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BLUE LETTER

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Cooperation, extension and service

Late May and June are great times to be outside, with June hosting the first day of summer and hotter weather – finally. It is the busiest of times for Extension.

This issue has many highlights of our programs and our support work, and exemplifies cooperation, Extension and service - CES. The whole is as good as its parts working together, so we are good.

I have been “itching” to mention the new statewide tick survey led by Kelly Loftin, Gus Lorenz, Hank Chaney and our many county agents. Amy Carroll told me these kits didn’t just “crawl” out the door but flew out as so many people were interested in helping. Outstanding work.

4-H seems to have caught on fire of late and even gone “wild” recently with members earning awards for wildlife knowledge. At the Bradley County tomato festival, a former 4-H member was Miss Pink Tomato – Charlee Carter, provided by our own Michelle Carter and husband Mark. Judge McKinney told me he was so proud of the Bradley County Forestry 4-H team going back to the National Competition, and several speakers at the All Tomato Luncheon noted 4-H but also that the Festival would not exist without the tireless work of Cooperative Extension and the Division. Anyway, Angie Freel and 4-H colleagues are “getting with it,” and a more awesome future for 4-H is in the works. Splendiferous.

Service is a very meaningful and important part of the Cooperative Extension Service. The Garland County 4-H program hosted the Special Needs Rodeo recently, and the Sevier County 4-H Club collected items and delivered them to flood victims in the Pocahontas area. These acts show who and why we are. Humbling.

Along with about 700 other folks, I attended part of the annual Master Gardener Conference in Little Rock recently, hosted by Pulaski County and Janet Carson and colleagues. This event was amazing. I was honored to sit with Joellen Beard,

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Members of the Tyrnza Elementary 4-H Club in Poinsett County display their finished prototype during the "Build-A-Boat Challenge." Left to right are Lane B., Daniel D., Drake W., Frankie T. and Braxton K.

Tyrnza Elementary 4-H Club uses teamwork and critical thinking to find solutions to community challenges

Members of the Tyrnza Elementary School 4-H Club in Poinsett County participated in the "Build a Boat Challenge" during their recent in-school 4-H club meeting. Students were challenged to use critical thinking and teamwork to create a model-size boat capable of carrying cargo (½ cup of dry beans) across a flooded field. The target goal was to design a boat capable of transporting livestock stranded during the recent floods that affected the area.

4-H Club leader and elementary teacher Terri Hicks said, "I am so proud of how well the students worked together to design and build their boats. This activity was a great way for the students to work together to find a solution to a real-world type problem." ■

Laura Hendrix receives volunteer management certification

Dr. Laura Hendrix was recently recognized at the Arkansas Governor's Mansion for completing the Certified Volunteer Management Program (CVM).

This nationally recognized program is sponsored by the Arkansas Public Administration Consortium and is designed for administrators, directors, managers and coordinators of volunteers and volunteer programs. Administrators and managers of volunteer programs learn strategies to effectively manage programs by applying leadership techniques proven to meet the needs of volunteers. CVM certification is recognized and supported by the State of Arkansas, Governor's Office, DHS Division of Community Service and Nonprofit Support, and many nonprofits across the state.

As an assistant professor in Family and Consumer Sciences, Hendrix provides leadership for personal finance education. She also serves as adviser to the Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council, an organization that has over 4,000 volunteers statewide. ■



Dr. Laura Hendrix

Division weed scientists learn about promising weed seed destruction technology in use in Australia



For several years, farmers in Australia have used a new technology called harvest weed seed destruction to help manage populations of resistant ryegrass. Although it has gone through many changes over the years, the technology most currently consists of a device (originally developed by Ray Harrington, a farmer) added to the back of a combine that basically destroys all weed seed as it passes through the machine.

This technology is being engineered and marketed by the Debruin Company. Dr. Micheal Walsh, a weed scientist from Australia, has worked with this concept for more than 20 years and credits it with saving much of the wheat industry affected by resistant ryegrass.

Recently, Division weed scientists Drs. Jason Norsworthy, Tom Barber and Bob Scott hosted Walsh, Harrington and engineer Jud Wheatley of Debruin to Arkansas on a "fact finding" mission to determine the best path forward in bringing this technology to U.S. farmers.

"We know it will help with ryegrass and pigweed control; we are interested in seeing what else this technology can do for Arkansas growers," says Norsworthy.

The team had a productive meeting and met with several growers around the state. "We hope to see commercial sales in the United States by 2019," says Wheatley. ■

Bradley County 4-H wins state competition; headed to Nationals

Bradley County won the Arkansas State Forestry Contest and is, for the second time, sending their team to compete at the National 4-H Invitational Contest later this summer.

