

BLUE LETTER

The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Monthly Letter

No. 3767 • March 2016

FROM THE DIRECTOR

4-H Grows Here

There's a good chance you'll be hearing and seeing a new phrase this year: "4-H Grows Here." This slogan is the heart of a new promotional campaign launched by national 4-H with a tool kit to help state 4-H programs to introduce or re-introduce to our neighbors the benefits of the nation's largest youth development program. "4-H Grows Here" works on so many levels. Not only does it describe the youth who take part, but also the qualities 4-H imbues in its members such as confidence, responsibility and independence. And even with nearly six million youth involved nationwide, in 4-H, there's always room for more.

It's also a good time to remember that 4-H is unique in youth development. It is conducted in partnership with 110 universities across the country with all of its programs solidly backed by research.

In Arkansas, we are looking to expand our 140,000-plus members through in-school 4-H programs. We want as many youth as possible to benefit from learning skills that will last a lifetime – leadership, healthier life choices and increased educational opportunities.

I hope you'll take to heart the idea that "4-H Grows Here." When 4-H grows, we all do.

– Tony Windham



DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION

University of Arkansas System

University of Arkansas,
United States Department of
Agriculture, and County
Governments Cooperating

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Arkansas Ag Hall of Fame inducts Huey

Former extension rice specialist Bobby Huey was among the six 2016 inductees to the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame.

Huey, along with the late W.H. "Bill" Caldwell of Rose Bud, the late Hank Chamberlin of Monticello, poultry executive Gary C. George of Springdale, rice farmer David Hillman of Almyra, and cattleman John Frank Pendergrass of Charleston, were inducted in a formal ceremony on March 4.

Huey spent 33 years with University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, including 20 years as a rice specialist

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Bobby Huey, former extension rice specialist, was among the 2016 class of inductees at the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame. Huey poses with some of his well-wishers after the formal ceremony.

DR. TONY WINDHAM
Associate Vice President for
Agriculture - Extension and
Director, Cooperative Extension Service

Robin Hollis is Bradley County Employee of the Year

Robin Hollis, Bradley County administrative specialist, was recently named Bradley County Employee of the Year at the Bradley County Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Gala.

Help us congratulate Robin for this well-deserved honor. ■



Arkansas Flower & Garden Show marks 25 years of learning

While the spectacular gardens, vendors and how-to talks may change, one thing has remained a constant through the 25 years of the Arkansas Flower and Garden Show: it funds scholarships for students and grants for beautification projects. Since 2006, the Arkansas Flower and Garden Show has given more than \$61,000 in scholarships and nearly \$80,000 in grants, all funded from the sale of tickets.



“Education has truly been at the root of the Arkansas Flower and Garden Show,” said Krista Quinn, the show’s executive director. “The scholarships have benefited horticulture students at the University of Arkansas, Arkansas Tech, Arkansas State University and Southern Arkansas University.

“And on a personal level, I was fortunate enough to be one of the early scholarship recipients,” she said. “Working for the show is a way of giving back to the organization that helped me earn my college degree and it’s incredibly rewarding that we continue to support the next generation of horticulture professionals in the state.”

This year’s “Silver Celebrations” themed anniversary show was held Feb. 26-28 at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock.

Attendance figures were still being tallied at publication time. See an album of photos from the show at www.flickr.com/photos/uacescomm/albums/72157665071801712 and Kerry Rodtnick’s cool time lapse of the whole show is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=baoSx2StEI0>. ■

EFNEP and UAMS team up to teach healthy habits to Marshallese community



Marshallese participants receive diplomas on completing EFNEP Eating Smart-Being Active classes.

There are an estimated 10,000 to 12,000 Marshallese living in Northwest Arkansas communities. The Washington and Benton County EFNEP programs partnered with the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences’ (UAMS) northwest campus in Fayetteville in 2015 to encourage healthy eating and physical activity for Marshallese families.

After a presentation to UAMS staff members by Celia Boon, FCS agent in Benton County and EFNEP supervisor, the staff agreed the Eating Smart-Being Active curriculum, designed for para-professional nutrition educators to use in teaching limited resource families with young children about healthy lifestyle choices, would be an appropriate program to use to encourage healthy habits for Marshallese families.

The classes are taught in community churches, made available through the assistance of church pastors who see the need to improve the health of their congregations.

