zoom, Facebook Live and in person.



Topics include health and exercise, cooking and nutrition, food safety and preservation, personal well-being, family life, and financial management.

Visit http://bit.ly/UAEXLunch_Learn to register. ■

White County 4-H team wins Arkansas 4-H Food Challenge

On Aug. 2, 124 participants from 36 teams put their food and nutrition knowledge — and cooking skills — to the test at the Arkansas 4-H Food Challenge.



From left to right: Lynnlee Morrison, Caitlin Cooper, Madison White and Jack Pruitt

The Cooking Herd from White County won First Place Overall in the Senior Division in their first year competing at the Arkansas 4-H Food Challenge, held at the Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management Institute at UA-Pulaski Technical College in North Little Rock.

Read more [here](#). ■

September Birthdays

Alberta James - Sept. 1
Diana Baker - Sept. 4
Jim Denton - Sept. 4
Vickie Huddleston - Sept. 4
John Jennings - Sept. 4
Johnnie Younger - Sept. 5
Bob Blake - Sept. 6
Angie Freel - Sept. 7
Barbara Singleton - Sept. 8
Carol Sanders - Sept. 8
Venetta Rice - Sept. 9

Jerry Wooley - Sept. 9
Catherine Grills - Sept. 12
Lee Hunter - Sept. 12
Raymond Benz - Sept. 16
Joe Stuart - Sept. 16
Charles Albritton - Sept. 17
Janet Slate - Sept. 17
Irene Carlock - Sept. 18
Steven Simpson - Sept. 18
June Williams - Sept. 21
Bill Jones - Sept. 21

Gloria Mayhugh - Sept. 21
Belinda Weaver - Sept. 21
Sherry Ream - Sept. 22
LeVeda Tate - Sept. 22
Donna Rothberg - Sept. 23
Stephen Vann - Sept. 27
William Dodgen - Sept. 28
Henry Rice - Sept. 28
Don Plunkett - Sept. 28
Karen Ballard - Sept. 28
Bettie Wilson - Sept. 30

Message from the director



August was an eventful month for me. I celebrated a birthday in August. (You only turn 29 once!) More importantly, my wife and I celebrated our anniversary on August 14. This year was No. 31, and according to the experts at Hallmark, the appropriate gift is

travel. I guess we'll count the night we spent in Heber Springs en route from a cattlemen's meeting in Hot Springs to a family wedding in Mountain View as our anniversary trip. The Quality Inn in Heber Springs is nice, but it's probably nobody's idea of deluxe accommodations. Breakfast at the Smoke House Restaurant, on the other hand, is absolutely a five-star experience. Just be sure to bring cash; they don't take cards — at all.

Marking the milestones in our lives is an important practice. It provides an opportunity to reflect on where we have been and to take stock of where we are headed. This month in the Division of Agriculture, we had the opportunity to celebrate an important milestone in the life of our organization: the opening of the new Northeast Rice Research and Extension Center (NERREC). The dedication of a new-from-the-ground-up center is a rare event

in our generation. For the most part, our land-grant universities, as well as USDA, are working with research and extension infrastructure that goes back at least three or four decades and, in many cases, well over a century. Thanks to a great deal of support from our stakeholder partners, we had the unique privilege of creating a new facility that will support all three aspects of the UA land-grant mission in the northeast corner of our state. This facility will complement our existing network of centers and stations, significantly increasing our combined capacity for extension, research, and teaching that will ultimately impact the entire state.

At the event, we hosted a number of distinguished guests including some of the state's congressional delegation, a number of state and local elected officials, and even the governor. This was an unparalleled opportunity to highlight the impact of the University of Arkansas and the Division of Agriculture on our state's largest and most dynamic industry.

There are plenty of challenges to keep NERREC and all the rest of our centers and stations hard at work for the indefinite future. For now, though, a pause to celebrate this significant milestone is appropriate. Let's be sure we enjoy it. ■