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## BLUE LETTER

January 2022

No. 3837



FROM THE DIRECTOR

# Leading into 2022

Well, 2022 did not start off the way that any of us had hoped. The latest variant of the COVID-19 virus set new records in the number of cases across the United States and world. The Omicron variant is making its way through both vaccinated and unvaccinated parts of the population as a whole and our co-workers throughout the Division. Thankfully, this variant, although highly transmissible, is proving to be less deadly than the Delta variant. Vaccinations do still seem to be effective in reducing the frequency of transmission and the seriousness of infection. One thing is clear: this virus is here to stay, and we are going to have to manage and balance our safety with the need to fulfill our mission here in the state going forward.

Throughout the University system, administration has decided to continue with current safety protocols and hold in-person meetings when feasible. Many have chosen to move meetings to virtual or postpone meetings into February. I think going forward we are going to have to learn to live with COVID rather than expect a complete victory. As with most learning processes, this may take some time. Classes are so far being held in-person on campus, and for us in Extension, smaller meetings and county meetings are forging ahead.

In other news, the Division search for a new vice president of agriculture continues with Mr. Chuck Culver filling in as interim. Chuck is doing a great job, and some of you have had a chance to meet with him. He is busy during this time of year meeting with stakeholder groups, state representatives and other influential people for the Division of Ag. Be sure to read his recent email update and tune into the "State of the Division" webinar to hear directly from him.

I want to thank everyone in Extension for completing the Information Technology cybersecurity training in a timely fashion. We had near 100% compliance with this important request. Please always open and read email from the Division, IT and Human Resources so that you're informed about requests like this one. Last May, the Division was a victim of automated clearinghouse fraud, and this training is part of our response to this incident and an internal audit. In addition to this training, we have adopted new protocols and updated our training policies. Please always be diligent with dealing with vendors and vet all online financial requests through the appropriate channels.

I want to wish you all good luck in the coming year with your programs. As always, let me know how I can help. ■

## INSIDE SCOOP

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3. NERREC Update
4. 4-H Hub Program
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6. Cook Smart, Eat Smart
7. iLead Continues Learning Journey
8. Tech Corner
9. Master Gardeners Win Award...And much more!

**UofA**  
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE  
RESEARCH & EXTENSION  
*University of Arkansas System*



# 2022 Ballot Issue Education In-Service Dates Set

Make it your new year's resolution to get acquainted with the Arkansas Ballot Issue Education program by adding these 2022 in-service training dates to your calendar today.

For agents new to Extension since the 2020 election: Add March 31 to your calendars and register in Learn for "Introduction to Arkansas Ballot Issues." This Public Policy Center training will walk you through the basics of Arkansas ballot issues and the educational resources we provide you during an election year. (Note: If you haven't participated in our voter education program before, we consider this in-service a prerequisite for attending the August training.)

For agents who are up to speed, pick the time that works best for you: Aug. 26, Aug. 29 or Aug. 30. This training, "Regnat Populus: A Deep Dive Into 2022 Arkansas Ballot Issues," will prepare you to deliver public presentations. Registration opens later this year.

2022 is an election year where candidate races may overshadow information about amendments to the Arkansas Constitution. Start delivering ballot education now by encouraging people to subscribe to the Arkansas Ballot Issue Education Newsletter (subscribe at: [uaex.uada.edu/ballot](https://uaex.uada.edu/ballot)) or by following the Public Policy Center on Facebook (uappc) or Twitter (UAEX\_PPC). ■

## Teen Cuisine Training

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) and SNAP-Ed recently hosted a joint training for the newly adopted "Teen Cuisine" curriculum. The curriculum is designed to teach youth in grades 6-12 important life skills to be healthy.



Courtney Fisher, UAPB EFNEP program assistant and Tomicca Perry, Crittenden County EFNEP program assistant.

programs from the University of Arkansas and the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.

