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## BLUE LETTER

April 2022

No. 3840



FROM THE DIRECTOR

# Progress Amid Change

I am very pleased with the overall progress we have made coming out of pandemic restrictions and back to some sort of normal at the Cooperative Extension Service. In-person meetings are in full swing again, and it is nice to see a lot more activity at the State Office, the 4-H Center, in the counties, and throughout the Division. In my office, we are completing the evaluation process and getting needed updates into Workday to support the proposed Division one-time pay adjustment (pending Board of Trustees approval) that is planned for the end of the fiscal year. We are also working on some strategic hires for the coming programmatic year.

I was pleased to take part recently in the Tri-District Conference held at the Benton Event Center. The district directors did a great job organizing this, and I hope it was as beneficial to the agents who attended as it was to me and my administrative team. For many, it was the first time they had met face to face. This conference is a good opportunity for both agents and administration to hear firsthand some of the successes and challenges that we face. It is a good example of the kind of meeting that is harder to do on Zoom because you do not get the back-and-forth interaction. I want to compliment the agents on their professionalism at this meeting as they had ample time to question those of us up on the hot seat. I have already have a few “to-dos” and “to-work-on” items come out of that meeting.

One thing I have learned about our organization is that we are always changing. We are currently filling several faculty, state, and county positions throughout the Extension Service. I learned this month that in my own office, I will soon have some big shoes to fill. Dr. Martha Ray Sartor, associate vice president for FCS and 4-H, will retire July 5. She has been a mentor to me since I became director; her expertise and leadership will be missed. I hope you will join me in wishing Martha Ray all the best in her retirement and retirement career! It is important for us to remember that although the faces may change, our mission to deliver unbiased, research-based, quality educational programs to people in Arkansas has not.

The interview process for the vice president position for the Division of Agriculture ended earlier this month. This is an important position that impacts the future of the Cooperative Extension Service. Both candidates did a great job with their interviews. 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. Pending formal approval from the U of A Board of Trustees in May, Fields is expected to take over the position July 1. Dean Fields will be an excellent vice president, and I look forward to working with him. ■

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

# Dr. Cartwright Inducted into Agriculture Hall of Fame

Former Cooperative Extension Service Director Rick Cartwright and five other honorees were inducted March 25 into the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame and recognized for their contributions to the state's largest industry.

The induction ceremony, held at Embassy Suites in Little Rock, had been postponed earlier due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The other inductees include:

- Joe Don Greenwood of Hermitage, a longtime agriculture educator.
- The late Russell Roy Reynolds, longtime director of the Crossett Experimental Forest.
- Randy Veach of Manila, former Arkansas Farm Bureau president.
- Mark Waldrip of Moro, founder of Armor Seed Co.
- Andrew Wargo III of Watson, longtime farm manager of Baxter Land Co.

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," said Butch Calhoun, chairman of the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame. "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 talked 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."

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. ■





# Hot Spring County Educator of the Year

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Hot Spring County 4-H agent Morgan Taylor has been named Hot Spring County Educator of the Year by the Malvern/Hot Spring County Chamber.



Morgan Taylor

Taylor was honored for being an educator who goes above and beyond to not only provide instruction, but support youth emotionally and prepare them for their futures. She focuses on real world practicality and helping area youth learn how to be independent.

Lance Howell, the chamber's executive director, sees the importance of Taylor's work.

"While the traditional educator awardee works in a classroom setting, Morgan was nominated and recognized for her impact on young people in a sort of holistic way – teaching, training, mentoring, preparing – big-picture, ready-for-life stuff. The youth involved in 4-H in Hot Spring County set the bar high when it comes to community service, leadership skills, and preparing to be strong contributors to our county. Morgan plays a huge role in that. Our future is brighter because of the growth we see in these kids, and it's great to see them having fun and enjoying the process." ■