The team competed in tree identification, tree measurement, compass and traverse, insect and disease identification and a forestry quiz April 21 at the School of Forestry and Natural Resources in Monticello, Arkansas.

Jon Barry, University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service forester at the Southwest Research and Extension Center, served as the contest coordinator this year.

"The take-home message for the kids is that forestry is a fun, diverse, technical field of study with many opportunities for career specialization," Barry said. "For those who enjoy science, a career in forestry affords them the opportunity to use science day to day in a career that some of us find fascinating. It's also an opportunity to work with people since forestry, at its core, is about people."

The National 4-H Forestry Invitational will take place at the Jackson's Mills State 4-H Conference Center in Weston, Virginia, July 30 through August 3. ■

4-H'ers going wild

Participants in 4-H wildlife programs recently received awards for their knowledge and skills.

4-H Wildlife Food Plot Project Junior state winner was Michael Haywood and Senior state winner was Andy Jackson, Pike County.

Eagle Seed Company of Weiner provided food plot seeds, and Quality Deer Management Association provided prizes including callers, books, hunting apparel and trail cameras. Michael Haywood also won first place – Junior Individual at the state 4-H Wildlife Habitat Education Program (WHEP) contest held April 28 in Lonoke.

The first-place Senior team which will be representing Arkansas at the National 4-H WHEP Invitational is Will Phillips, Arkansas County; Audra Bridges, Logan County; and Lindsay Walden and Riley Messer, both from Greene County. The Invitational will be held July 30 through August 2 at Rock Eagle 4-H Center in Georgia. ■



Those attending the 4-H WHEP contest learned about aquaculture at the Joe Hogan Fish Hatchery in Lonoke. Photo courtesy Junior Glover, Greene County.



4-H Wildlife Habitat Education Program (WHEP) Senior team winners were Will Phillips, Arkansas County; Audra Bridges, Logan County; Lindsay Walden and Riley Messer, both from Greene County. Photo courtesy Junior Glover, Greene County.



The first Junior 4-H Food Plot Project winner received so much swag that he needed help. Pictured are Lily Webb, 2016 WHEP Invitational teen leader, Saline County; Becky McPeake, 4-H wildlife education coordinator; and Michael Haywood, 2016-17 Junior Food Plot project winner, Greene County. Photo courtesy Junior Glover, Greene County.

What's new in publications? Find out at:
<http://www.uaex.edu/publications/new.aspx>

Chi Epsilon Sigma names 2017-2018 officers and award winners

The Beta Chapter of Chi Epsilon sigma, Extension's classified support staff professional association, held its annual meeting at the 2017 Support Staff Conference at the C.A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center May 10-12.

New Chi Epsilon sigma officers elected for the 2017-18 year are:

- President – Sandra McGinnis, Lawrence County
- President-Elect – Johnny Woodley, Little Rock State Office
- Secretary – Glenda Sutherlin, Union County
- Treasurer/Membership Chair – Cecilia Harberson, Howard County
- Administrative Adviser – Beverly Brown, Dallas County
- Annalist – Diane Cunningham, Monroe County
- Past President – Rose Dearin, Greene County
- Delta District Director – Burnita Hearne, Crittenden County
- Ouachita District Director – Dana Stringfellow, Sevier County
- LRSO District Director – Kristen Kiefer, Little Rock State Office
- Ozark District Director-Debra Schneider, Crawford County

Two member awards were given at the meeting, Support Staff Member of the Year 2017 and Rookie of the Year 2017. (See story below.) Scholarship awards were presented to Benjamin D. Fish, son of JoAnn Fish, Little Rock State Office, and to LaVerna Waddell, Little Rock State Office.

Congratulations to our new officers and award winners. We look forward to the 2018 Support Staff Conference at the 4-H Center. ■

Kathy Rawlingson and Nytalya Salter receive awards at Support Staff Conference



Left to right: Kathy Rawlingson and Cecilia Haberson

Kathy Rawlingson, administrative specialist for Boone County, and Nytalya Salter, FMLA wellness specialist, Little Rock State Office, received awards from Chi Epsilon Sigma at the annual Support Staff Conference at the C.A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center May 10-12.

Rawlingson received the Support Staff Member of The Year award. Each year a deserving employee from one of Arkansas' 75 counties is chosen by his or her peers to receive this award.

She was nominated by her staff chair, Nita Cooper, who said: "A 'self-starter,' efficient, competent, dependable and team player are just a few of the words that I would use to describe Kathy. Kathy has served as administrative specialist in Boone county for over 15 years she has used her skills to develop record keeping systems, handle difficult clientele with ease, provide assistance to co-workers and implement processes to help the office run smoothly. The assistance that Kathy provides to coworkers truly makes our job easier. She is very quick to offer suggestions and to help co-workers with program preparations. Weekly itineraries and county depository account forms and reports developed or adapted by Kathy have been used as examples of 'Best Management Practices' with other counties. She has served as a mentor to support staff in other counties. She is a true asset to the Boone County Cooperative Extension Service. She exemplifies the values of the Division of Agriculture – integrity, collaboration, accountability, relevance, and excellence."

