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BLUE LETTER

August 2018
No. 3796



Celebrating successes and new initiatives

August is not my favorite month from a climate standpoint, but it came anyway, and harvest and field days are in swing, so that is good.

Many Division and extension programs are in full swing or starting to wrap up the growing season, while others are getting the second wind for the fall and winter on the way. This newsletter is full of some of this incredible work.

Kudos to Dr. Leo Espinoza for reaching out to agents, youth and growers in the western Arkansas region to help producers understand soil fertility and fertilization better for our diverse forage and pasture lands. We appreciate Jerri Lephew, Amanda Greer and Robin Bridges for helping initiate this work, and really hope it “grows.”

It is time for ballot issue education and Kristin Higgins leads this better than anyone. There are some complex issues again on the ballot for November, so we hope that you will share this info with everyone you know. I receive lots of positive feedback about our ballot issue education each year; great job!

I attended the Blackberry Virtual Field Trip on Aug. 15, using my computer, and it was pretty neat. Sherri Sanders and the entire team did a great job, and learned quite a lot. Kudos to Karen Ballard and staff for putting all the technical stuff together and marketing the event so well. Last I checked, almost 500 people attended online, from 40 plus states and at least three other countries. Also, John Clark added a nice finishing touch with a guitar solo, a person of many talents. We appreciate the farmers,



FROM THE DIRECTOR

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Columbia County Farm Bureau president Burnie Sharp and UAEX soil scientist Dr. Leo Espinoza observe while Columbia County 4-H member Kyle S. collects data on sample weights. Kyle has been accepted to the Arkansas School of Math and Science and is preparing to enter this August.

According to Espinoza, "It is commonly accepted that ammonium nitrate is a better source than urea and urea plus NBPT (urease inhibitor) on a pound-per pound-basis. However, data from Arkansas and other locations does not show a consistent trend towards ammonium nitrate ... Our objective is to try to build a database which will also include weather data and some more detailed information such as N uptake trend for each one of the sources, with the goal of providing better guidance to our producers."

Kyle and Joseph S., Myla and Mason W. and Merena H. worked mowing, moving sample material to the scales, identifying samples, weighing samples, documentation of those samples and fertilizer distribution for the next phase of the test.

Those interested in joining and participating with Columbia County 4-H should call the Columbia County Extension Office at (870) 235-3720. ■

Upcoming Tech Tuesday webinars



Tuesday, September 11: Videos – Best Practices (Kerry Rodtnick)

Videos – Editing and Sharing Your Videos (Kerry Rodtnick and Kim Rowe)

Second Tuesday of every month, starting at 9:00 a.m.

To view the recordings, visit <https://uaex.edu/techtuesdays> ■

Kids in the Kitchen at the Boys and Girls Club

Twice-a-week for the months of June and July, Crittenden County FCS agent, Meredith Wayman, and SNAP-Ed temporary assistant, Brianna Ham, hosted "Kids in the Kitchen" and "Arkansas Foods" SNAP-Ed nutrition programs at the Boys and Girls Club of Crittenden County. K-5th graders were able to learn about food safety, MyPlate and how to use various kitchen utensils. Participants also learned about the parts of a plant and how fruits and vegetables grow. Every lesson included a healthy recipe the kids prepared themselves such as vegetable stir-fry, fancy apple rings, veggies with yogurt dip and strawberry smoothies. The recipes taught the kids how to peel, chop and de-seed fruits and vegetables on a cutting board. Through each recipe, the kids were able to try new foods as well as learn how to prepare meals and snacks at home. The county Extension office partnered with local 4-H volunteer, Katie Hutton, who organizes multiple community gardens in the area to incorporate locally grown produce into the recipes. The kids reported trying new foods, cooking and working as a team as some of their favorite parts of the program. ■



SNAP-Ed temp, Brianna Ham, teaches youth at the Crittenden County Boys and Girls Club how to chop onions.

