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DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
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Cooperative Extension Service announces 2023 summer interns

For college students with a passion for agriculture and helping others, the Cooperative Extension Service’s internship program offers a hands-on opportunity to learn about the roles of extension agents.

For the 2023 program, extension’s three district directors — Carla Due, Jerry Clemons and Kevin Lawson — selected 15 students from universities in Arkansas, Missouri and Texas. Due said they had more than 30 applicants, with two interns returning from last year’s group. The interns started May 22, and their last day is July 28.

Rayvin Callaway, 21, a student at the University of Arkansas at Monticello, interned with the Bradley County extension office last year. This year she will intern with the Drew County extension office. Callaway said she encourages her fellow interns to “soak it all in” during their experience.

“This summer is going to fly by. Any opportunity that is presented to you, take it,” Callaway said. “Every ounce of knowledge you gain from this summer will make you a better person, whether you work for extension or someone else. Trust me, making the decision to take this internship was the best choice you could’ve made.”

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Devyn Britt, 22, will be one of 15 summer interns for the Cooperative Extension Service.

In 2022, the interns’ main program areas were 4-H and agriculture, but this year, the program will also include three Family and Consumer Sciences interns.

“The interns will gain knowledge about the day-to-day work of our county extension agents, who are the boots on the ground when it comes to educating Arkansans,” Due said. “It will be 10 weeks of ‘living the life of a county agent.’”

Read more about the 2023 interns [here](#). ■

2023 Cooperative Extension Service summer interns:

- Devyn Britt**, 22 | FCS | Cabot, AR
- Haley Callanen**, 21 | 4-H | Sheridan, AR
- Rayvin Callaway**, 21 | 4-H | Star City, AR
- Maria Cervantes**, 21 | FCS | Summers, AR
- Brent Clark**, 21 | Agriculture | El Paso, AR
- Delana Crutti**, 33 | FCS | Little Rock, AR
- Laura Fincher**, 19 | Horticulture | Texarkana, TX
- Zeb Gattis**, 21 | Horticulture | Fort Smith, AR
- Natasha Hightower**, 20 | 4-H | Bailey, AR
- Magon James**, 19 | 4-H | Dewitt, AR
- Daniel Lam**, 21 | Agriculture | Spring Valley, NY
- Cade McKee**, 21 | 4-H | Pangburn, AR
- Amber Morris**, 20 | 4-H | DeQueen, AR
- Caelan Person**, 20 | 4-H | Nashville, AR
- Ashlin Usrey**, 21 | Agriculture | Alpena, AR

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Arkansas 4-H teams compete, place at 2023 International SeaPerch Challenge in Maryland

For students interested in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, the SeaPerch Challenge is an opportunity to practice these skills through building and piloting an underwater robot. Three Arkansas 4-H teams tested their remotely operated vehicles at the International SeaPerch Challenge on May 13.

Two teams from Grant County — the Grant County 4-H Mighty Ducks and Turbo Flare 2.0 — along with the Howard County 4-H Shockwaves from Nashville attended the international competition at the University of Maryland in College Park. These teams were the winning open, senior and junior class teams from the qualifying Arkansas SeaPerch Challenge, held at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock on March 3.

Turbo Flare 2.0 — Gracie McGinley, Riley Raymick, Callen Shaw and Gavin McGinley — placed third overall in the high school stock class. Brad McGinley, Grant County extension staff chair for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, and his wife, Serena McGinley, coached the team. Serena McGinley is a 4-H leader and Sheridan Intermediate School fifth-grade teacher.

The Mighty Ducks — Garrett Key, Luke Douthit, Priyam Laxmi, Jaxson Andrews, Miley McGinley and Madi Andrews — placed eighth overall in the open class. Brad McGinley and Tina Melton, a career development teacher at Sheridan Middle School, coached the team.

The Howard County 4-H Shockwaves — Asher Howard, Ace McKinnon and Kody O'Brien — placed 28th overall in the middle school stock class. Morgan Howard, mother of Asher Howard and 4-H leader, coached the team.

Once they arrived at the University of Maryland, Arkansas 4-H teams competed with teams from around the U.S. and the world, including teams from Kuwait, New Zealand, Brazil, Puerto Rico, Egypt and China.