Nytalya Salter received the Rookie of the Year award. This award is presented to a new member who has been with Extension from one to three years. The recipient is chosen by his or her peers to receive this award.

Salter was nominated by Del Johnson, benefits manager, Little Rock State Office, who said: "Nytalya's work ethic is exemplary. She is extremely professional, trustworthy, credible and thorough. She displays sound judgment, common sense, and flexibility in all assigned areas of responsibility. She is discreet, cordial and informative in dealing with FMLA and sensitivity. Her words and actions demonstrate an understanding of and appreciation for Extension's nondiscrimination policy, among many other great qualities."

Also nominating Salter was Patricia Johnson, human resources specialist, LRSO, who said; "I have known and worked with her for over a year and have always found her dependable, efficient and willing to go out of her way to help people. She also projects a warm, cheerful attitude to everyone that needs her assistance. She loves people, works hard and always tries to lift the spirits around her. I believe these characteristics represent all that is good in our company." ■



Extension brings yoga to Dardanelle Middle School

Recently, Yell County partnered with the Dardanelle Middle School Physical Education department to conduct two weeks of Yoga for Kids in the physical education classes with over 200 students participating. The teachers wanted to show students, who may have trouble with traditional exercises, that there are many forms of physical exercises available that they could be successful with. Each student's flexibility was tested before the two weeks began with a sit-and-reach test. When tested at the end of the two weeks, 70 percent of the students increased their flexibility. The result from evaluations conducted show generally positive views of yoga as an exercise they would like to continue. Most listed the calming effects of yoga and how much less stress they felt after completing the program as results of the program. ■



Left to right: Sandra McGinnis, Rose Dearin, Glenda Sutherlin, Cecilia Harberson, Beverly Brown, Diane Cunningham, Dana Stringfellow, Debra Schneider, Burnita Hearne and Kristen Kiefer. (Not pictured: Johnny Woodley)



Nytalya Salter

BENEFITS CORNER

Health and Retirement Reminders

As a reminder:

- Employees covered under the University's UMR health insurance will see a **premium increase** effective July 1. The overall increase in cost to the self-funded insurance plan will result in a slightly less than 2 percent increase in the employer premium and in your premium.
- The **mandatory retirement contribution** increases effective July 1 to 2 percent.
- The University is in the process of **updating retirement investment options**. Fidelity and TIAA will remain the investment providers for the University's 403(b)/457(b) Retirement Plan. A transition brochure was mailed to participants over the last few weeks that provided information on the new tiered fund lineup. For those participants who do not choose investment options from the new lineup, his or her current account balances, payroll contributions and future investment elections will be mapped to the investment option that most closely aligns with his or her current investment choices in October. If participants are happy with the new fund lineup and the movement of their current investments into the new lineup, everything will occur automatically for them.

Information regarding these changes is available by emailing yourbenefits@uaex.edu or calling HR: 501-671-2219.

Please keep your home address updated in Banner Self Service. ■

Save the Date

State Faculty Conference, Little Rock State Office Auditorium – Dec. 4, 2017, 10 a.m.

Agricultural Awards Luncheon, Don Tyson Center for Agricultural Sciences, Fayetteville (near Pauline Whitaker Arena) – Jan. 12, 2018

7th Annual Symposium: Current Issues and Advances in Food Animal Wellbeing
Thursday, August 3, 2017



U of A DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
 RESEARCH & EXTENSION
 University of Arkansas System
foodanimalwellbeing.uark.edu

REGISTRATION: \$25.00 (lunch provided with pre-registration). To register online: foodanimalwellbeing.uark.edu/annual-symposium

LOCATION: Leland Tollet Auditorium, John W. Tyson Poultry Science Building, 1260 W. Maple, Fayetteville, Arkansas

Symposium Agenda includes:

- 8:30 am **Welcome** Karen Christensen, PhD, Extension Poultry Specialist/Assoc. Prof.
- 8:45 am **Considerations and Innovations in Transporting Day-Old Chicks and Poultry Breeding Stock** – Kate Barger, DVM, Dir. World Animal Welfare, Cobb-Vantress, Siloam Springs
- 9:30 am **Characterization of the Thermal Micro Climate of Broilers during Transport** – Yi Liang, PhD, Assoc. Prof., Extension, Agriculture and Biological Engineering, University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, Fayetteville
- 10:15 am Break
- 10:30 am **My Experience with Transportation of Commercial Hogs** – Jason McAlister, Dir., Animal Welfare, Triumph Foods, St. Joseph, Missouri
- 11:15 am **Managing Beef Cattle Health and Wellbeing: Challenges and Opportunities** – Jeff Carroll, Ph.D., Research Leader, USDA-Agricultural Research Service, Livestock Issues Research Unit, Lubbock, Texas
- 12:00 noon Lunch will be provided with pre-registration
- 1:00 pm **Technology will Advance Animal Wellbeing** – Hongwei Xin, PhD, Dir., Egg Industry Center, Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering/Animal Science, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa
- 1:45 pm **We Are All In this Together** – Yvonne Thaxton, PhD, Emeritus Dir., Center of Food Animal Wellbeing, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville
- 2:00 pm **Impact on Wildlife Refuges** – Emily McCormack, Animal Curator and Internship Director, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, Eureka Springs
- 2:30 pm **Impact on Purebred Dog Breeders** – Stacy Mason, Sr. Breeder Field Representative, American Kennel Club (AKC)
- 3:00 pm Break
- 3:15 pm **Impact on Medical Research** – Kimberly J. Murphy, LATG, CMAR, CPIA, IACUC Research Compliance Analyst, UAMS, Little Rock
- 3:45 pm **Impact on the Legal System** – Elizabeth Rumley, B.A., JD, LL.M, Senior Staff Attorney, National Agricultural Law Center, Division of Agriculture, Fayetteville
- 4:15 pm **Questions for Panel**
- 4:30 pm **Wrap up and Adjourn**

Connect with us!
 Center for Food Animal Wellbeing
 @FoodAnimalWellb

Little Rock 4-H In-School student earns scholarship to poultry workshop



"It's like chicken heaven!" said Seth Dawson from the North Little Rock Middle School 4-H Program.

North Little Rock Middle School students set out on a new adventure this year by adding a 4-H In-School Club to their school farm with the help of Pulaski County agents Erica Williams and Andrew Sayger. The North Little Rock Community Farm is a blend of school farm and community garden and managed by students at the school.

One student in particular, Seth Dawson, earned the opportunity to attend P. Allen Smith's Poultry Workshop with a scholarship to cover the expense of attendance offered to all 4-H members. 4-H'ers were required to turn in an application and essay, where Dawson explained he was "obsessed with chickens." Dawson said he enjoyed researching different breeds of chickens, and several of his farm projects included building a chicken obstacle course.

Social media posts included photos documenting the day with captions from Dawson exclaiming the event was like "chicken heaven." In a discussion with P. Allen Smith, Dawson learned that the farm owned a broody Bantam hen, and Smith later sent Dawson home with fertile eggs, which resulted in three new birds for his flock.

Seth, his mom, and his teacher/4-H volunteer leader, K.J. Kite, said that the workshop was the experience of a lifetime. NLR's program will be expanded with the new birds and will also include a

Silver Pencilled Plymouth and Black Crevecoeur that Dawson's parents purchased for donation to the farm, as well as the three newly hatched chicks. The North Little Rock Middle School 4-H Club is looking forward to the Arkansas State Fair this year, where they plan to showcase their poultry. ■

Sevier County 4-H club makes long haul for Pocahontas donations

As definitions of "neighbor" go, the 280-plus miles gap between DeQueen and Pocahontas, Ark., might push the envelope for some folks looking to lend a helping hand. But for members of the Lakeside 4-H Club, based in DeQueen, responding to calls from those in need after natural disasters has become almost reflexive.

After collecting and delivering donations to tornado survivors in Moore, Oklahoma, in 2013 and Mayflower/Vilonia in 2014, doing the same for flooding survivors in the northeastern Arkansas town only seemed like an obvious call to service.

In early May, many Pocahontas residents had to evacuate their homes as torrential rains caused nearby rivers to top their banks, flooding wide swaths of Randolph and other counties. Agronomists with the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture estimated that the flooding had caused approximately \$175 million in crop loss related damaged, destroying about 360,000 acres of rice and other crops.

On Wednesday, Sevier County Cooperative Extension Service Staff Chair Rex Herring delivered a 20-foot horse trailer of donated clothing, canned food and other supplies to the Randolph County Nursing Home, which is currently serving as the area's primary emergency shelter. He was accompanied by Alec Turner, 13, and Brennen Seymour, 16, both members of the Lakeside 4-H Club.

Herring said that after Randolph County Cooperative Extension Service Staff Chair Mike Andrews issued a list of needed supplies to Extension offices across the state in mid-May, he offered to provide transportation for whatever donations members of the local 4-H club could muster.

"I told them that if they put the donations together, I would get them to Pocahontas," Herring said. "And the 4-H'ers stepped up. They made it happen."