Agents and paraprofessionals taught six lessons:

- Eat Smart
- You Are What You Eat
- Power Up with Breakfast
- Find the Fat
- Kick the Sugar Habit
- Snack Attack

"It was great to see all of the different teaching styles and taste some new program recipes," EFNEP Instructor Keith Statham-Cleek said. "We are excited to see how Teen Cuisine will benefit the lives of Arkansan teens and help us move toward a healthier Arkansas."

Pilot group agents will implement the full curriculum in the spring 2022 semester. If all goes well, the curriculum will be available to all agents in Fiscal Year 2023. ■



Kim Huffman, Craighead County EFNEP program assistant.

The two-day training, held in December at Mount Magazine Lodge at Mount Magazine State Park, was a collaboration between the limited resources nutrition



# Northeast Rice Research and Extension Center Update

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With the generosity of Greenway Equipment and continued support from the Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board, the new NERREC machinery shop is awaiting final touches before opening at the end of January 2022. With 4,500 square feet of interior space, 6,000 square feet of covered equipment storage, the new NERREC shop will be a great asset for the research and demonstration activities at the station.

“We are finally moving forward with the new research center,” Joe Christian, chairman of the Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board, said. “We have a lot of new technologies that will be implemented into this building that every farmer can use on their operation, hopefully to improve their operation as well as their bottom line.”

Dr. Tim Burcham, director of the Northeast Rice Research and Extension Center, looks forward to the versatility that this new structure will bring to the research center.

“This addition provides an excellent foundation for our research and outreach activities by providing our team

with a safe and productive environment for equipment repairs, chemical storage/mixing, and equipment storage,” Burcham said. “It will also serve as a central meeting place for producer workshops and field days. We are looking forward to working out of this new facility in the upcoming crop year.”

To keep up with developments, follow the Northeast Rice Research and Extension Center on Facebook and Twitter @NEArkRice. ■



## Grant from USDA



Dr. Kelly Vierck

Dr. Kelly Vierck, assistant professor of meat science, was recently awarded a grant from the USDA for \$200,000 for renovations and equipment upgrades for the UA System Division of Agriculture Red Meat Abattoir in Fayetteville.

Plans are to make infrastructure upgrades to the lab, originally built in the 1960s, so the facility can be USDA inspected.

The abattoir is used for instruction of undergraduate and graduate students, training of stakeholders, and research projects. Ultimately, the department would like to offer meat sales to the public to offset research and instruction expenses. ■

# Livestock Judging Team Wins Reserve Champion Title

The U of A Livestock Judging Team began the year with a trip to Phoenix to compete in the Intercollegiate Livestock contest at the Arizona National. The 10 team members competed on New Year's Eve and returned as the Reserve Champion Team. Individuals judged and placed 12 classes, containing four animals per class of cattle, swine, sheep, and meat goats. Contestants then verbally explained their placings to officials, who scored competitors as individuals and on a team basis. Congratulations team coach, Dr. Bryan Kutz and team!

- **Ryan McDuffie** - 4th high overall, 7th reasons, 3rd cattle, 4th swine, 4th sheep and goats.
- **Kason Cathey** - 6th overall, 8th reasons, 5th swine, 5th sheep and goats.
- **Rylee Simpson** - 9th overall, 4th reasons, 3rd swine, 6th sheep and goats.
- **Julie Isbell** - 9th reasons, 2nd sheep and goats.
- **Keely Harrelson** - 10th cattle, 8th sheep and goats.

- **Walker Antilla** - 8th overall, 9th sheep and goats, 7th swine.
- **Carter Culp** - 10th overall, 2nd swine, 9th in cattle.
- **Raven Revels** - 10th reasons.
- **Rebekah O'Neal** - 10th sheep and goats, 10th swine. ■



## Polk County

# 4-H HUB Program



Polk County Extension has been busy working with Mena High School to provide enrichment activities to students in the HUB program. HUB which is a designated set of classes for students who need alternative learning environments or alternative scheduling.



Debbie Miller, 4-H agent in Polk County, teaches student sewing skills.