For the last seven years in a row, at least one team from Grant County 4-H has qualified for the International SeaPerch Challenge. At the 2023 competition, the Grant County Mighty Ducks and Turbo Flare 2.0 teams placed eighth and third overall in their classes. (RoboNation photo.)

“You’re competing against teams that are the best at this in the U.S. and in the world,” McGinley said. “All of those teams had to win a regional qualifier to advance, just like us. This year, there were 148 teams from across the country and world.”

Since the competition was close to Washington, D.C., McGinley said they stayed a couple of extra days for sightseeing. They visited national monuments, made a trip to Mount Vernon and were even led on a tour of the capitol by a member of U.S. Representative Bruce Westerman’s office. Westerman represents Arkansas’ 4th District.

“We got to do a few extra things, which is an incredibly great experience for the kids and the families who got to go with us,” McGinley said.

To view the full list of International SeaPerch results, visit bit.ly/2023-international-seaperch-results. For more information about the Arkansas 4-H SeaPerch Challenge, visit 4h.uada.edu. To learn more about the SeaPerch program, visit seaperch.org/about. ■

Division of Agriculture teams with Arkansas brewery to promote environmental stewardship

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture is teaming up with one of the state's beer producers to promote awareness of stormwater runoff and its effects on natural waterways.

The Northwest Arkansas Urban Stormwater Education Program, an ongoing effort of the Division of Agriculture's Cooperative Extension Service, promotes stormwater pollution prevention with public art projects such as UpStream Art and Follow the Flow whisksers, as well as litter clean-ups, promotion of low-impact development and more.

The program, also commonly known as Know the Flow NWA, has now partnered with Ozark Beer Company to produce Know the Flow Golden Lager, a beer that calls on local citizens to help protect water in Northwest Arkansas.

Jane Maginot, extension stormwater educator and Washington County extension agent, said the partnership was formed to spread awareness that storm drain systems are a direct link from city streets to urban creeks.

"Ozark Beer Company chose a small batch release of a golden lager for this campaign due to the crisp, clean and light flavor of the lager that goes great with the imagery of clean water and floating on a hot day," Maginot said.

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, streets and parking lots prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.

"Many residents have a misconception that storm drains are part of the sanitary sewer system that leads to a wastewater treatment plant," Maginot said. "Instead, storm drains act as a direct link transporting stormwater untreated to local streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands."

Stormwater tends to take everything in its path — oil, litter, antifreeze, yard clippings and pet waste, just to name

a few — and can cause adverse effects on plants, fish, animals and people, she said.

The Know the Flow lager's can features the artwork of Lee Porter of Fayetteville, who painted a storm drain mural for the UpStream Art project that is managed by Stormwater Education Program.



Know the Flow NWA has now partnered with Ozark Beer Company to produce Know the Flow Golden Lager, a beer that calls on local citizens to help protect water in Northwest Arkansas.

"Each can gives the message that stormwater flows untreated down our streets and drains, directly to local creeks," Maginot said. The cans feature a QR code that takes users to the program's website, which suggests things that people can do every day to protect water from stormwater pollution.

Know the Flow Golden Lager is available for a limited time at Ozark Beer Company's taproom in Rogers, Arkansas, and at several liquor stores in Northwest Arkansas.

In addition to the beer release, Ozark Beer Company, UpStream Art, and the City of Rogers have partnered on a storm drain mural painted outside the taproom. The mural, painted by Northwest Arkansas artist Cassie Conley, depicts the rolling hills of Northwest Arkansas in the shape of the state, with water flowing from the hills into the storm drain with the words "Drains to Creeks" written into the art. ■