Raul Blasini, a volunteer with the Ministerial Alliance currently helping to run the shelter, said the city had received an overwhelming number of donations. ■



Alec Turner, 13, left, and Brennen Seymour, 16, both members of the Lakeside 4-H Club in Sevier County, helped deliver a 20-foot horse trailer full of donated goods to Pocahontas on May 31. Many residents in the town were forced to evacuate their homes due to flooding in early May.

Extension-sponsored homesteading conference draws visitors from five states

March 31 through April 1 was a beautiful weekend for the 4th Annual Arkansas Homesteading Conference held in Rison.

Attendance was slightly down from the previous year, with an estimated attendance for the two-day event at about 400. Event organizers think the perfect weekend weather kept many potential attendees at home planting their gardens ahead of the anticipated Sunday rain.

Regardless, the event drew visitors from 20 different Arkansas counties and five states which included Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi and Tennessee.

This year's format differed slightly from previous year's, offering two days of educational programs and demonstrations versus one day. At the forefront of the educational programs were some of Arkansas Extension's finest, including JoAnn Vann, Family and Consumer Sciences agent, Clark County, teaching ricotta cheese making from goat's milk; Keith Gresham, staff chair, Dallas County, discussing feral hog control and demonstrating hog trapping; Bill Robertson, Extension cotton agronomist, discussing how to improve soil health; and Les Walz, staff chair, Cleveland County, giving a "what we've learned" tour of the community garden and demonstration high tunnel.

Other educational programs included aquaponics (UAPB), heritage beekeeping (presented by 98-year-old bee keeper Elvin Bates of Monticello), old time farm ways, crossover herbs, heritage poultry, blacksmithing, dutch oven cooking, hand auger well digging and youth activities such as making butter in a jar.

New this year, the Arkansas Homesteading Conference is taking a road trip to Harrison, Arkansas, June 23. Make plans now to attend and support this Extension-sponsored program in Northwest Arkansas. ■



JoAnn Vann shows how to make cheese.



Bill Robertson.



Educational exhibit at homesteading conference.

Gov. Hutchinson addresses Kickstart Lonoke press conference

May 18 was a great day for Lonoke. Nearly 120 people attended an outdoor ceremony in downtown Lonoke, where the Kickstart Lonoke strategic action plan was unveiled to the public.

The keynote address was given by special guest Gov. Asa Hutchinson, who told the crowd, "I have always looked at Lonoke as a place of opportunity." The governor outlined his keys to economic development and highlighted recent successes in the Delta region.

Kickstart Lonoke emerged from a development process facilitated by the University of Central Arkansas Community Development Institute and Cooperative Extension Service Breakthrough Solutions program. Key issues and action teams were formed to address beautification and recreation, downtown and retail development, housing and real estate, infrastructure and jobs and education.

Congratulations to the Kickstart Lonoke executive team and action teams for their great work in developing a strategic action plan that will guide the community's progress for the next five years. You may download the action plan here:

<https://kickstartlonoke.wordpress.com/actionplan/>. ■

Cleburne, Searcy, Stone and Van Buren counties conduct educational beef and forage tour to Texas

Thirty-eight producers participated in a four-day educational beef and forage tour to Texas April 25-59. Photos show high points of the tour. ■



Dr. Monte Rouquette from Texas A&M discusses grazing studies on ryegrass trials at the Overton Station.



Santa Gertrudis cattle at the King Ranch where the breed originated.



Producers learning about feral hog control research at the Overton Texas A&M Research and Extension Center.



Gov. Hutchinson speaking at Kickstart Lonoke press conference.



Tour participants at 44 Farms in Cameron, Texas.



The original Livery Stable at the Historic King Ranch.

Locally grown produce featured at Subway

Throughout June, Arkansas' Triple M Farms will have produce featured across the state's Subway stores, the world's largest submarine sandwich chain. This is the third year of the "locally grown" program that features a partnership between Del Monte Fresh and central Arkansas Subway retailers.

The program began in the summer of 2014 and has continued to grow and expand its product offering. The initial effort only included vine-ripened, locally produced tomatoes. This year's program will feature freshly delivered tomatoes, cucumbers and green bell peppers.

Triple M Farms is located in Hamburg and is having a solid production year for the upcoming season. One of the owners, James Meeks, says that retailers actively seek ways to connect with growers to supply fresh products because consumers are demanding local products.

Ron Rainey has worked with Del Monte for over a decade promoting buy local initiatives. Rainey says this effort largely results from the leadership and dedication of Andy Goldring who is now the senior director of operations in Del Monte Fresh's Dallas facility. Rainey uses MarketMaker, an online marketing program, to help Arkansas growers connect with retailers.