## AR Business Navigator Program

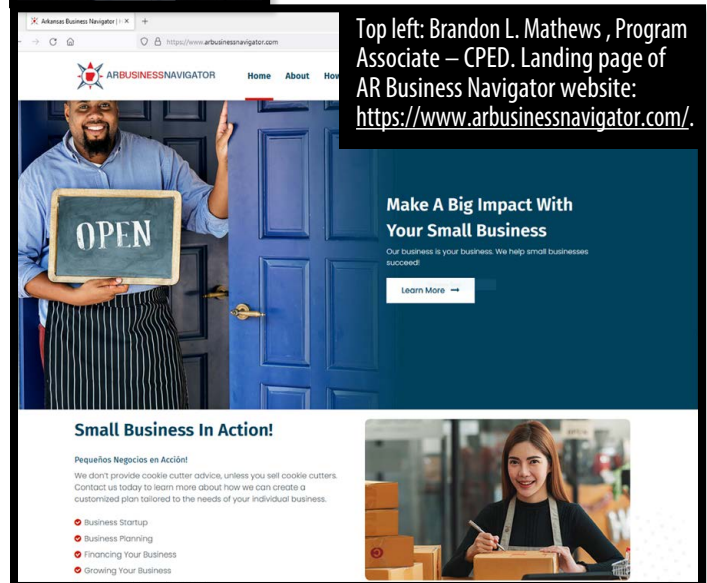
The Community, Professional, and Economic Development (CPED) unit was selected as one of six organizations to support small business owners and entrepreneurs as part of the Arkansas Small Business and Technology Development Center's (ASBTDC) AR Business Navigator Program. CPED is responsible for serving north central and southwest counties of the state including Fulton, Izard, Sharp, Independence, Randolph, Lawrence, Baxter, Stone, Little River, Howard, Sevier, Hempstead, Miller and Polk.

Over the next two years, Navigators are tasked with increasing accessibility of Small Business Administration (SBA) resources among underserved, minority, women, Spanish-speaking, and veteran-owned businesses, providing one-on-one counseling, industry-specific training and education, identifying financial resources, assisting with government contracting and procurement support, and launching a podcast featuring Navigator success stories.

AR Business Navigator is part of the American Rescue Plan Community Navigator Pilot Program's approach to helping small businesses bounce back from the pandemic. Brandon L. Mathews (CPED) and counterpart (to be hired) will be responsible for the 13-county service



area. ASBTDC is having a kick-off party at UADA's Little Rock State Offices on May 6, with a virtual option to attend. For more information, contact Brandon L. Mathews at [bmathews@uada.edu](mailto:bmathews@uada.edu) or 501-671-2085. ■



Top left: Brandon L. Mathews, Program Associate – CPED. Landing page of AR Business Navigator website: <https://www.arbusinessnavigator.com/>.



# Hosts Booth at National Science Teachers Association

Soybean Science Challenge Diedre Young and Dr. Lynn Wilson hosted a Soybean Science Challenge booth at the National Science Teachers Association Convention in Houston, Texas, March 31-April 2. Young and Wilson interacted with more than 2,000 teachers from the U.S., Sweden, Mexico, Turkey, Israel, and India. They encouraged them to use soybeans in classroom research by using the free resources available on Extension's 'soywhatsup' website.

The Soybean Science Challenge is a farmer-funded, statewide, junior high and high school education program that seeks to increase student knowledge about the value of Arkansas soybeans to the Arkansas economy, to the labor force, and ultimately to feed and fuel the world. The Soybean Science Challenge is a partnership between

the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board and the U of A Cooperative Extension Service.

For more info, contact Dr. Julie Robinson, [jrobinson@uada.edu](mailto:jrobinson@uada.edu) or Diedre Young [dyoung@uada.edu](mailto:dyoung@uada.edu). ■



Soybean Science Challenge Coordinator Diedre Young visits with teachers at the National Science Teachers Association Convention.