Dr. Lee Smith, Mena Public Schools' new superintendent, recently met with extension agents and other local

volunteers who routinely provide enrichment activities in the school, to find activities that could address social and emotional learning. 4-H Agent Debbie Miller spent a few hours per week working with students on life skills that fostered a sense of confidence by making burrito pillowcases and microwave bowl holders. This included sewing simple items that the students could use or give away to demonstrate community service.

This program was also tailored to introduce students to some common industries around Polk County. There are several aircraft upholstery businesses that provide lucrative wages for students interested in those types of careers. ■



# Virtual Mental Health First Aid Training

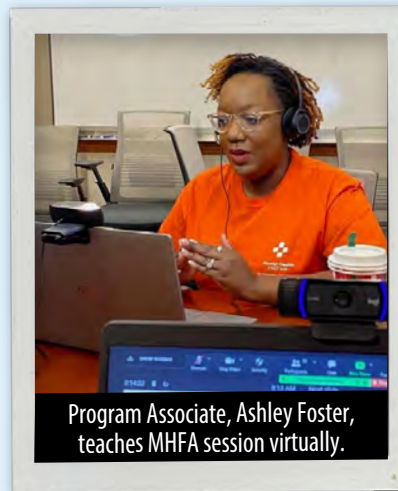
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Mental health first aid instructors with the UADA conducted a six-hour virtual Mental Health First Aid training on Dec. 8 for a group of chaplains with Baptist Health Hospital. Ashley Foster and Rebecca Simon, program associates with Family Life/Early Childhood, led the training.

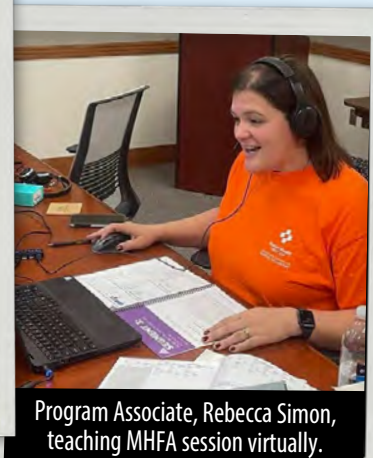
Mental Health First Aid is a skills-based training course that teaches participants about mental health and substance use issues. Peer-reviewed studies have been conducted around the world and show that individuals trained in the program:

- Grow their knowledge of signs, symptoms and risk factors of mental illnesses and addiction.
- Can identify multiple types of professional and self-help resources for individuals with a mental health or substance use challenge.
- Increase their confidence in and likelihood to help an individual in distress.
- Show increased mental wellness themselves.

Mental Health First Aid can be offered in-person or virtually. If anyone is interested in learning more about becoming a Mental Health First Aider or hosting a training session in your county, please contact Ashley Foster [afoster@uada.edu](mailto:afoster@uada.edu) or Rebecca Simon [rsimon@uada.edu](mailto:rsimon@uada.edu). ■



Program Associate, Ashley Foster, teaches MHFA session virtually.



Program Associate, Rebecca Simon, teaching MHFA session virtually.

## FCS Agents Meet for 2022 Best Care Training

For the first time since 2019, Family and Consumer Sciences agents met face-to-face for in-service training to prepare for the upcoming Best Care program year. To increase interaction and improve safety, four smaller trainings were held in lieu of one large training. Agents in the north Delta region were hosted at the Craighead County office on Nov. 10. South Delta met at the Rice Research Center in Stuttgart on Nov. 13.

Ouachita agents met at DeGray Lake Conference Center on Nov. 16, and Ozark agents met at University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton on Nov. 18. In addition to receiving training in new Best Care lessons, the agents met new Family Life team members Amy Cofer and Lourdes Yanez,

interacted with new agents, heard from FCS Educator Leigh Ann Bullington, and learned about a new partnership between Best Care and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP).

County agents will present 10 hours of Best Care training between January and May this year to more than 2,000 early childhood educators statewide. ■



Agents Jean Ince (left) Howard Co. and Janet Cantrell (right) Sevier Co. teamed up to find "something yellow" for an early childhood outdoor science lesson at DeGray Lake Conference Center.

