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DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION

University of Arkansas System

No. 6

Federal Government Announces Farm Aid as Soybean Growers Continue Battle for Profit Against Weather, Tariffs

Arkansas farmers who narrowly avoided weather-delayed planting, trade disputes and depressed commodity prices are awaiting details on how the U.S. Agriculture Department will deploy up to \$16 billion in aid to growers.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced it was authorized “to assist farmers in response to trade damage from unjustified retaliation and trade disruption.”

Earlier, the Agricultural Council of Arkansas sent letters to the state’s congressional delegation asking for its help “to provide meaningful assistance to prevent farm losses in Arkansas.”

“At this moment, we are still awaiting the details of USDA’s formula and the factors within that formula to account for the level of support that will reach Arkansas farmers,”

Andrew Grobmyer, the council’s executive vice president, said Thursday.

“We are pleased that support is on the way in rapid fashion, but that support may prove insufficient in meeting the economic injury facing farmers at this juncture.

“Hopefully a trade deal is on the horizon and our markets can soon stabilize and place us in a posture of growing agricultural exports,” he said.

The aid comes at a time when every major commodity in Arkansas is in a condition of delayed planting to some extent. As corn moved past the “final planting date” established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Risk Management Agency, growers ended last week with about 89 percent of planned acreage planted, according to the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. About 67 percent of the state’s rice was planted, well behind the five-year average of 94 percent for this point in the season.



FLOODING: Jefferson county farmers battle the weather.

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Safe Travel Tips

Stretch your dollars by protecting your dollars while you're on vacation. Travelers can be vulnerable to theft and fraud. Here are 5 tips to safely manage your vacation spending:

- Carry a limited amount of cash. Cash is an easy way to pay but can be vulnerable when you travel. If you're a victim of theft, cards can be cancelled and replaced but your cash is lost forever. It's a good idea to have some cash on hand but limit the amount you carry.
- Take a limited number of cards. If you have several debit and credit cards, don't take all of them with you on vacation. Carry as few as possible with you. That way, if your purse or wallet is stolen, you'll have fewer cards to cancel and fewer opportunities for the thief to make fraudulent charges. If a card is stolen, you'll need to provide the financial institution with the card number. For the cards you take on vacation, have the card numbers with you but stored in a secure location.
- Protect your card information. Scammers use cameras, keypad overlays, and skimming devices — like a realistic-looking card reader placed over the factory-installed card reader on an ATM or gas pump — to capture the information from your card's magnetic strip without your knowledge and get your PIN. It's called "skimming." Don't use ATM's or other card swiping machines if they look as if they've been tampered with. Cover the number pad with your other hand as you enter your PIN.
- Notify your bank that you're traveling. Some banks or credit card companies will put a "hold" on your card if they see suspicious activity. Charges from an unfamiliar location might look suspicious. It's best to call your bank or credit union ahead of time and let them know where you're going and how long you plan to be out of town.
- Use a pre-paid travel card. Many credit card companies offer pre-paid cards. These are typically purchased at your bank. You decide how much money to "load" on the card before you leave. The card is as easy to use as most debit and credit cards. Some retailers, including hotels and gas stations, may check the balance up front to make sure you have enough funds to cover the planned purchase. If your card is lost or stolen, contact your financial institution to have them cancel the card. 



Federal Government Announces Farm Aid *(Cont. from page 1)*


The same wet weather that has slowed everything from harvest to planting since last September is posing the same challenge to soybean growers, who managed to get 31 percent of their planned 3.1 million acres of the crop planted as of last week.

"We're well behind the five-year average of 65 percent," said Jeremy Ross, extension soybean agronomist for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture.

"Growers are still contemplating what they're wanting to do," he said, noting the marked drop in soybean futures prices over the summer, From the \$10 per bushel range to \$8 per bushel.

In late 2018, the federal government subsidized soybeans to the tune of \$1.65 per bushel in an emergency aid package meant to offset the effects of the ongoing trade dispute with China, which has historically purchased the lion's share of soybeans produced in the United States. With the aid packaged announced Thursday, growers may again receive a lifeline to keep their farms in the black.

The prime soybean planting season in Arkansas stretches from about April 21 through the first week of June. Ross said that if the state experiences a window of dry weather, growers will likely be able to get their remaining seed in the ground "in a pretty rapid fashion."

"There's still some rice and corn being planted, so you'll see acreage fluctuate to some degree, but I still think we'll end up with more than 3 million acres of soybeans," Ross said. 

Scholarship Donations

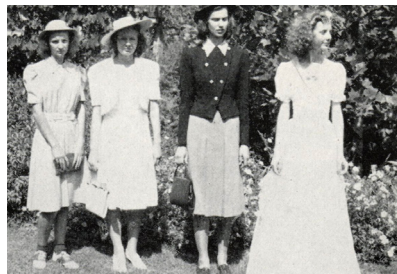
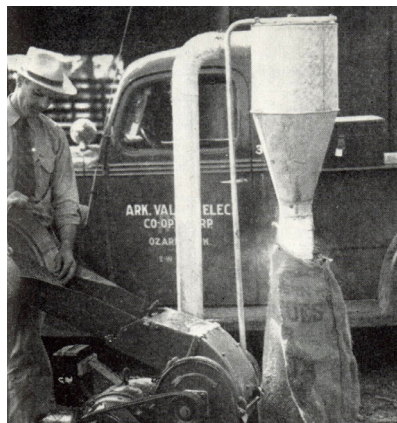
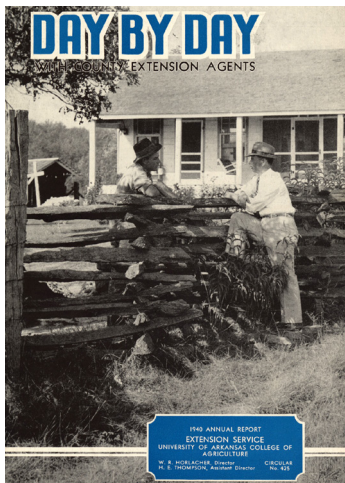
The following gifts were recently received to support professional development opportunities for faculty and staff of the Cooperative Extension Service.

Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship

Gene Woodall

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 that 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.

A Look Back: 1940



TOP RIGHT: Man using feed grinder to produce ground feed.
MIDDLE: Winners of the Arkansas 4-H Style Revue.
BOTTOM: Extension agents demonstrate farming practices to 4-Hers.




To Our Extension Retirees



Due to Dr. Cartwright's busy schedule, I will share with you a few highlights going on in Cooperative Extension this month.

Weather continues to be at the forefront of the challenges facing Arkansans. Our state has recently seen historic flooding in the Arkansas River Valley. As the river levels drop, County Agents and State faculty members are closely working with those farmers whose crops were completely destroyed or heavily damaged to determine the best course of action for the rest of the growing season. The AR River Valley is the main growing area for edamame in the state. These growers are facing tough decisions on whether to replant and hope for a late frost or plant some other crop. However, the processor is dependent on Arkansas farmers to produce a crop for them.

With the retirement of Laura Goforth, long-time Extension Cord Editor, I would like to welcome Oliver Williams and Emily Davis to the "Cord" family. Oliver and Emily will be working with the Advisory Board to produce future issues. In fact, Oliver designed and laid out this issue.

Finally, I would like to draw special attention to page four. The dates for most of the upcoming Regional Retiree Meetings are listed. Once again we are going on the road to come to a venue near you. We realize that traveling to Little Rock is not always possible for some of our retirees. So, hopefully one of these meetings is close enough that you can attend. These are some of my favorite meetings each year as we get to see retirees we have not seen in a year or more. The food is always good, but the fellowship that goes on is even better. 

– Brian Helms



A Look Back: 1940

(Cont. from page 3)



HOME PRACTICES: A home demonstration agent discusses best home practices including folding and canning.



RADIO: Nine Arkansas radio stations cooperated with Extension to deliver daily information important to rural life.



LEARNING: A home demonstration agent works with young farm women to improve farm and home living.

2019 Regional Retiree Meetings

- October 17 – Don Tyson AgriScience Center – Fayetteville
- October 23 – Southwest Research & Extension Center – Hope
- November 1 – Little Rock State Office – Little Rock
- November 5 – Craighead County Extension Office – Jonesboro
- TBD - Monticello

July Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Mr. Michael A. Hedges, July 1 | Ms. Carolyn L.W. Burns, July 12 |
| Mr. Jim Lee Wallace, July 1 | Ms. Dolores McBride, July 14 |
| Ms. Wanda Snow Pemberton, July 3 | Dr. Harold Wallace Goddard, July 15 |
| Dr. John E. Gunter, July 3 | Ms. Juanita Candace Carrie, July 15 |
| Mr. James E. Jefferson, July 3 | Mrs. Patsy R. Stephens, July 16 |
| Ms. Sheryll Ann Gregory, July 3 | Mr. James E. Aikman, July 17 |
| Mr. Randy M. Chlapecka, July 3 | Ms. Debbie Archer, July 17 |
| Mrs. Shirley Hesselschwerdt, July 4 | Ms. Ora Lee Yates, July 19 |
| Ms. Veda L. Thompson, July 4 | Mrs. Linda Joyce Whittington, July 19 |
| Mr. Mike Klumpp, July 4 | Mr. Leon Marvin Ferguson, July 20 |
| Mrs. Jane A. Mowry, July 5 | Mr. J. B. Williams, July 21 |
| Mr. Jimmy Joe Moore, July 5 | Dr. John Wesley Boyd, July 21 |
| Mrs. Mary B. Dunn, July 6 | Mrs. Helen Glass, July 22 |
| Mrs. Debra E. Still, July 6 | Ms. Gail E. Kizer, July 22 |
| Ms. Millie Jo Collins, July 7 | Mrs. Relda S. Washburn, July 24 |
| Mr. Andy Martin Vangilder, July 7 | Mrs. Virginia Cottrell, July 24 |
| Mrs. Betty Lou Archer, July 8 | Dr. David E. Foster, July 25 |
| Mrs. Carolyn H. Lewis, July 8 | Dr. Tony E. Windham, July 26 |
| Mr. Quinton Hornsby, July 8 | Mr. Mark Douglas Keaton, July 27 |
| Mr. Howard S. Young, July 9 | Mr. Ruben H. Johnson, July 28 |
| Dr. Jim Hervey Bemis Jr., July 10 | Ms. Wanda W. Shelby, July 28 |
| Ms. Liz Childs, July 10 | Mr. Tommy Thompson, July 29 |
| Mrs. Linda Gaye Tanner, July 10 | Mrs. Madlyn Mason, July 30 |
| Mr. Thomas F. Vaughns, July 12 | Dr. A. Edwin Colburn, July 31 |

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Yes, I want to support the fundraising initiative in support of the Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship.

Enclosed is my gift of \$_____. My gift is in honor / in memory of _____.

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Please make check payable to the **UA Foundation** and mail to Brian Helms, Development Office, 2301 South University Avenue, Little Rock AR 72204-4940.