## Cash Awards at Five Regional Science Fairs



The 2022 Soybean Science Challenge recently presented five regional science fair awards to students with the top soybean research projects. Regional student Senior Division winners received a \$300 cash award; their teacher mentors received \$200. Junior Division winners won \$200, and their teacher mentors received \$100. Student winners and their teacher mentors were:

- Central Arkansas Regional Science & Engineering Fair, March 4: Senior Division winner, Rebekah Caffey; teacher mentor, Mary Maris. Junior Division winner, Aakash Bhattacharyya; teacher mentor, Erin Votaw.
- Ouachita Mountains Regional Science and Engineering Fair, March 4: Senior Division winner, Emily Hudnall; teacher mentor, Bobby Young.
- Southwest Arkansas Regional Science Fair, April 1: Senior Division winner, Ayla Burford; teacher mentor, Christy Hoyle. Junior Division winner, Noah Beard, teacher mentor Jackie Raney.
- Northeast Arkansas Regional Science Fair, March 11: Senior level student winner, Sydney Wolf; teacher mentor, Allyson Goodin. Junior Division winner, Jailyn Strong; teacher mentor winner Amanda Smith.
- Virtual Northwest Arkansas Regional Science & Engineering Fair, April 1: Senior Division winner, McKenzie Butler; teacher mentor, Tiffany Schrivner. ■



From left to right: Northeast Arkansas Regional Science Fair SSC SR Division Winner Sydney Wolf with mentor Allyson Goodin; Southwest Arkansas Regional Science Fair SR Division SSC winner Ayla Burford with teacher Christy Hoyle; SSC JR Division Winner Aakash Bhattacharyya.



# Advantages of Being a Credit Union Member

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Did you know that all CES employees: current and retired, immediate family members of CES employees: current and retired, and volunteers of CES departments and organizations are eligible for membership with CESFCU? And that once you are a member you are always a member even if you change jobs?

The credit union is a place where members can save money for the future and borrow money at competitive rates and terms.

CESFCU NOW offers small cash withdrawals for members saving them time. CESFCU continues to work and improve electronic access and digital services for our members.

- CESFCU members can transfer funds TO or FROM other financial institutions through their CESFCU online banking profile. This process has now, in many instances, become a faster alternative to having a check mailed.
- Within the next 30-60 days, members with a CESFCU Visa credit card will be able to access [eZCardinfo.com](http://eZCardinfo.com) through their CESFCU online banking profile utilizing a Single Sign On (SSO) requiring them to only remember one username and one password, instead of two. ■



## LEADERSHIP LOG

### LeadAR. Class 19 Learns Importance of Community and Economic Development in Newport.

LeadAR Class 19 had a great seminar in Newport on March 24-25. The class received a comprehensive overview of integral components of a vibrant local economy, community and economic development, from many community partners and presenters. For the full article, click [here](#).

### Leadership Lunch and Learn. Arkansas Leaders Consortium a Huge Success.

The first-ever Arkansas Leaders Consortium on March 30 on the University of Central Arkansas campus — and live-streamed through the Leadership Lunch and Learn series — was a success! For the full article, click [here](#).

### iLEAD. Cohort One Shares Ideas to Enrich Division.

As part of the U of A System Division of Agriculture's Internal Leadership Education And Development program (iLEAD), participants identify and address



real-world challenges facing the organization by completing a leadership service project. The group met virtually on March 18 to share their leadership project plans. Here's an overview of the ideas presented. For the full article, click [here](#). ■



In Newport, LeadAR Class 19 toured [Arkansas Steel Associates](#), a mill which produces specialty products for the railroad industry.

# About Dangers of Distracted Driving

Sevier County recently held its second in a series of classes to raise awareness about distracted driving, a leading cause of accidents.

Distracted driving results in more crashes than speeding, drunk driving, and other causes. Sevier County



Jail Administrator, Chris Wolcott, speaks to driving class students.

Extension partnered with county jail administrator Chris Wolcott to bring in speakers to share how distracted driving has caused accidents, injuries, and death. In one class, Richard Saddler, one of the speakers, told attendees that he was

texting and driving before an accident. A child was critically injured but survived. At another class, youth heard from Brian Flagg, who reached for a water bottle while driving. A young girl died in that wreck, and the child's mother also spoke about her experience.

The series continues June 3. ■



## Master Gardeners in the News

The Craighead County Master Gardeners are featured in spring issue of Delta Crossroads, a quarterly magazine distributed in 12 counties in eastern Arkansas.