# Benton County 4-H Livestock Judging Team: Takes Home Honors

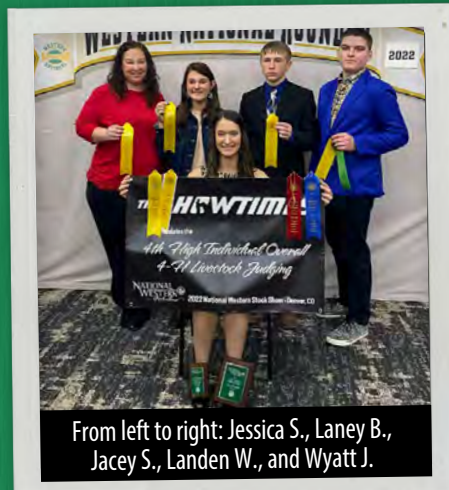


The Benton County 4-H Livestock Judging Team took home honors during the Western National 4-H Roundup.

The Livestock Judging Contest was held at the National Western Stock Show Friday Jan. 7. Team members included Jacey S., Wyatt J., Landen W., and Laney B. The Livestock Judging Team was coached by Jessica Street & Aaron Gaither. The team stopped at 6 farms and judged around 25 classes of animals on the way. Farms visited included: OSU Swine Farm, OSU Sheep & Goat Unit, Hobbs Show Lambs, GG&T Cattle, Grund Beef Genetics and Magness Land & Cattle Company.

Results are as follows:

4-H LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAM RESULTS	
TEAM	INDIVIDUAL
12th Overall	Jacey- 4th Overall – CSU Scholarship Offer
4th Goats	1st Goat
9th Reasons	12th Reasons
11th Swine	Wyatt- 5th Goat
13th Cattle	11th Cattle
	20th overall



From left to right: Jessica S., Laney B., Jacey S., Landen W., and Wyatt J.



Jacey S. 4th Overall Winner.

# Cook Smart, Eat Smart

Polk County FCS agent Bridgett Martin recently implemented the Cook Smart, Eat Smart cooking program at Mena High School where seven students recently graduated from the six-week course. Cook Smart, Eat Smart teaches students about basic cooking skills and planning healthy meals/budgeting. Students in the high school's Life and Fitness class used modified kitchen items,

including electric skillets, smokeless griddles, crockpots, and air fryers provided by funds from the local education cooperative, to prepare meals in a classroom setting.

All students were super excited to try new foods and reported incorporating more fruits and vegetables into their diets at home.

"I really enjoyed this class because I feel like it taught me new things and opened my mind to new things [foods]," one student said.

In response to whether the students had prepared any of the Cook Smart, Eat Smart recipes at home, one student stated, "I tried the salmon and veggies I had liked [in class]. That's my favorite cooking experience."

"Many students would not try the foods and recipes contained in the Cook Smart, Eat Smart recipes at home without exposure," Martin said. "SNAP-Ed provides this great curriculum to allow students to try new foods and new healthy cooking techniques." ■



Haylie H. and Brooklyn P. plate Grilled Basalmic Chicken recipe taught by Bridgett M., FCS/4-H agent, with help of classroom teacher, Mrs. Kristi W.



FCS/4-H Agent Bridgett Martin with CSES students L-R: Jessica N., Haylie H., Brooklyn P., Emily B. and Richard S.



# iLEAD Continues Learning Journey

In December, iLEAD continued visited the University of Arkansas at Monticello and the Five Oaks Agriculture Research and Education Center in DeWitt.

Dr. Michael Blazier, dean of UAM's College of Forestry, Agriculture, and Natural Resources, introduced the group to the college and the Arkansas Forest Resources Center. Both offer programs in research and education that enhance and ensure the sustainability of forest-based natural resources. Several UAM faculty members shared information about their diverse research interests. Hope Bragg, 4-H youth development instructor, also provided details about her 4-H work in volunteer leader management, curriculum and training, archaeology, and other educational programming.

The iLEAD participants also visited the Five Oaks Ag Research and Education Center. Doug Osborne, associate professor and director, described the center as a unique

learning environment for students of forestry, agriculture, and natural resource management.