The connection with UAMS and the churches has led to ongoing EFNEP classes and, so far, the graduation of three groups of Marshallese women. The husbands of the participants became interested in the classes, so some of the men are now attending the Eating Smart-Being Active lessons.

The classes are taught by Kim Krummel, EFNEP program assistant in Washington County. ■

Arkansas Ag Hall of Fame Inducts Huey (cont.)

at the organization’s experiment station in Stuttgart. During his long career, Huey received numerous honors, including an Extension Specialist of the Year Award, an Arkansas Farm Bureau Service Award, John White Outstanding Extension Award and a “Friend of the Farmer” Award from Riceland Foods Inc.

Huey drew laughter from the packed house when he declared that the ceremony was so important, that he’d traveled over 1,000 miles “from Okeechobee, Florida, in the middle of crappie-spawning season to attend.” ■

Benton County teams with KUAF to spotlight Ozarks ag

The Benton County Extension Office has teamed up with KUAF-FM in Fayetteville to throw the station's Community Spotlight on agriculture in the Ozarks.

The monthlong series features a different facet of agriculture such as the Farm to School program for local produce in schools, or agritourism, and is hosted by Neal Mays, Benton County ag agent and Johnny Gunsaulis, Benton County staff chair. And talk about homegrown – even the music is all Division of Agriculture – composed and performed by fruit breeder John Clark.

Shortened versions of the segments can be found on the KUAF site or the full programs can be found here: <http://www.uaex.edu/media-resources/news/>.

The series is produced in partnership with KUAF Operations Manager Pete Hartman. ■



2016 Arkansas Outdoor School Summer Day Camp dates set

This year's Summer Day Camp will be June 13 - August 5. Remember that Extension employees receive a 25% discount. ■

Like us on Facebook @ AOS Summer Day Camp

Arkansas Outdoor School
AOS
Summer Day Camp

www.uaex.edu/daycamp

Swimming • Canoeing • Archery • Rock Climbing • Arts & Crafts • Hiking

For Campers 7-15 Years Old • June 13-August 5

Outdoor Adventures • Creativity Camp • Teen Camp • Makers Camp
Natural State of Science • Sports of all Sorts • Science in Action
CSI/Mystery • Wilderness Skills • Greatest Hits

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For more info contact Mike Simmons:
(501) 821-6884 or daycamp@uaex.edu
or go to Arkansas4HCenter.org

What's new in publications?
Find out at:

<http://www.uaex.edu/publications/new.aspx>

BENEFITS CORNER

University Health Plan – Spouse and Dependent Child Eligibility Verification Process

Aon Hewitt has started mailing letters announcing the Dependent Eligibility Verification to employees who are enrolled in the University health plan with coverage for a spouse or dependent children.

If you do not cover your spouse or dependent children in the University UMR health plan, you will not receive a letter for the dependent verification.

Carefully review the letter(s) and any follow up information you receive and respond with the requested documentation to Aon Hewitt as quickly as possible. The University wants to extend coverage opportunities to all eligible participants, but if the needed documentation is not provided for spouses and children, they will be deemed ineligible and coverage will be terminated.

If you do cover a spouse or children on the health plan, you may want to begin collecting routine documents such as your marriage license, birth certificates and prior year federal tax return (first page only, showing dependents, with all monetary information blacked out).

All questions about acceptable documentation, alternative document options and questions about details of the verification process should be directed to the Aon Hewitt Dependent Verification Center at the number provided on the notification letter(s). ■

Meet the *new* employees!



Jonathan Brown
SNAP-Ed Technical Assistance
Coordinator
Little Rock State Office

- **What's your background?**

I am an English major and former IT and networking technician for an office supply company. The former did not assist in the latter as much as you might suspect.

- **What knowledge, skills and experience are you bringing to Extension?**

I have extensive experience with assisting users in troubleshooting electronic interfaces that aren't Mac related.

- **What are one or two things you would like your colleagues to know about you?**

I am a Libra and have been described by some as very punctual.

- **What would you like to accomplish your first year with Extension?**

I would like to master the myriad aspects of my new position and dream of discovering an early morning, traffic-free route from my house that circumvents University Avenue.

- **What brought you to Extension? What was it about Extension that you value?**

My time at Extension began about two years ago when I took a temporary position while attending UALR, which worked very well with my shifting schedule. I value the people of Extension, who have always appeared cordial and dedicated.