They are busy this time of year with service projects that include gardens at the county courthouse, Extension office, Arkansas State University, and city hall. The volunteers also assist the Jonesboro Health, Wellness and Environmental Sciences Magnet School in growing vegetables used in cooking demonstrations at the school. Craighead Master Gardeners partnered with Riceland Foods to create a community garden to provide food for individuals in need.



Steve Culp began the Craighead County Master Gardeners in 1996 with 42 people in the inaugural class.

Branon Thiesse has been the club advisor since 2009 which currently has 130 members. Craighead County Master Gardeners also provide two scholarships to horticulture students who are attending Arkansas State University through proceeds from their annual plant sale.

Berni Kurz, extension educator for consumer horticulture, and Cindy Strauss, president of the Pulaski County Master Gardeners, were guests on KTHV-11 in Little Rock on April 6. View their on-air interview [here](#). ■



## Distribution Lists Have Been Updated!

After months of hard work, the IT team has completed the revamp of our Distribution Lists.

### What have we been doing?

1. Removing unused DLs.
2. Adding additional DLs as requested.
3. Changing titles to be more descriptive.
4. Distinguishing between CES, AES, and Division DLs.
5. Automating the membership list for a large portion of the DLs.



Click on the link below for a complete listing of all available DLs:  
[UADA Distribution Lists](#)

For information on finding and sending to DLs, visit these resources on our website:

[Searching the GAL for Distribution Lists \(DLs\)](#)

[Updating the Global Address Book in Outlook](#)

[GAL vs Offline GAL \(Global Address Book\)](#)

## Email Etiquette Tips

### Preventing Reply-All by using BCC

We have all experienced the annoying influx of emails. Someone sends an email to a distribution list (DL) or group email account (group) and someone inadvertently does a Reply-All when asking the sender a question or making a comment.

### When is it proper to reply-all?

Most times the answer is never. This is especially true if you are responding to an email that was sent to a DL or group. You should only Reply-All to an email when you're sure your reply is relevant to everyone in the thread.

### How can you as the sender prevent the reply-all response?

When sending emails to a DL or group, make sure you place it in the BCC field. Since you must include something in the TO field, you can enter your own email address there.

### How does this prevent someone from using reply-all?

It doesn't. However, a Reply-All will only be sent to recipients in the TO and CC fields, not the BCC field. This is how you prevent them from responding to everyone in the distribution list or group account.

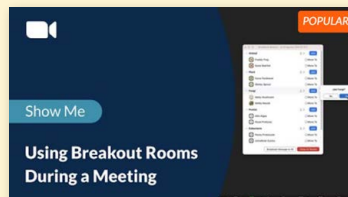
### Don't see the BCC Field when composing your email?

Within Outlook online (OWA) – begin a new message, BCC is located to the far right of the TO field.

Within Outlook desktop – begin a new message, select the Options menu, and click on the BCC icon.

## Zoom Quick Reference “Show Me” Video

[Using Breakout Rooms During a Meeting \(5.5 minutes\).](#)



## Hacks from Hump Day

- [Box Hack: Box Sign Resources.](#)
- [Excel Hack: Conditional Formatting to Find Missing Information.](#)
- [PPT Hack: Embedding Custom Fonts.](#)



## Social Skills

Join us for May Social Skills! This month is our Accessibility Awareness Month! We will be talking all about digital accessibility and offering tips, tricks, and helpful solutions to make your content accessible on social media. [Register and check out](#) past Social Skills sessions.



## 2022 TECH TUESDAYS WEBINARS

**Register and join us May 10 for “Creating Marketing Materials Using Canva”**

Did you miss April Tech Tuesday Captions and [Transcripts with Panopto - Accessible Audio & Video?](#) Check out the recording and resources.



# Polk County: Get Real, Here's the Deal

Cossatot River School District in Polk County hosted the Get Real, Here's the Deal (GRHD) program March 15-17 for 52 students in Jennifer Lawrence's civics/economics classes. Mrs. Lawrence has been doing the program for two years. She enjoys doing the program in the middle of the semester, "...so the students have time to digest the information they learn." This gives her time to review important points with students in class before the end of the year.