For more information about the iLEAD program contact Dr. Julie Robinson, [jrobinson@uada.edu](mailto:jrobinson@uada.edu) or Lisa Davis, [ldavis@uada.edu](mailto:ldavis@uada.edu). ■



iLEAD Cohort 1 at the University of Arkansas at Monticello (UAM) where they continued to learn about the wide reach of the Division.

## Montgomery County

# Blazing a New Trail

The Montgomery County Quilt Trail opened with 16 quilt trail blocks. This is a project of the Arkansas Coalition of the Ouachitas (ARCO) and is coordinated by Amy Monk, CEA – staff chair. The Quilt Trail's purposes are to preserve local history, beautify communities, and promote tourism among residents and visitors.

The Quilt Trail is a driving tour of the area's scenic beauty, artistic creations of painted quilt blocks, and the history of agriculture and quilting. People are encouraged to enjoy the drive, look around and take photographs. Each block also has a story posted on the Arkansas Quilt Trails website. The Montgomery County Trail includes several historic homes and sites, retail shops, old barns, a historic church and cemetery, museums, and an art gallery. It's a great way to get a full picture of the quaint nature and beauty of Montgomery County.

A county brochure and spring grand opening are being planned to promote this new form of tourism. View our Quilt Trail on the Arkansas Quilt Trails website, <http://arkansasquilttrails.com/montgomerycounty/>. ■





## Rules for Purchasing Software:

IT must evaluate and approve all software/services to ensure it meets all legal procurement and security criteria. Software and Cloud Services Purchase/Acquisition: Policy.

As per the above policy - IT must purchase all software unless an exemption has been given. All software purchases and renewals must first go through the Software Request Form.

IT will notify the person who submitted the software request if they are approved. You will either be assigned the license and any expense will be charged to your department, or you may be given a one-time exemption to purchase the software with your PCard or by purchase order, which can be submitted within Workday. Exemptions are only granted in advance of a purchase and only for a select few approved softwares.

IT has the following extra software licenses available.

- **Articulate 360** - \$584.10/year
- **Linktree** - \$57.00/year
- **Nearpod** - \$179.69/year

**Information Technology**

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DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE  
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University of Arkansas System

**4th Wednesday 2 p.m.**  
Hump Day Hacks

**3rd Thursday 9 a.m.**  
Social Skills

**2nd Tuesday 9 a.m.**  
Tech Tuesdays

Email: [callcenter@uada.edu](mailto:callcenter@uada.edu)

Local Call: 501-671-2255  
Toll Free: 1-866-779-3375

<https://employees.uada.edu/it>

## Tech for you in 2022

Sharpen your tech skills in 2022 with the monthly IT Tech trainings.

## Hump Day Hacks

Spend 1 hour a month learning new quick tech hacks to make your job easier.

**When:** the 4th Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m.

**Where:** Zoom meeting

**How:** Register today and save to your calendar

**Why:**

- Learn new quick tech hacks.
- Practice the hacks in a Breakout room.
- Get answers to your tech questions.

zoom | Learning Center

## Zoom Pro Tip-Zoom Learning Center

Boost your Zoom skills and learn how to Zoom like a pro with Zoom's new Learning Center.

Check out the library of short, self-paced, on-demand Zoom Meeting Courses.

For help with your UADA Zoom account, go to UADA Employee Zoom Help Resources. ■

## TECH ME SERIOUSLY TECH ME

Check out the latest TECH ME Seriously vlog post: AFFECT 08 Microsoft Forms.

Visit <https://employees.uada.edu/techmeseriously> to view vlogs.

## 2022 TECH TUESDAYS WEBINARS

**Register** and join us for the Feb. 8, 2022 Tech Tuesday webinar.

Take a look at the previous 2021 Tech Tuesdays. Check out December's, The Best of 2021.





# Master Gardeners Win Honorable Mention Award



ARKANSAS BUSINESS  
TRENDSETTER CITY  
2021

ENVIRONMENTAL/GREEN  
MANAGEMENT PRACTICES  
Honorable Mention  
20,000 or Greater

The Benton County Master Gardeners helped create a learning garden with the Bentonville Public Library, and the project recently received a Honorable Mention Trendsetter City 2021 – Environmental/Green Management Practices Award from Arkansas Business.