- **What are your interests or hobbies outside of work?**

I enjoy hiking and reading classical literature, though nearly never at the same time. ■



Justin Chlapecka
County Extension Agent -
Agriculture
Poinsett County

- **What's your background?**

I graduated with my Master of Science in agriculture in December 2015. I was on an Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board fellowship, and my thesis research topic was using evapotranspiration and soil moisture sensor cues for timing soybean irrigation.

- **What knowledge, skills and experience are you bringing to Extension?**

I feel that I bring a good working knowledge of both soybean production and irrigation of row crops. Also, being straight out of school, I bring good writing and social media skills to the table that can help us get the word out about the work we are doing in Poinsett County.

- **What are one or two things you would like your colleagues to know about you?**

I would like my colleagues to know that I'm always available if I can assist someone in any way, and also that I am always open to learning from others.

- **What would you like to accomplish your first year with Extension?**

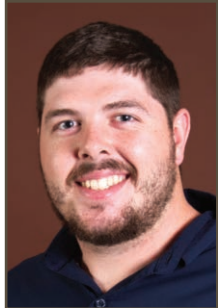
I would like to get to know many people in the county on not just a working level but also on a personal level as well. I feel that the best way to convey the resources that we possess at the county level is to maintain a good relationship within the county, community and the individuals within.

- **What brought you to Extension? What was it about Extension that you value?**

What brought me to Extension was the prospect of delivering helpful and useful information to people who need that information to maintain their livelihood, possessions and the environment. I value that we have nonbiased educational resources to help Arkansans live quality lives.

- **What are your interests or hobbies outside of work?**

Outside of work you'll usually find me enjoying the finest of the Natural State. I love to hunt ducks, deer and turkey. I also enjoy fishing, vegetable gardening and attending A-State Red Wolves athletic events. ■



Cody Griffin

County Extension Agent -
Agriculture
St. Francis County

- **What's your background?**

I grew up on a row crop farm in Greene County growing rice, corn, soybeans, cotton and wheat. I raised hogs and cattle as well. I was a career 4-H'er and was a state 4-H officer at large and state Governor's Award recipient. I showed livestock on a national level with hogs and cattle. I went to the University of Arkansas and got my B.A. in crop science with a minor in pest management. I worked under Dr. Chen (soybean breeder) and Dr. Burgos (weed science) at the University.

- **What knowledge, skills and experience are you bringing to Extension?**

I am bringing the knowledge I gained through growing up farming and from working with the university to use firsthand knowledge to help local farmers. My 4-H background will also help to build the program here and make it bigger and better.

- **What are one or two things you would like your colleagues to know about you?**

I am glad to be working with Extension, and I am excited to get this year's farming season kicked off.

- **What would you like to accomplish your first year with Extension?**

Being able to help farmers implement new conservation practices to help them save money in these hard past couple of years as well as to build a good 4-H program here in St. Francis County.

- **What brought you to Extension? What was it about Extension that you value?**

Being familiar with Extension through 4-H and growing up farming made me really understand what

Extension is about, and I value being able to help people and being a resource to them.

- **What are your interests or hobbies outside of work?**

I really enjoy hunting, fishing and backpacking. I am a big bow hunter and really enjoy being out in the woods. I like to crappie fish and run trot lines as well. But one of my favorite things to do is travel to the mountains and backpack. ■



Mark Kiefer

Administrative Specialist
Switchboard
Little Rock State Office

- **What's your background?**

I come from a background rooted in the arts, as well as the food service and hospitality industry. In December of 2015, I graduated with a B.A. in fine art from UCA, after having worked my way through college as a pizza chef and delivery expert.

- **What knowledge, skills and experience are you bringing to Extension?**

In conjunction with my desire to help others, my positive disposition and outside-the-box critical thinking skills make me a natural problem solver, well suited to my new position at the front desk.

- **What are one or two things you would like your colleagues to know about you?**

My colleagues should know that I have a well-developed – if not overactive – sense of humor.

- **What would you like to accomplish your first year with Extension?**

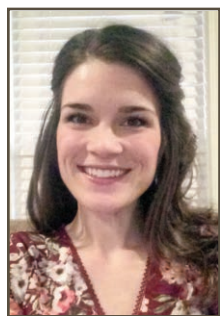
In my first year, I would like to acquaint myself with all of the people and programs here at Extension, to do my best in aiding the flow of information and ideas.

