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October 2018

U of A
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

No. 10

Cooperative Extension Service providing food animal vet training to address need in rural areas

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture announced this week that it will offer the first of a series of educational seminars for veterinary doctors and technicians designed to expand the availability of veterinarian services to producers raising large animals and other food animals.

Heidi Ward, veterinarian and assistant professor of Animal Science for the Division of Agriculture, will be directing a Food Animal Workshop Series for veterinarians throughout the state over the next two years, beginning in October. Ward received a National Institute of Food and Agriculture grant through the U.S. Department of Agriculture to fund the project, which she said aims to help shift available veterinarian resources toward producers in the state working with cattle and other food animals.

“My proposal was to take some of our small and mixed-animal veterinarians and retrain them to integrate more food animal medicine into their clinics,” Ward said.

“When we go to vet school, we learn both small and large animal medicine, but in the final year of school, we track more towards one or the other – and you tend to go where the money is.

“Veterinarians graduate with huge student loans, and of course, small animal care is in high demand, and pays more money,” she said. “That’s why a lot of people go into small animal medicine, even though they have the desire and intention to treat large animals. Then, over time, they lose that large animal education – a lot of them just need a little pep talk and perhaps a refresher to get back into it.”

Despite lacking its own in-state school of veterinary medicine, Arkansas is in no short supply of licensed veterinary doctors.

There are currently more than 980 veterinarians in Arkansas with active licenses, according to the Arkansas State Veterinary Medical Examining Board. But at least 13 counties in the state report a shortage of large animal vets, Ward said.

“That may mean they have one or none living in the county,” Ward said, “or it may mean they have access to a traveling large animal vet from a neighboring county, but that vet may already be serving four or five counties. It’s stressful for both the doctor and the producer.”

What courses will be offered?

The series will offer 24 workshops over a two-year period, with each workshop providing between three and seven continuing education units to veterinary doctors and technicians. To maintain their respective licenses, doctors need 20 hours of CEUs, technicians need six.



U of A System Division of Agriculture veterinarian Jeremy Powell shows National Guard Agricultural Development Team members how to check for disease symptoms in a goat.

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ARKANSAS BALLOT ISSUES: What's on the ballot on Nov. 6?

As a voter, you have a say on what goes in the Arkansas Constitution. Your ballot this November will include two constitutional amendments referred by legislators and three issues submitted through citizen petition. See all the issues at uaex.edu/ballot.

ISSUE 1

An Amendment Concerning Civil Lawsuits and the Powers of the General Assembly and Supreme Court to Adopt Court Rules.

Here's a link to the complete text of Issue 1:

https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/uploads/elections/Issue_1_for_Website.pdf

How did Issue 1 get on the ballot?

Arkansas senators and representatives voted last year to put Issue 1 on the Nov. 6, 2018 ballot for voters to decide.

On July 12, 2018, a lawsuit was filed in an attempt to remove Issue 1 from the November ballot. The lawsuit is working its way through the court system and a ruling will be made before Election Day.

Update: A Pulaski County Circuit Court judge ruled that Issue 1 should be removed from the ballot. The judge's decision has been appealed to the Arkansas Supreme Court, which will ultimately decide whether Issue 1 will remain on the ballot for voters to decide.

ISSUE 2

A Constitutional Amendment Adding as a Qualification to Vote That a Voter Present Certain Valid Photographic Identification When Casting a Ballot in Person or Casting an Absentee Ballot.

Here's a link to the complete text of Issue 2:

https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/uploads/elections/Issue_2_for_Website.pdf

How did Issue 2 get on the ballot?

Arkansas senators and representative voted last year to put Issue 2 on the Nov. 6, 2018 ballot for voters to decide.

ISSUE 3

Arkansas Term Limits Amendment.

Here's a link to the complete text of Issue 3:

https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/uploads/elections/Issue_3_for_Website.pdf

How did Issue 3 get on the ballot?

More than 84,859 Arkansas voters signed a petition to put the proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot.

On Sept. 5, 2018, a lawsuit was filed in an attempt to remove Issue 3 from the November ballot. The lawsuit is working its way through the court system and a ruling will be made before Election Day.

ISSUE 4

An Amendment to Require Four Licenses to be Issued for Casino Gaming at Casinos, One Each in Crittenden (to Southland Racing Corporation), Garland (to Oaklawn Jockey Club, Inc.), Pope and Jefferson Counties.