Surgery hats for kids

Members of the Marion County Shooting Sports 4-H Club sewed 200 surgery hats, used to keep patients' hair out of the way when they undergo surgery, and delivered them to Arkansas Children's Northwest Hospital in Springdale July 23. This community service project was funded by an Innovative Programs Grant from the Arkansas 4-H Foundation and Arkansas 4-H Alumni Funds. ACH lets kids choose their hats for surgery and keep them after their procedures. Supply depends on community donations. ■



Delivering the hats.

Sign up for Ballot Issue Education trainings

What's worked in other counties? Where do I put ballot issue contacts in AIMS? What's on the ballot? These questions and more will be answered in trainings for Extension's 2018 ballot issue education program. Sign up for the following zoom sessions:

Training Date	Zoom Time	Registration Link
Tuesday, Aug. 14	9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	https://learn.uaex.edu/course/view.php?id=1518
Wednesday, Aug. 22	1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.	https://learn.uaex.edu/course/view.php?id=1519
Monday, Aug. 27	3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	https://learn.uaex.edu/course/view.php?id=1520

What will you get out of the trainings?

1. Talking points on ballot issues
2. Advice from agents
3. Tips on handling tricky situations
4. AIMS reporting help

What's on the ballot?

- **Issue 1** (financial limits on lawsuit damages and attorney fees, and shifting authority to set court rules from the Arkansas Supreme Court to legislators)
- **Issue 2** (requiring voters to present photo identification)
- Groups are still collecting signatures to put on the ballot:
- Casinos in Pope and Jefferson counties, and at Oaklawn and Southland
- Increasing the minimum wage
- Limiting the number of years state legislators can serve in office

Voter guides should be available by the end of September, first week of October at the latest. Need something before then? Call Kristin Higgins at 501-671-2160. ■

Federal program offers loan forgiveness for government, nonprofit employees

Still making student loan payments? As a Cooperative Extension employee, you may be eligible for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program. PSLF forgives the remaining balance on your Direct Loans after you have made

120 qualifying monthly payments under a qualifying repayment plan while working full-time for a qualifying employer. Qualifying employers include:

- Government organizations at any level (federal, state, local or tribal),
- Not-for-profit organizations that are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and
- Other types of not-for-profit organizations that are not tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, if their primary purpose is to provide certain types of qualifying public services.

For more information, visit the Federal Student Aid webpage on the program at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/public-service>. ■



Is It phishing?

Pay attention to the warning flags for malicious emails:

- The "From" email address is different from the "From" display name.
- Hover over links – if the address looks strange or irrelevant, don't click on it.
- Spelling and grammar mistakes.
- Is the email addressed to a vague "Valued Customer" rather than you?
- Invoking a sense of urgency or fear is a common phishing tactic.
- Review the signature. Lack of details about the signer or how you can contact a company strongly suggests a phish.
- Assuming to know you.
- An email welcoming you to a new organization or claiming to be "John in sales," could be a scammer using social engineering.

Remember:

- Don't click on attachments unless you know what it is and were expecting it.
 - Malicious attachments that contain viruses and malware is a common phishing tactic.
- Phishers are extremely good at what they do.
 - Just because an email has convincing brand logos, language and a seemingly valid email address, does not mean it is legitimate.
- Legitimate banks and most other companies will never ask for personal credentials via email. ■

Arkansas Procurement Assistance Center teaches small businesses how to work with Little Rock Air Force Base

The Arkansas Procurement Assistance Center joined in a strategic partnership with the Small Business Administration and Little Rock Air Force Base to provide upcoming trainings to show small business owners how to get contracts on base. The July 19 announcement highlighted the workshops, which are open to any small business wanting to work with the Little Rock Air Force Base.

The first three workshops will be from 9-11 a.m. at the Education Center, which is located at 1490 Vandenburg Boulevard in Jacksonville. The Education Center is located outside the main gate of the Air Force Base.

- Aug. 15 – Contracting officer insights: best practices from the COR perspective.
- Sept. 26 – Preparing your bid. What works and what's required to work with the LRAFB.
- Oct. 17 – You've won the contract. Now what? Following through on contract performance.