- **What brought you to Extension? What was it about Extension that you value?**

As a youth in Logan County 4-H, I was introduced to the Extension Service by our local agents, whom I admired for their professionalism and personality. As an adult, it is an honor to be part of this working atmosphere, helping to benefit so many in Arkansas communities.

• **What are your interests or hobbies outside of work?**

Outside of work, I enjoy playing a variety of musical instruments, as well as expressing myself through drawing, painting and digital media. ■



Elizabeth McQuay
County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences
Randolph County

• **What's your background?**

I have a Bachelor of Science degree in health promotion from Arkansas State University. I was born and raised in Randolph County

and was also a 4-H member.

• **What knowledge, skills and experience are you bringing to Extension?**

My passion is in nutrition and parenting, especially when they correlate! I did my internship at St. Bernards Medical Center in Jonesboro with the Community Benefit Department.

• **What are one or two things you would like your colleagues to know about you?**

I have a daughter who will be three in May, and we're expecting our second baby girl in July.

• **What would you like to accomplish your first year with Extension?**

Having to sum it up in two sentences, I would like to observe as much as possible in as many programs as I can. I would also like to fellowship with other FCS agents as often as possible.

• **What brought you to Extension? What was it about Extension that you value?**

I previously knew all three of my colleagues at our Randolph County office. I value the variety in programs of an FCS position. Also, being able to constantly better the lifestyles of everyone we work with in our programs – and we get paid to do it!

• **What are your interests or hobbies outside of work?**

I spend as much time as possible with my husband and daughter. I'm a crafter and baker. In my spare time, I'm either making a wreath, painting something I shouldn't or baking something sweet and sinful. ■



Brittney Schrick
Assistant Professor - Family Life Specialist
Little Rock State Office

• **What's your background?**

My master's and PhD are from Texas Tech University in Human Development and Family Studies. I have been teaching developmental

psychology, gender studies and research methods at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia for the past six years.

• **What knowledge, skills and experience are you bringing to Extension?**

My research background is in women's and girls' body image and experience, particularly as it relates to media influence. I have also been working on a couple of projects related to women's and girls' identity development through peer interaction and mothering. My main areas of expertise are adolescent and young adult development, women's and girls' body and relationship experiences across the lifespan, gender and sexuality, parenting and breastfeeding.

• **What are one or two things you would like your colleagues to know about you?**

I love to collaborate with colleagues, and I'm very interested in cross-disciplinary work. I'm so excited to tell everyone about the amazing work that Extension does.

• **What would you like to accomplish your first year with Extension?**

I'm working on updating some of our existing family life programing and developing new programs for single parents and new parents. I'm also working on a multi-state project related to sexual health across the lifespan.

• **What brought you to Extension? What was it about Extension that you value?**

We moved to Conway last summer for my husband's job, and in looking for an academic job in central Arkansas, I found this posting. I'm so excited to be working for Extension! It is a perfect fit for my skill set and goals. The value of Extension programs can't be overstated. While I loved working in a traditional university setting, the programs from Extension meet people where they are to improve their day-to-day lives. There is no greater mission than that.

- **What are your interests or hobbies outside of work?**

I enjoy reading (the commute from Conway has allowed for lots of audiobook time), sewing and crochet, binging on Netflix series (often while sewing or crocheting), baking, walking, hanging out with my family and singing in my church choir. My husband is a youth pastor, so I can also be found chaperoning youth trips and cooking for teenagers. We have three amazing little girls (8, 5, and 16 months) who definitely keep us busy. ■



Christy Tomlinson
Administrative Specialist
Izard County

- **What's your background?**

My background has been administrative assistant to the area director of the Department of Human Resources.

- **What knowledge, skills and experience are you bringing to Extension?**

My skills and knowledge are wide ranged in administration.

- **What are one or two things you would like your colleagues to know about you?**

I am a self-motivated, down-to-earth, ready-to-get-the-job-done person.

- **What would you like to accomplish your first year with Extension?**

I would love to learn more about all the variety of programs Extension has to offer the public.

- **What brought you to Extension? What was it about Extension that you value?**

I was looking for a job opportunity closer to home and am very interested in learning how to raise and grow our own food. Extension has a lot to offer my family, and we are very excited for the opportunity to be involved in many of the extension programs.