Here's a link to the complete text of Issue 4:

https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/uploads/elections/Issue_4_for_Website.pdf

How did Issue 4 get on the ballot?

More than 84,859 Arkansas voters signed a petition to put the proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot.

On Sept. 10, 2018, a lawsuit was filed in an attempt to remove Issue 4 from the November ballot. A second lawsuit seeking to remove Issue 4 was filed Sept. 12, 2018.

Update: The Arkansas Supreme Court on Oct. 11 ruled that Issue 4 will remain on the ballot. Votes for or against the proposed amendment will count.

ISSUE 5

An Act to Increase the Arkansas Minimum Wage.

Here's a link to the complete text of Issue 5:


https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/uploads/elections/Issue_5_for_Website.pdf

How did Issue 5 get on the ballot?

More than 67,887 Arkansas voters signed a petition to put the proposed state law on the ballot.

On Sept. 4, 2018, a lawsuit was filed in an attempt to remove Issue 5 from the November ballot. The lawsuit is working its way through the court system and a ruling will be made before Election Day.

Remember these important Arkansas election dates: Oct. 22, 2018 – Early voting for November General Election starts; Nov. 6, 2018 – Election Day.

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service provides neutral information on statewide ballot issues. Ask your county agent for more information or read more about the proposals at www.uaex.edu 



Food Science marks 50 years of research, teaching and growing an industry



Navam Hettiarachchy and Ronny Horax developed a frozen ice cream-like dessert from edamame soybeans.

In the half-century since its first home was constructed at the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, the Food Science Department has nurtured researchers, teachers, students and clients that have helped grow the nation's food industry.

On Oct. 18, Food Science hosts its 50th anniversary celebration, "Past, Present and Perseverance," at the Don Tyson Center for Agricultural Sciences. The celebration is being conducted with the events of the Ozark Food Processors Convention. OFPA has been a strong ally of the department, funding facilities and hundreds of scholarships over the decades. (See: <http://bit.ly/2Q6ALKS>)

"The Food Science Department, with its researchers, teachers and extension outreach, have always maintained that most essential link between farm and food, and we are very proud of that work," said Mark Cochran, vice president-Agriculture for the University of Arkansas System. "With its work within the land grant mission, this dynamic department reminds us that in Arkansas and the rest of the world, we are still strongly connected to production agriculture and the all of the changing demands that the consumer places on the modern supply chains."

Jean François Meullenet, director of the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, spent 10 years as Food Science Department head.

"During my 22 years in food science, I have seen the department expand greatly in number of faculty, students, and both research productivity and impact," he said. "As a result, the department has climbed in national rankings to become a top five program in the country. The faculty is both nationally and internationally respected and the food science discipline has become an indispensable part of our research portfolio."

"I look forward to seeing the department continue to expand its research to solve some of the grand challenges surrounding the food supply," Meullenet said.

Wayne Mackay, who serves as interim department head for Food Science and is also head of Horticulture Department, said that "the Food Science department has evolved from its beginnings with a high focus on horticultural crops to encompass a wide variety of subject areas that now include sensory science, food processing, food engineering, food microbiology, food chemistry, as well as human nutrition."

(See *Food Science*, page 4)

To our Extension retirees



Well, it is October and the weather has started to change toward autumn and winter. To say it has been an unusual weather year again underestimates the diversity of the Arkansas climate, does make one appreciate our 16 seasons.

Speaking of weather, Hurricane Michael tore up the panhandle of Florida, parts of southern Georgia, southeast Alabama, and added to the flooding in South and North Carolina from Hurricane Florence. On a more personal note, Hurricane Michael inflicted property damage and loss on quite a few county agents and other Extension personnel in Florida and Georgia. There will likely be an effort to assist some of our colleagues financially, but we have not heard specifics yet. I will keep everyone posted if an effort is undertaken there. I know that Extension folks pull together and help each other, and we may need to on this one. What a mess.