The project was the result of Bentonville Public Library's needs assessment study and the staff's desire to implement a project that would improve community wellness through nature and environmental education.

The goal was to enhance a vacant space north of the library with vegetables, herbs, native plantings, natural pest deterrents and pollinator flowers for community educational opportunities. The natural setting offers opportunities to present programs and activities and provides recreational reading areas.

A member of the Library Advisory Board is a Master Gardener, and the Benton County Master Gardeners approved the plan while the Friends of the Bentonville Library approved sponsorship options.

The Master Gardener planned the gardens, designed the layout, prepared a list of supplies, and met with library staff. The design included greens, roots, an Italian garden and specialty plantings like long beans and sunflowers.

Volunteers were recruited from the library's teen volunteer group and the Benton County Master Gardeners.

The learning garden is near an existing rain garden and is a test scenario for future library plans, based on requests for natural spaces for the general public.

Other cities could replicate the learning garden project with a small green space, a little extra funding for materials and community interest and volunteer help. The value to the community is in the educational opportunities and health benefits gained through gardening. ■



## Happy Retirement Don

Don Hubbell, director of the UA System Division of Agriculture Livestock and Forestry Research Station in Batesville, retired Jan. 3 after nearly 40 years of service. Several friends, colleagues, and community stakeholders attended a retirement reception for him in December. Hubbell has been an integral part of the research and outreach efforts at the station. He began as a dairy research assistant in 1982 and has held many assignments including that of research specialist and research associate. He has been the station's resident director since 2004. We are thankful for Don's service and dedication to the Department, Division of Agriculture, and livestock producers throughout Arkansas. ■



Don Hubbell

# Extension Homemakers Organize Toy Drive

The Lawrence County Extension Homemakers Clubs helped make Christmas brighter for local children through a toy drive held to support the Lawrence County Angel Tree project. The county service project netted a large amount of donated items, as well as over \$1,000 in cash donations. The drive started as a partnership between EHC and the Dollar General in Ravenden and expanded to include the Walnut Ridge Dollar General.

EHC member Cheri Stewart visited many businesses, especially in Ravenden and Imboden, which led to First National Bank joining the effort to collect items for the drive. Many businesses and individuals made cash donations to the project. In addition, there were some large donations made directly to the Angel Tree project by local businesses. Donations were also accepted at the recent Taste of Christmas event hosted by the Lawrence

County Scrappers EH Club. "This project just took on a life of its own," Stewart said. "We are so grateful to everyone who contributed." ■



Showing items collected are (from left): Marsha Onley, Ann Beary, Elaine Stoll, County Judge John Thomison, Mary Jane Callahan, Sandra McGinnis, County Clerk Tina Stowers and Cheri Stewart.

## Walk Across Arkansas

Keep up your New Year's Resolution by participating in the spring session of Walk Across Arkansas! Registration will open Feb. 28, with competition running March 14-May 15. Walking does not require a gym membership or expensive equipment. Join a team this spring to compete against other teams over the course of eight weeks.

Registration can be found here: <https://walk.uada.edu/walk/>. The benefits of walking include improving sleep, improving mental health, improving cognitive function, and so much more. Start getting your teams together (up to 30 participants per team), and we hope to see you walking with us this spring. ■



## CES Retiree Scholarships Available

In 2021, six CES employees received \$3,250 in scholarships to pursue a college degree or professional development opportunity. Applications for the 2022 CES Retiree Scholarship, 2022 Lynn R. Russell Endowed Award for Professional Excellence and the 2022 Mildred & Liz Childs CES Professional Development Award are now being accepted. The online application can be found at [https://uada.formstack.com/forms/prof\\_dev\\_scholarship](https://uada.formstack.com/forms/prof_dev_scholarship). Application(s) are due by close of business on Friday, Feb. 11, 2022.