According to Bridgett Martin, CEA-FCS/4-H, "We have a great partnership. Students learn how to make sound financial decisions and are given the opportunity to talk to real business

volunteers who help counsel them through the decision-making process. Students also really enjoy having a speaker from a financial institution to address the pros and cons of credit, the difference interest rates make, and the steps in opening a checking and savings account." ■



## ACAAA Annual Meeting

The Arkansas County Agriculture Agents Association (ACAAA) met March 31 in Jonesboro for its annual business meeting and to recognize the outstanding Extension program work of its members.

President Chris Grimes of Craighead County presided over the meeting and was recognized for his leadership and service to the association. Several agents were also recognized and awarded in several other categories, including Communications, Search for Excellence in various program areas, Ag Awareness and Appreciation, Young Professional, Achievement Award for agents with less than 10 years of service, and Distinguished Service Award for agents with more than 10 years of service.

Dr. Vic Ford provided an administrative update to the audience.

The meeting was held at the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas whose mission is to store and distribute food to agencies that provide hunger relief to people in need. After the business meeting, attendees helped pack food boxes for the organization that will go to the people the Food Bank serves.

Information and photos of all award winners can be found at the Arkansas County Agriculture Agent Association's Facebook page. ■





# How can I Write Effective Alt Text?

## Do:

- Be accurate. Give your audience a good understanding of what is going on.
- Be short and sweet. Include a few sentences about what is happening in your image. If you need more than a couple of sentences to explain what is going on, consider adding a text description near your image in addition to the alt text.
- Give context. What makes this image important enough to include in your work? Explain to your audience the context needed to understand this image.
- Include text that is part of the image. If your image contains words, make sure to include that in your alt text. A screen reader won't be able to read the text in an image.

## Don't:

- Repeat yourself. You don't need to include alt text if the picture is already described in your main text.
- Use the phrases "image of ..." or "picture of ..." to describe the image. Screen readers already announce to users that they are navigating through an image, so stating it in your alt text can get redundant.
- Add alt text to decorative images. This information isn't helpful to users who are navigating your content with a screen reader, so it's best to not include alt text in decorative images. Just be sure to mark them as 'decorative' in your program of course. ■



# FCS Agents Trained in Food Preservation

Food preservation had a resurgence during the pandemic and remains popular. Extension's Family and Consumer Sciences agents are often the go-to experts when it comes to questions and concerns about food safety and preserving food.

Fourteen new county extension FCS agents (representing all three districts) recently completed the food preservation in-service training. They learned several food preservation techniques, such as water bath canning, pressure canning,

jams and jellies, dehydrating, pickling, and freezing.

These agents are now equipped with the skills to conduct food preservation workshops in their respective communities. ■



Agent Specialists and Food Preservation Team. From left to right: Julian Carpenter (Independence); Vivian Okanume (LRSO); Jane Newton (Lincoln); Bryan Mader (LRSO); Shannon Autrey (Conway); Terrie James (Hempstead); Michelle Carter (Bradley).



2022 Food Preservation Agent-Attendees. From left to right: Tristin Bolton (Crawford); Julian Carpenter (Independence); Tonya McKenzie (Ouachita); Shannon Autrey (Conway); Kaitie Golden, front (Scott); Ronda Best, back (Dallas); Terrie James (Hempstead); Jane Newton (Lincoln); Ashley Fulks (Searcy); Jewell Sanders (Calhoun); LeeAnn Blevins (Baxter); Danielle Watson (Cleveland); Pia Woods (Jefferson); Mishanna Lanes (Pulaski); Michelle Carter (Bradley); Karen Boone, front (Pulaski); Alicia Boatwright, back (Pulaski); Billie Collins (Marion); Marla Lane (St. Francis).



# Initiative Addressing DEI Set to Launch

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture will launch a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiative to enhance the organization's capacity to effectively engage different cultures. The effort seeks to have an internal focus on individual employee competency with an overall objective of enhancing the quality and value of UADA internal and external stakeholder engagements. The aligned effort across the Division, called the Cultural Competency Initiative, seeks to grow employees' mindset to adapt to diverse audiences. The initiative uses a framework that supports learning that is both appropriate and challenging based on directed interventions, goals, and support.