To learn more about MarketMaker visit <https://www.uaex.edu/farm-ranch/economics-marketing/market-maker/>. ■



Cooperation, extension and service, cont.

Kathy Ratcliff, Judge Barry Hyde and wife Jeanne, somebody named Craig O'Neill and his impressive wife Jane and some others I have forgotten, sorry. Of note was that the Pulaski County Master Gardeners contributed approximately \$500,000 last year in volunteer service. Always an ever impressive bunch.

I attended the annual Extension Homemakers Council meeting in Hot Springs the other day and was adequately humbled by the work and dedication of this largest volunteer organization in the state, credited with about \$5.8 million dollars in service each year. I helped Rosemary Rodibaugh present service awards to several members, starting at 50 years and going up to Marie Price of Prairie County with 76 years of service. Makes one think. Five high to Laura Hendrix, our newly minted CVM and extension coordinator for EHC along with Melody Curtis, Lisa Washburn, Brittany Schrick, Debie Head, Rachel Price, Carla Hadley, Martha Sartor and other FCS colleagues that helped put this together. I sincerely appreciate EHC and their leadership including Johnette Johnson and Karen Bell Fox. Inspiring.

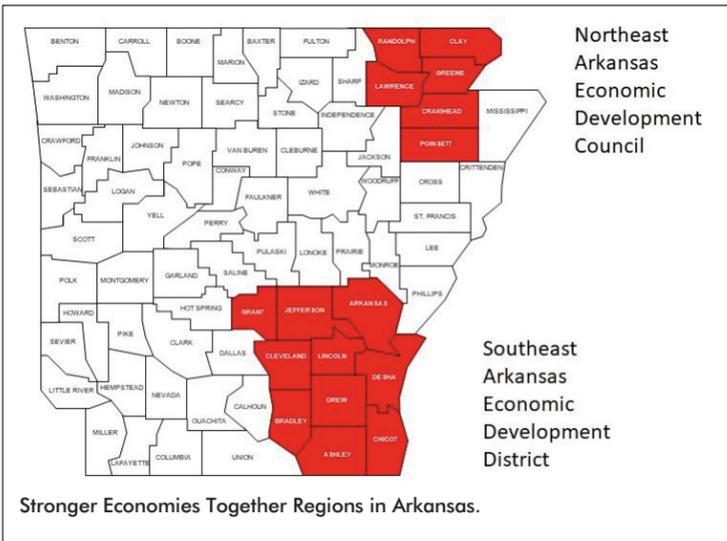
Our CED programs have also been "on fire" with agents and specialists hosting the Homesteading Conference in Rison again, with plans for a later one in Harrison. These are worth attending, even incognito as Extension Director. CED also was awarded two SET regions in Northeast and Southeast Arkansas recently to work with USDA Rural Development on community and regional economic improvement. This fits well with Dr. Stacey McCullough's vision of Rural Entrepreneurship in Arkansas for the coming years. Thanks to Mark Peterson for continuing to lead and innovate the Breakthrough Solutions program with our many partners, which hosted KickStart Lonoke featuring the Governor recently, and also hosted the annual Breakthrough Solutions Conference in Little Rock on "re-inventing" communities. This conference was well attended and featured some really trailblazing content and guest speakers. Our rural counties and communities are under tremendous stress today, but we plan to continue helping communities progress through technology, valid solutions and working together. Great work.

Service through innovation is also a theme for our weed scientists, recently hosting representatives of "cutting edge" technology for long-term control of weeds by destroying weed seed during harvest. Like many of our ANR specialists, these colleagues work tirelessly to stay in front and figure out ways to serve farmers in tough times. Remarkable effort.

Finally, kudos to our support staff without whom most of us would simply run around with our hair on fire but not "stay on track." I have had many calls about the effort of Burl Scifres and our purchasing staff, Diana Morian and the IT folks and Amy Hedges for implementing DocuSign. In this issue, please note the support staff mentioned; I appreciate all of them for working hard each day and taking up the challenge of finding new ways to help and doing so in a friendly, customer service way. Sincere thanks.

Have a great June, it is the best month of the year!

- Dr. Rick Cartwright ■



Two Arkansas regions selected for Stronger Economies Together program

USDA Rural Development has selected two regions in Arkansas to participate in Stronger Economies Together (SET). SET enables communities and counties in rural America to work together in developing and implementing an economic development blueprint for their multi-county region that strategically builds on the current and emerging economic strengths of that region. The SET regions in Arkansas include six counties that are part of the Northeast Arkansas Economic Development Council and 10 counties in the Southeast Arkansas Economic Development District.