Small businesses wanting to work with LRAFB should register for each class separately. The registration links may be found on the [APAC "Training & News" web page](#). Call the APAC office with any additional questions about these upcoming training opportunities at 501-671-2390. ■



Staff from the LRAFB 19th Contracting Squadron, Small Business Administration and the Arkansas Procurement Assistance Center announce strategic partnership to help Arkansas small business.

BENEFITS CORNER

2019 Wellness Benefit

The Onlife wellness program ended on July 31. The university will continue focusing on helping you improve your health and wellness, with the support of our own HR offices and UMR – the university's health plan administrator. To qualify for the 2019 UMR wellness incentive, you must complete two steps:

1. You must visit an in-network provider for either a wellness OR illness visit between November 1, 2017, and November 1, 2018 (excluding dermatologist, allergist, podiatrist, ophthalmologist or optometrist). There are no forms to complete or requests to make of your provider. The visit will be tracked by UMR automatically.
2. You must complete the Tobacco/Nicotine Pledge and Notice during open enrollment in November, 2018:
 - Non-users pledge to continue to remain tobacco-free.
 - Tobacco users will commit to enroll in and complete a recognized tobacco cessation program in 2019.

All employees enrolled in the UMR health plan will be required to complete the Tobacco/Nicotine Pledge, which is part of your open enrollment paperwork, or pay a \$50 monthly tobacco surcharge.

The UMR Wellness Incentive and the Tobacco/Nicotine Pledge DO NOT apply to federally benefitted employees.

Animal Science hosts the American Junior Simmental Association

The American Junior Simmental Association held its South-Central Regional Classic at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville in June.

The purpose of AJSA is to "enhance youth potential for life success by instilling a comprehensive understanding of the beef industry while developing leadership, networking, and communication skills."

AJSA has four Regional Classic contests throughout the United States: South-Central, North-Central, Eastern and Western. Over 110 students attended the South-Central Classic this year. The students were accompanied by 144 head of cattle and several volunteers from the Department of Animal Science and ASA.

The event is a week long, with several contests, workshops and activities hosted in Fayetteville. Over the course of the week, the students compete in livestock judging, public speaking, sales talk, cattlemen's quiz and genetic evaluation quiz contests. Students learn showmanship techniques and conduct a cattle show as well.

"The livestock judging portion of the competition is set up by the University of Arkansas," said Chance Ujzdowski, the ASA Progress Through Performance assistant for the regional classics. "Animal Science faculty are officiating and doing all of the scoring. We really appreciate that." Contestants from nine states participated in the South-Central Classic this year.

Kelsey Stimpson, a AJSA youth assistant, travels all across the United States helping with AJSA activities.

"Some of these eight year olds are giving sets of reasons in the livestock judging contests that 20 year olds couldn't give," said Stimpson. "It really



Meat scientist Janeal Yancey judges reason at the South-Central AJSA livestock judging contest.



An eight-year-old contestant outlines her reasons before the South-Central AJSA livestock judging contest.

starts them out at a young age and develops them into future agricultural leaders, whom we need to serve in congress, run our farms and work in corporations to keep our global economy sustained. We do these educational contests and cattle shows to get them ready for the real world." ■

T&C Clovers 4-H Club of Baxter County establishes "community cabin" in Mountain Home

One major responsibility of 4-H is to teach our kids life skills that will help the youth grow into productive community citizens.

The T&C Clovers 4-H Club members decided they liked the idea of having a little library and pantry, housed in a local park. They wanted to serve not only the homeless but those who might be short of money occasionally and be unable to afford basic necessities. They felt there were enough organizations and services offering food to those in need, so they decided they would stock feminine products, toiletries, diapers, wipes, hats and gloves, chapstick and even basic cleaning items.



Members of the T&C Clovers 4-H Club with community cabin: In front, left to right, Jaden G., Kristen E., Megan E., Morgan P., Abby C. and Alyssa E.; in back, left to right, Gage S., Hunter B., Joseph M., Caitlyn K. and Chase B.

To help fund this project, the club applied for and received a 4-H Innovative Program Grant in 2017.