Organizational growth is not possible when people do not understand or could see another person's perspective.

Cultural competency has been identified as a key driver for employee skills and can move the Division of Agriculture's engagement to higher levels. Intercultural competence is an awareness of one's own cultural identity and the ability to interact effectively and appropriately with people from other cultures. The initiative uses the Intercultural Development Inventory framework to measure individuals' lenses of cultural similarities and differences along a continuum from monocultural to intercultural worldviews. ■

## Create Bridges Launches Small Business Workshop Series

CREATE BRIDGES, a program under the Community, Professional, and Economic Development unit, launched a free workshop series called "Skill Share" to deliver specific advertising and marketing skills to small business owners.

The five-part workshop series featured presentations from UADA employees Amy Cole, Brandon L. Mathews and Julianne Dunn. Two of the five workshops featured CREATE BRIDGES' southwest regional

steering committee member Keisha McKinney, founder of McKinney Media Solutions. The goal was to help attendees increase their knowledge of key social media platforms, learn to use free branding tools to create eye-catching materials, develop photography skills to feature their products or inventory and more. All five workshops are being held at the Spring River Innovation Hub in Cherokee Village, with a virtual option for attendance. Go to <https://uaex.uada.edu/createbridges> to learn more about CREATE BRIDGES. ■



Keisha McKinney, McKinney Media Solutions: Presentation on "Making Your Brand Come to Life Through Canva" for small business owners in Fulton, Izard, and Sharp Counties



Amy Cole, UADA: Presentation on "Optimizing Your Social Media Profiles" for small business owners in Fulton, Izard, Sharp and Counties.



# Grants and Contracts

PROJECT TITLE	AWARD AMOUNT	PI	GRANTING AGENCY
Multi-state Evaluation of N-Fertilizer on Blackberries	24,827	Amanda L McWhirt	Southern Region Small Fruit Consortium
Assessing Susceptibility of Insect Pests of Corn in Storage to Selected Insecticides	9,472	Ben Thrash	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
2022 Master Gardner Conference	5,000	Berni Kurz	Springdale Advertising & Promotion Commission
Improving Sustainability: Better Cotton Initiative	30,000	Bill Robertson	Better Cotton Growth & Innovation Fund
Corn and Grain Sorghum Enterprise Budgets	10,000	Breana Watkins	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Economic Analysis of Corn and Grain Sorghum Production and Marketing Practices	5,735	Brian Deaton	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Lawrence County Shooting Sports	1,625	Bryce Baldridge	National Rifle Association Foundation (NRA)
Logan County Get Fit	2,000	Charla Hammonds	Blue & You Foundation
Clark County Shooting Sports	1,180	Cindy Ham	National Rifle Association Foundation (NRA)
Assessing Susceptibility of Insect Pests of Corn in Storage to Selected Insecticides	9,565	Glenn Studebaker	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Determining the Value Added of Starter Fertilizer with In-furrow Fungicide on Corn	1,500	Jason Davis	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Developing Profitable Irrigated Rotational Cropping Systems for Arkansas	19,000	Jason Kelley	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Research Verification Program	124,000	Jason Kelley	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Determining the Value Added of Starter Fertilizer with In-furrow Fungicide on Corn	6,712	Jason Kelley	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Fine Tuning Potassium Recommendations for Sustainable Corn Production	8,097	Jason Kelley	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Arkansas Future Ag Leaders Tour	10,000	Julie Robinson	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
White Oak Sustainability Phase II	30,000	Kyle Cunningham	Arkansas Agriculture Department
Improving Irrigation Scheduling and Irrigation Efficiency for Corn Production in Arkansas	12,618	Leo Espinoza	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Implementation of Remote and Proximal Sensing Driven Practices in Corn Production	29,633	Leo Espinoza	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Fine Tuning Potassium Recommendations for Sustainable Corn Production	18,936	Leo Espinoza	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Drew County WHEP	2,197	Lynn Lanthrip	Drew County Conservation District
Drew County ANASP	1,433	Lynn Lanthrip	Drew County Conservation District
The Arkansas Discovery Farm Program	5,000	Mike Daniels	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Assessing Susceptibility of Insect Pests of Corn in Storage to Selected Insecticides	7,438	Nick Bateman	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Utilization of Ozone Fumigation to Reduce Aflatoxin Contamination and Suppress Insects in Stored Corn	52,523	Sammy Sadaka	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Implementing Cover Crops into Corn Rotations and the Impact on Soil Health	8,909	Terry Spurlock	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Improving Irrigation Scheduling and Irrigation Efficiency for Corn Production in Arkansas	14,459	Terry Spurlock	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Determining the Value Added of Starter Fertilizer with In-furrow Fungicide on Corn	17,788	Terry Spurlock	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Evaluation of Herbicides, Corn Hybrid Technologies and Cultural Methods to Improve Season-long Weed Control in Corn	36,092	Tom Barber	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Integrating Multiple Tactics into Weed Management Programs to Target the Palmer Amaranth Soil Seedbank	15,680	Tom Barber	Cotton, Inc.
Efficacy of ATC and ResicoreXL Tank Mixtures in Field Corn (SOW #2022-01)	5,000	Tom Barber	Pioneer Hi-Bred
Implementing Cover Crops into Corn Rotations and the Impact on Soil Health	8,314	Travis Faske	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
Assess Management Options for Corn Nematodes in Arkansas	36,261	Travis Faske	Corn & Grain Promotion Board
<b>TOTAL AWARDS FOR MARCH 2022: \$570,994</b>			