On a more pleasant note, Nov. 6 will be here before you know it, and I sincerely hope that all of you will exercise your right, your privilege, your duty, to vote. This is a right and privilege not enjoyed by everybody on the planet, and it makes one think when you realize this. With that said, the Public Policy Center in Community and Economic Development led by Stacey McCullough really does a tremendous job on voter education on ballot issues. This topic is very complicated to start with, and all the fighting during the year on ballot language just makes it more and more of a challenge to help explain, but our Kristin Higgins is up to the job. My hat off to this entire staff for a frustrating job well done – I hope you use their information, and if you appreciate this work as much as I do, I hope you will let Stacey and Kristin and the CED staff know.

Dr. Charles Looney hit the ground running in the Division on Oct. 1 as our new animal science (cattle management and herd improvement) associate professor located at the Southwest Research and Extension Center near Hope. Looney comes with more than 30 years


(See *Cartwright*, page 4)

Vet Training *(continued from page 1)*

The first class, scheduled for Friday, Oct. 19, will focus on honey bee veterinary medicine. Most of the workshops will be hands-on, held at one of four locations throughout the state. Two of the courses, focusing on finance, will be available online.

Ward said the classes will largely focus on aspects of large animal veterinary medicine crucial to producers, such as performing field necropsies on dead animals in order to reduce or prevent the spread of disease, and palpating female cows to diagnose the stage and condition of pregnancies.

Ward said the teaching cadre for the workshops will be drawn from Division of Agriculture staff, members of the Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association and from well-known veterinary experts throughout the country. The curriculum, which is still being designed, will be generated through the Division of Agriculture and the medical association, she said.

The workshops will be free to attend. To register, contact Heidi Ward at hward@uaex.edu. 

Food Science *(continued from page 3)*

It's the diversity of multidisciplinary work among faculty that led to the department's high ranking.

The research efforts have resulted in many processes and practices that have improved the food industries in the state and led to close association with the many food companies in and outside of Arkansas," Mackay said.

This celebration is for anyone who is or has been a part of the Food Science Department. There is no charge to attend the Food Science anniversary celebration, but attendees are asked to RSVP to Megan White, mw047@uark.edu.

Guests to the celebration are also invited to register for the OFPA conference online at <https://ofpa.uaex.edu>. The cost for OFPA registration is \$125 per person before the conference, and \$175 per person on-site.

For more information. Call 479-575-4607 or email ofpa@uark.edu. 

Cartwright *(continued from page 3)*

practical experience in cattle genetics and reproductive efficiency work in industry, so he has a world of knowledge and applied lessons to share with our agents and growers. We know he is going to help lead our programs to an even higher level. Looney will have a split appointment in Cooperative Extension and the Agricultural Experiment Station, with responsibilities in both the research and extension missions. We hope you get to meet him.

Speaking of meetings, please keep in mind the upcoming fall retiree meetings round the state. Brian Helms and Verna Waddell have done an excellent job planning these meetings and we have more than 250 retirees registered to attend overall, with the first one at Mountain View on Oct. 17, Jonesboro on Oct. 18, Van Buren on Oct. 23, Fayetteville on Oct. 24, Little Rock on Oct. 26, Hope on Oct. 31, and Monticello on Nov. 1. These are high priority for us, as are you, so I hope to see you at one of these close to you. While it is possible that I will have to miss one or two due to unexpected problems, I intend to make every effort to be present to visit. If I miss, we will of course have one of our executive team there to give you my update. Hope to see you! Have a great October ...

– Rick Cartwright 

November Birthdays

Eric Grant, Nov. 3	Ursula Crow, Nov. 9	Gloria Eubanks, Nov. 16	Janice Jones, Nov. 24
Massie Silva, Nov. 3	Jerry McIntyre, Nov. 11	Virlean Fisher, Nov. 18	Kathryn Fowler, Nov. 25
Reba Hawkins, Nov. 3	Gerald Alexander, Nov. 12	Eugenia Hockett, Nov. 18	Vatra Stone Hibbs, Nov. 27
Frances Story, Nov. 4	Doris Begeman, Nov. 13	Luther Roberts, Nov. 20	James Barrentine, Nov. 28
Joe Waldrum, Nov. 7	Milo Shult, Nov. 13	Joe Vestal, Nov. 22	Louise McPherson, Nov. 28
Sue Palsa, Nov. 9	Patsy Keller, Nov. 15	Brenda Hawkins, Nov. 24	Jim Frala, Nov. 30

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

Name/Address for notification of honorary and memorial gifts: _____

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