Development along with area USDA Rural Development personnel will guide each region through the strategic planning process and provide technical assistance for the first several months in implementation. Other program partners include the Southern Rural Development Center and the Purdue Center for Regional Development. Regions from Indiana, Missouri, North Carolina and New Mexico were also selected to participate in SET. ■

County agents prepare to facilitate statewide tick study



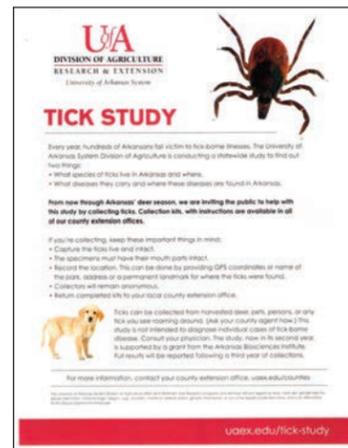
Hank Chaney, Kelly Loflin and agriculture agents from the Ozark district discuss the tick project.

been small scale – concentrated on one disease, a region or a certain tick species.”

Anyone can collect samples– hunters who find live ticks on harvested deer; hikers, gardeners and folks who are active in the outdoors; pet owners whose dogs or cats have some hitchhikers, and anyone with an interest in being part of a statewide science project that will provide some important answers for questions surrounding this public health issue. It is also an opportunity to teach tick biology of this common Arkansas scourge and how to protect one’s self from diseases spread by ticks. ■

County agents from all over the state gathered last month to receive training on ticks, tick-borne disease and to receive tick-kits as part of a University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture project.

Trainings were held in Russellville, Hope, Jonesboro and Stuttgart. Agents will distribute tick kits to their clientele interested in participating as citizen scientists. “This project will provide much-needed statewide information on tick distribution and the diseases they carry,” said Kelly Loflin, an extension entomologist. “There have been a few previous tick and tick-borne disease studies conducted in Arkansas, but most have



Garland County 4-H’ers host Special Needs Rodeo

A picture is worth a thousand words, but on this day the smiles on the faces of the kids spoke volumes! Those smiles were seen on the faces of 98 students from four different schools participating in the 3rd Annual Special Needs Rodeo hosted by Garland County 4-H. Members of the Cool Clovers 4-H Club helped them with the activities of the day.

Children were greeted with a line of high fives as they got off their buses. They were adorned with kerchiefs and cowboy hats just inside the rodeo grounds.

Stick horse events, goat undecorating, bucking barrel and roping were among the events the kids experienced. They handled baby goats, ducks, chickens, dogs and a pony. The donkey, Bradley, gave them a hearty “hee-haw”!

This day was all about the chance for every single child to participate. Many students seemed to connect with the animals.

Along with participants, helpers and adults were also impacted. “I loved seeing the shy kids finally joining in and so excited when they finished!” said one 4-H member. A teacher commented, “For three years one of my students would never get on the bucking barrel, and this year he did. He was so proud!” ■

Howard County hosts new forage demonstration

County agent Kaycee Davis is taking field demonstrations very seriously. In cooperation with Blair Griffin, Kenny Simon, John Jennings and Blake Williams, she implemented a replicated forage demonstration featuring seven treatments to evaluate the effect of conventional foliar-sprayed herbicides for weed control and separately applied dry fertilizer versus a new technology that impregnates herbicide in traditional dry fertilizer for weed control. Basically, this demonstration indicated that the new herbicide-impregnated fertilizer combination was very easy to apply and use and resulted in good weed control and forage production overall. However, in the replicated plots, buttercup was not controlled well by this treatment, but a larger strip in the farmer’s field nearby resulted in good buttercup control.

Like all good demonstrations or applied field research, the results raised some interesting questions and further work in the region is planned, but for now, it appears this new technology has promise for broadening the tools available to cattle and forage producers in Arkansas.

We hope these team efforts to improve forage and cattle production using new technology continue to gain strength. ■



Foliage GrazonNext HL + fertilizer, treatment 4.



Impregnated dry fertilizer, treatment 7.