# Career Development Events Held in Fayetteville

Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences hosted the Arkansas State FFA Contests (Career Development Events) on campus in April. Events were held at various locations on the UADA farms, including the Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Arena, the Don Tyson Center for Agricultural Sciences, and the Washington County fairgrounds. There were 17 contests and nearly 1,700 high school agriculture students, their teachers, and chaperones in attendance.

Animal Science hosted the equine, livestock, and meat evaluation contests. (The meats evaluation was held on campus for the first time in more than 15 years.) Twenty-nine teams with 69 participants from all over the state competed. Congratulations to Vilonia FFA, the champion team, and Kyle Foster from Vilonia, who was the high individual overall. ■



Students listening to instructions from Dr. Mark Russell during the State FFA equine evaluation contest.

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# Benefits Corner

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## The Employee Assistance Program

From time to time, we could all use a little help. When we do, the licensed professionals from Arkansas Employee Assistance Program (AEAP) can help. They have years of experience and are here to help when you're facing problems. Contact them directly for a confidential consultation.

Toll Free: 800-542-6021 / 501-686-2588 / eap-elink.uams.edu

to make appointments via the portal. EAP also provides online counseling through telephone or video call. AEAP is a benefit provided to you and your family at no cost by the university.

## Retirement Plans

Fidelity and TIAA are available and conducting virtual meetings and/or telephone appointments. Sessions may be set up during normal business hours as appointments are available. To set up a conference session with Fidelity, email [susan.screeton@fmr.com](mailto:susan.screeton@fmr.com).

To set up a conference session with TIAA, go to [www.tiaa.org/schedulenow](http://www.tiaa.org/schedulenow) and select Virtual Consultation. ■

# Personnel Changes

## Welcome Aboard:

**Bradley Hufhines** – County Ext. Agent - Urban Stormwater, Washington County

**Kristen Crawley** – Administrative Specialist II, Washington County

**Lena Corbin** – Administrative Specialist III, Jefferson County

**Clayton Spafford** – Program Technician - Arkansas Discovery Farm, Little Rock

**Jessica Stalter** – Program Technician - Field, Laboratory & Greenhouse - Rice Research & Extension Center, Stuttgart

**Bailey Golden** – Administrative Specialist I, Arkansas County



## Farewell to:

**Julianne Dunn** – Instructor-Economic Development, Little Rock

**Kimberly Ricker** – Administrative Specialist I, Clay County Office

**Leo Espinoza** – Extension Soil Scientist, Little Rock

**Luke Nipper** – Leadership & Outdoor Education Associate - Arkansas 4-H Center Programs, 4-H Vines Center