THE ARKANSAS 4-H FOUNDATION PRESENTS

DINNER *at the* **VINES**

SEPTEMBER 26, 2023 at the ARKANSAS 4-H CENTER

Purchase tickets at ARKANSAS4HFOUNDATION.ORG

2023 4-H
ROSS PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Winners

Visit bit.ly/3JhXiCs

July Birthdays

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Jim Lee Wallace - July 1 | Debbie Still - July 6 | Wally Goddard - July 15 | Gail E. Kizer - July 22 |
| Michael Hedges - July 1 | Millie Jo Collins - July 7 | Candace Carrie - July 15 | Dianna Bowen - July 23 |
| Wanda Snow Pemberton - July 3 | Andy Vangilder - July 7 | Patsy R. Stephens - July 16 | Relda S. Washburn - July 24 |
| John E. Gunter - July 3 | Betty Lou Archer - July 8 | Nora Terry - July 16 | Virginia Cottrell - July 24 |
| Sheryll Ann Gregory - July 3 | Carolyn H. Lewis - July 8 | Bobby Ray Johnson - July 16 | Roxana Jones - July 25 |
| Monte Brent Milligan - July 3 | Quinton Hornsby - July 8 | James E. Aikman - July 17 | Earl Dean Vories - July 25 |
| Randy M. Chlapecka - July 3 | Jim Hervey Bemis - July 10 | Susan Pickle - July 17 | Tony E. Windham - July 26 |
| Shirley Hesselschwerdt - July 4 | Liz Childs - July 10 | Debbie Archer - July 17 | Debra Schneider - July 27 |
| Veda Thompson - July 4 | Linda Gaye Tanner - July 10 | Ora Lee Yates - July 19 | Mark Keaton - July 27 |
| Mike Klumpp - July 4 | Thomas F. Vaughns - July 12 | Linda Joyce Whittington - July 19 | Ruben H. Johnson - July 28 |
| Louise Williams - July 4 | Carolyn L.W. Burns - July 12 | Leon Marvin Ferguson - July 20 | Wanda W. Shelby - July 28 |
| Jane A. Mowry - July 5 | Yeshi Wamishe - July 12 | LeAnna Hicks - July 20 | Tommy Thompson - July 29 |
| Jimmy Joe Moore - July 5 | Sung Lim - July 13 | J. B. Williams - July 21 | Madlyn Mason - July 30 |
| Shirley Walker - July 5 | Dolores McBride - July 14 | John Boyd - July 21 | Edwin Colburn - July 31 |
| Mike Vowell - July 5 | Gloria Taylor - July 15 | Helen Glass - July 22 | Henry Chaney - July 31 |

Message from the director



All three district O-Rama's are in the books this year. I am already looking forward to the State O-Rama in July! As always, I was impressed with the talent on display by our 4-H youth and the professionalism of our staff and volunteers in putting these events on. I was able to attend

all three districts this year, and I am sincerely touched by those who take time out of their schedules to assist with O-Rama. I will say that even though I know our numbers have been higher in the past, it is good to see the numbers coming back up from the last couple of years after COVID.

It was also good to see the numbers for the Master Gardener State Conference held in Pope County this year and to be there to hand out awards. My compliments to Randy Forst and everyone in Pope County who hosted this event. Master Gardeners is one of our most popular programs and is responsible for countless hours of volunteer service to Arkansas communities.

Our intern program (version 2.0) is in full swing for the summer, and I am getting some great reports, pictures, and seeing for myself what they are up to. I am very proud of this program, which has grown to 15 interns and is more diverse than it was last year. I want to commend the district directors for their efforts and buy in with this program. I especially want to thank Carla Due for her leadership with this group. We have already hired a couple of new agents from this pool, and there are more to come. I think the word is out, and I am expecting applications to increase next year.

Our FCS assistant vice president search has yielded three candidates, and interviews are set. We have also completed interviews for a new forage specialist in the Animal Science Department. Many others are in various stages of development and advertising. It's a busy time as usual for hiring. We continue to face challenges in finding and hiring qualified county agents for many counties, especially our more rural counties. I am hopeful that recent changes in our starting salaries will aid the district directors in their efforts to recruit new folks. ■

James Roy Peachey passes

James Roy Peachey, age 90, of Jonesboro, AR passed away on June 14. James retired from Extension in 1993 after 39 years of service. He served as the extension Agricultural Agent Chairman in Faulkner, Pope, Benton and Craighead counties. Funeral services were held June 19.

Gertrude Henderson passes

Gertrude Vernell Towns Henderson, 99, of Magnolia, AR passed away on June 1. She retired from extension after 33 years of service. She served as a home economist in Nevada, Jefferson and Columbia counties and was a two-time winner of the Agent of the Year award. Funeral services were held June 6.