- **What are your interests or hobbies outside of work?**

I love to garden and fellowship with those in our community. ■



Samantha Toro
EFNEP Program Assistant
Pulaski County

- **What's your background?**

I have a BA in Economics from the University of South Florida. I worked in banking for a while, before making a change and switching to farming! I've worked on a couple of organic farms around the country and in school gardens here in Little Rock.

- **What knowledge, skills and experience are you bringing to Extension?**

I have experience working in small scale organic agriculture and teaching gardening and nutrition to a wide variety of audiences. Gardening and cooking are my favorite hobbies, and I love showing people how to prepare fresh, healthy food!

- **What are one or two things you would like your colleagues to know about you?**

I grew up in Miami as a city girl, but now, I think I'm pretty solidly country. My life goals include recording an audiobook, playing a high school student on a tween sitcom and being the voice of a Disney princess.

- **What would you like to accomplish your first year with Extension?**

I want to learn as much as I can about all areas of Extension, help us get more connected to the community and improve my teaching/cooking/gardening skills.

- **What brought you to Extension? What was it about Extension that you value?**

Extension seems to be an education hub for everything I love. I enjoy teaching and wanted to move back to Arkansas, so things worked out perfectly!

- **What are your interests or hobbies outside of work?**

I'm helping start a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program in Jefferson County, where people pay the farmer a flat fee up front and receive a box of vegetables each week during the growing season. I'm also involved in the Central Arkansas New Agrarian Society (CANAS), which is a group of food growers and entrepreneurs that helps fund sustainable food projects in Central Arkansas. I also like singing and dancing and occasionally do things that are not related to food. ■

Personnel changes

Please welcome the following:

Jonathan Brown

SNAP Tech Assistant Coordinator, Family and Consumer Sciences, effective February 1, 2016.

Justin Chlapecka

County Extension Agent - Agriculture, Poinsett County, effective January 19, 2016.

Olivia Foster

County Extension Agent - Agriculture, Carroll County, effective January 19, 2016.

Cody Griffin

County Extension Agent - Agriculture, St. Francis County, effective January 19, 2016.

Kim Helmbeck

Program Assistant - SNAP-Ed, Pulaski County, effective January 19, 2016.

Mark Kiefer

Administrative Specialist, Office of the Director of Physical Plant, effective January 19, 2016.

Elizabeth McQuay

County Extension Agent - Family and Community Sciences, Randolph County, effective February 1, 2016.

Melissa Ralston

Administrative Specialist, Faulkner County, effective February 1, 2016.

Brittney Schrick

Assistant Professor - Family Life Specialist, Family and Consumer Sciences, effective February 2, 2016.

Christy Tomlinson

Administrative Specialist, Izard County, effective January 19, 2016.

Samantha Toro

Program Assistant - EFNEP, Pulaski County, effective January 19, 2016.

Extension says goodbye to:

Karen Withers

Administrative Specialist, Bio and Agricultural Engineering, effective February 2, 2016.

Ora Lee Yates

Administrative Specialist, Saline County, effective February 29, 2016.

Grants and contracts for Month Ending February 29, 2016

Project Title	Award Amount	Principal Investigator	Granting Agency
Healthy Soil Happy Rice	31,697	Michael Daniels	Agriculture Experiment Station
Novel Strategies for Managing Blast Diseases on Rice and Wheat	18,590	Yeshe Wamishe	Agriculture Experiment Station
Air Force Active Duty/ANG/AFR Camp Grant 2016	18,993	Creenna Bocksnick	Kansas State University
AMS Local Food Resource Mapping (LFRM) Project	29,999	Stacey McCullough	Pennsylvania State University
National 4-H Council OJJDP Arkansas 4-H Mentoring Program	180,780	Noah Washburn	National 4-H Council
Let's Grow Arkansas Small Ruminant Regional Conference Series (ASR)	21,000	Chelsey Ahrens	American Sheep Industry Association, Inc.
Jarrold Hardke 2016 Testing	7,500	Jarrold Hardke	RiceTec
Diabetes Cooking School - Howard County Hometown Health Coalition (Blue & You)	1,000	Jean Ince	Arkansas Blue & You Foundation
Personal Finance Education at Rich Smith Development Properties	7,500	Laura Hendrix	Family Service Agency, Inc.
Evaluation of a New Hatchery Sanitizer - Decon 7	13,231	Susan Watkins	Decon 7 Systems
Total New Awards for February 2016	\$330,290		