Visit <https://www.uaex.uada.edu/support-units/giving/endowments.aspx> for more information about each scholarship. Please note that applicants must be actively working 50% time or greater and have three or more years of service. ■



# Christmas Community Service Food Drive

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Cross County 4-H members collected more than 300 pounds of canned goods and food for The Wynne Church of Christ Food Pantry as part of their Christmas Community Service Food Drive. ■



4-H members near Wynne (Cross County) spend a Saturday gathering food to help feed the hungry just before Christmas.



Cross County 4H members and volunteer leaders dedicated to the annual food drive.

## SWREC Welcomes Crowder College Visitors

Agriculture students from Crowder College in Neosho, Missouri, got a close-up look at nematodes, as well as insights into livestock and forage research during a Jan. 3 visit to the Southwest Research and Extension Center in Hope.

The visit was a stopover on the college students' trip to New Orleans for some urban horticulture learning. The students visited with Cathy Howard, J.D. Barham, Margie Miller and Tammy Hickey and learned about the nematode diagnostic lab.

"Many were unaware of the negative impact nematodes can have on agronomic crop production," SWREC director Daniel Rivera said. "The students went through the cycle of sample arrival, preparation and diagnosis. The kids were able to look at root knot damage, as well as look at some nematodes under the microscope."

The students also learned about research being done by Whitney Rook and Cody Shelton at the Animal Science units. Whitney discussed weaning management, and Cody discussed the cool season grasses used in their production settings.

"There was also great discussion comparing beef cattle production in southwest Arkansas and southwest Missouri," Rivera said, adding that he spoke to the group about the potential for summer internships at SWREC. "Hopefully we can get a future Razorback or two."

Crowder College instructor Jorge Zapata told Rivera that seeing the diversity of work at the SWRE was very beneficial to his students' learning. ■



Agriculture students from Crowder College in Neosho, Missouri, got a close up look at nematodes during a visit Jan. 3 to the Southwest Research and Extension Center in Hope.



The Office of Finance page has a new and improved Contracts section. A Contracts Checklist is available for download. Visit the updated page at <https://uada.edu/employees/business-office/finance/>.

Your 2021 W-2 is now available! This year, you will be receiving your 2021 W-2 electronically through Workday. Workday's secure cloud environment ensures that your sensitive information is protected and the multi-factor authentication process for Workday access prohibits unauthorized individuals from accessing your information. For questions concerning W-2s, please contact the Payroll office at payroll@uada.edu.

You may have also elected to receive a secondary copy of your W-2 in paper form, delivered through U.S. Mail. This copy will be arriving soon, but you can access the electronic version in Workday in the meantime.

The 2022 Division holiday schedule <https://uada.edu/employees/public/holiday-schedule.aspx> is now available. ■

## 2022 Division Observed Holidays

DATE	HOLIDAY
Monday, Jan. 17	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Friday, Mar. 25	Presidents' Day/Daisy Gatson Bates Day (observed Friday of Spring Break)
Monday, May 30	Memorial Day
Monday, July 4	Independence Day (Observed)
Monday, Sept. 5	Labor Day
Thursday, Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Day
Friday, Nov. 25	Day after Thanksgiving (If the Governor declares)
WINTER BREAK	
Friday, Dec.23	Christmas Eve (observed)
Monday, Dec. 26	Christmas Day (observed)
Tuesday, Dec.27	Veteran's Day (observed)
Wednesday, Dec. 28	Annual Leave*
Thursday, Dec. 29	Annual Leave
Friday, Dec.	Annual Leave
Monday, Jan. 2, 2023	New Year's Day (observed)

# Grants and Contracts

PROJECT TITLE	AWARD AMOUNT	PI	GRANTING AGENCY
Using Underutilized Farm Produce	68,590	Amanda Philyaw Perez	Arkansas Agriculture Department
Impact of Water Quality on Insecticide Applications to Cotton/22	10,000	Ben Thrash	Cotton, Inc.
Arkansas Cotton Research Verification/Sustainability Program/22	50,000	Bill Robertson	Cotton, Inc.
Increasing Profitability by Reducing Input by Improving Soil Health/22	30,000	Bill Robertson	Cotton, Inc.
Determining the Best Management Strategies for Southern Root-Knot Nematode and Target Spot in Cotton/22	13,598	Travis Faske	Cotton, Inc.
<b>TOTAL AWARDS FOR DECEMBER 2021: \$172,888</b>			



# Benefits Corner

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It is extremely important to keep your contact information current in Workday. Your Workday Profile page displays information about you, including your office location, phone number and compensation. Note that the visibility of sensitive information is controlled by individual users' security profiles. Some changes may require additional documentation or review by your HR Partner.