Grants and Contracts for Month Ending May 31, 2017

Project Title	Award Amount	Principal Investigator	Granting Agency
Enhanced Communication	\$ 9,000	Bill Robertson	Cotton Incorporated
Potassium (K) Losses in Runoff on Arkansas Discovery Farms	10,040	Bill Robertson	Agriculture Experiment Station
Field Trial Agreement	30,000	Bob Scott	Bayer Crop Science LP
Evaluation of Bayer ID17USABZZ USW1 Sivanto et al Compounds 2017 Row Crop Efficacy Lorenz	6,000	Gus Lorenz	Bayer Crop Science LP
NA5Q8AH00A-Efficacy and Protein Expression of New WideStrike Varieties	28,500	Gus Lorenz	Dow AgroSciences LLC
Suboptimal Conditions Affecting Nitrogen Management	27,000	Jarrold Hardke	Rice Research Promotion Board
Wheat Verification	14,000	Jason Kelley	Wheat Promotion Board
4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Training	5,000	Jesse Bocksnick	NRA Foundation
4-H Shooting Sports Range Events State Competition	27,000	Jesse Bocksnick	NRA Foundation
National 4-H Shooting Sports Championships 2017	12,720	Jesse Bocksnick	NRA Foundation
Springdale Bioswale Demonstration at Recycling Drop Off Center	19,417	Katherine Teague	Arkansas Forestry Commission
NWA Construction Education Assessment	2,200	Katherine Teague	Beaver Water District
National 4-H Council OJJDP Arkansas 4-H Mentoring Program	86,884	Lisa Cook	National 4-H Council
CDI Advanced Year Project	3,000	Mark Peterson	University of Central Arkansas
2017 NRA Foundation Greene County 4-H Shooting Sports Cash Awards	3,000	Martha Ray Sartor	NRA Foundation
2017 NRA Foundation Cleburne County 4-H Shooting Sports Cash Awards	3,742	Martha Ray Sartor	NRA Foundation
2017 NRA Foundation Lawrence County 4-H Shooting Sports Cash Awards	3,200	Martha Ray Sartor	NRA Foundation
2017 NRA Foundation Monroe County 4-H Shooting Sports Cash Awards	2,570	Martha Ray Sartor	NRA Foundation
2017 NRA Foundation Poinsett County 4-H Shooting Sports Cash Awards	3,742	Martha Ray Sartor	NRA Foundation
2017 NRA Foundation Logan County 4-H Shooting Sports Cash Awards	607	Martha Ray Sartor	NRA Foundation
2017 NRA Foundation Madison County 4-H Shooting Sports Cash Awards	1,000	Martha Ray Sartor	NRA Foundation
2017 NRA Foundation Lonoke County 4-H Shooting Sports Cash Awards	3,740	Martha Ray Sartor	NRA Foundation
2017 NRA Foundation Sebastian County 4-H Shooting Sports Cash Awards	2,544	Martha Ray Sartor	NRA Foundation
2017 NRA Foundation White County 4-H Shooting Sports Cash Awards	3,742	Martha Ray Sartor	NRA Foundation
2017 NRA Foundation Pulaski County 4-H Shooting Sports Cash Awards	1,980	Martha Ray Sartor	NRA Foundation
2017 NRA Foundation Johnson County 4-H Shooting Sports Cash Awards	3,600	Martha Ray Sartor	NRA Foundation
ISM-555 CP NA DC100 Rate Definition-Stink Bugs on Soybean	7,860	Nick Seiter	Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc.
NA17T9J002 AND NA17T9J003 - Spray Seeding Plans	10,000	Nick Seiter	Dow AgroSciences LLC
2017 Sugarcane Aphid (SCA) Research - Best Management Practices	12,000	Nick Seiter	United Sorghum Checkoff Program Board
Evaluation of an Immunoglobulin Product as an Antibiotic Alternative for Broiler Production	20,900	Susan Watkins	Puretein Agri LLC
Crop Protection Market Development for Selective Chemistry - Cotton	16,060	Tom Barber	Monsanto Company
Novel Strategies for Managing Blast Diseases on Rice and Wheat	13,462	Yeshi Wamishe	Agriculture Experiment Station
Total Awards for May 2017	\$394,510		

Personnel changes

Please welcome the following:

Loren Cain, EFNEP Program Assistant, Pulaski County, effective May 1, 2017.

Cindy Dawson, Payroll Manager, Financial Services, effective May 1, 2017.

Anabel Grunauer, EFNEP Program Assistant, Pulaski County, effective May 1, 2017.

Shawn Lancaster, County Extension Agent - Agriculture, Mississippi County, effective April 17, 2017.

Ryan Neal, County Extension Agent - Agriculture, Benton County, effective April 17, 2017.

Allie Phillips, 4-H Program Assistant, Lawrence County, effective May 1, 2017.

Rachael Price, Program Technician, Family and Consumer Sciences, effective May 1, 2017.

Kim Wallis, Administrative Specialist, Benton County, effective May 1, 2017.

Celia Boon, County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences, Benton County, effective May 31, 2017.

Pamela Ferrill, Print Shop Manager, Print Shop, effective May 31, 2017.

Dawn Fortner, 4-H Program Assistant, Sevier County, effective May 12, 2017.

Robin Moore, Program Assistant - 4-H, Fulton County, effective May 31, 2017.

Vickie Perkins, County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences, Columbia County, effective May 4, 2017.

Kris Rutherford, Pre-Award Grants Officer, Office of Sponsored Programs, effective May 31, 2017.

Gus Wilson, County Extension Agent - Staff Chair, Chicot County, effective May 4, 2017.