Please access your Workday Profile Page to manage your personal and professional contact information. To access your Workday profile page, click your Profile icon, then View Profile. Your Profile page displays.

To Add or Change your contact information:

1. Click the **Contact tab**. The Contact subtab is selected.
2. Click **Edit**. Within each section, click the Edit button to change existing information or click **Add** to add new information. You can also click within a field to edit. **Please review the privacy setting to make sure your work phone number is listed as "public"**.
3. Click **Submit**.

In addition to adding or changing your contact information on the Workday Profile Page, you may also add or change emergency contacts and your profile photo, just to name a few options. ■

## Personnel Changes

### Welcome Aboard:

Savannah Lindsey – Administrative Specialist II, Family & Consumer Science, Little Rock  
Jenna Martin – County Extension Agent - Agriculture, St. Francis County  
Gwendolynn Lehman – EFNEP Program Assistant, Clay County  
Tabatha Duvall – Program Associate - Community, Workforce & Economic Development, Community, Professional, & Economic Development, Little Rock  
Janie McCoy – 4-H Program Assistant, Madison County  
Madison Ellis – Accessibility Specialist, Information Technology, Little Rock  
Gabrielle Sanders – Program Associate - Food Systems & Food Safety, Horticulture, Little Rock  
McKenzie Rigdon – County Extension Agent - 4-H, Miller County  
Luke Duffle – County Extension Agent - Agriculture, Garland County  
Jewell Sanders – County Extension Agent - Family & Consumer Science, Calhoun County  
David Hill – Program Associate - Food Systems & Food Safety, Horticulture, Little Rock  
James Churchwell – Sr. Network Administrator, Information Technology, Little Rock

### Farewell to:

Phillip M Sims – County Extension Agent-Staff Chair - Pope County  
Eva Johnson – Associate for Administration - Agriculture and Natural Resources, Little Rock  
Chelsey A Kimbrough – Associate Professor - Specialty Livestock/Youth - Animal Science, Little Rock  
Karen K Ballard – Professor - Program & Staff Development - Community, Professional, & Economic Development, Little Rock  
Wayne P Miller – Professor - Extension Economist - Community, Professional, & Economic Development, Little Rock  
Cherrie Lynn Sweeney – 4-H Program Assistant, Union County  
Trish Ouei – County Extension Agent - Urban Storm Water Educator, Benton County  
Savannah Lee Cole – Administrative Specialist III, Carroll County  
Angelica Reyes – Program Assistant - EFNEP, Benton County  
Clayton Spafford – Program Technician - AR Discovery Farm - Crop Soil & Environmental Science, Little Rock  
Lance Allen Rice – County Extension Agent - Staff Chair, Lafayette County  
James C. Vincent – Program Assistant-EFNEP, Phillips County  
Max Franks – Procurement Counselor - Community, Professional, & Economic Development, Fayetteville  
Jim Robbins – Extension Hort Specialist - Ornamentals, Horticulture, Little Rock  
Sara Beth Johnson – County Extension Agent - 4-H & Youth Development, Lonoke County  
Ginger Ellison – Administrative Specialist III, Montgomery County  
Shonta Bean – Administrative Specialist III, Union County  
Julia Marie Fryer – Program Associate - Discovery Farms - Crop Soil & Env. Science, Little Rock  
Sarah Sky Cato – Program Technician - Horticulture, Little Rock  
Marsha P. Horton – County Extension Agent - Family & Consumer Science, Newton County