Club members have had to work hard to keep it stocked, which means it is having an impact on the community. The kids are very pleased so many people in our area are being helped. One of the club members spoke at the local Civitan Club about this project, and the Civitan Club voted to make a quarterly donation to the cabin! ■

Washington County wins Arkansas 4-H State Livestock Skillathon contest

A record 18 teams competed in the Arkansas 4-H State Skillathon contest on July 26 during State O-Rama.

There are six individual activities (Breed ID, Equipment ID, Retail Meat Cut ID, Hay and Wool Judging, Quality Assurance Exercise and Quiz) and five team activities (Quality Assurance, Meat and Carcass Evaluation, Animal Breeding Scenario, Performance and Marketing Exercise and Livestock Feeding) that must be completed.

Washington County will represent Arkansas at the National 4-H Livestock Skillathon Contest in Louisville, Kentucky, in November. Team members include Sierra B., Jordan H., Junior P. and Kale S. Clark County placed second and Benton County placed third. Sierra B. was also the Overall High Point Individual, Junior P. was second, and Dustin K. of Boone County was third. ■

Community service at State 4-H Camp

This year's Arkansas 4-H campers had the opportunity to participate in community service activities during several camps this summer. Arkansas 4-H Camps partnered with



Campers at Junior Camp and Adventure and Challenge Camp Session I weighing rice meals for Pack Shack. Campers packed over 30,000 meals.



One of the dogs at the Maumelle Animal Control shelter enjoying his brand new dog toy made by campers at Craft Camp.



2018 Champion Arkansas 4-H Livestock Skillathon Team from Washington County includes team members Junior P., Sierra B., Jordan H. and Kale S.

Arkansas Blue Cross Blue Shield, who allowed campers in Junior Camp Sessions I & II, Adventure and Challenge Camp Session I and STEM Camp to participate in Pack Shack by providing \$15,000 for the project. Campers from those camp sessions packed over 60,000 meals which were sent to seven different food banks across the state.

Campers at Craft Camp made approximately 100 dog toys out of recycled t-shirts and water bottles. The dog toys were donated to two humane shelters in central Arkansas.

All of these projects provide campers with opportunities to get more involved in their communities while also providing them with community service opportunities for their Record Books and the Congressional Award. ■

Greene County 4-H'er wins 2018 Mr. Bill Outstanding Animal Science 4-H'er Award and Scholarship

Katie H. of Greene County was recognized at the Arkansas 4-H State O-Rama Awards of Excellence Banquet as the 2018 Mr. Bill Outstanding Animal Science 4-H'er Award and Scholarship recipient.

Katie recently completed her year of service as the Arkansas 4-H Delta District vice president. Katie has a long history of showing at the Arkansas State Fair with being named the 2017 Grand Champion Market Hog and 2016 Overall Grand Champion Swine Showmanship winner as some of her most recent major accomplishments.

Katie plans to attend Arkansas State University in

Jonesboro this fall majoring in Animal Science and Agriculture Education. She plans to become an agriculture education teacher. In her application, Katie said, "My biggest goal now is to pay it forward. I hope to be a supporter, encourager, giver and the one who invests their time and resources for others." ■



2018 Mr. Bill Outstanding Animal Science 4-H'er Award and Scholarship recipient Katie H. (middle) with Ralph Shoptaw (left) representing the Arkansas 4-H Foundation and Dr. Chelsey Ahrens (right), youth livestock specialist.

Grants and Contracts for Month Ending July 31, 2018

Project Title	Award Amount	Principal Investigator	Granting Agency
4-H National Mentoring Program Year 8 - OJJDP	\$ 6,991	Ashley Dingman	National 4-H Council
UACES Early Care and Education Projects (Best Care, Best Care Connected, Guiding Children Successfully) ABC	237,500	Brittney Schrick	Arkansas Department of Education
UACES Early Care and Education Projects (Best Care, Best Care Connected, Guiding Children Successfully and 4-H Afterschool)	322,500	Brittney Schrick	DHS Division of Child Care & Early Childhood Education
Insect Management in Mid-South Pest Management: AR (Dr. Gus M. Lorenz)	2,500	Gus Lorenz	Cotton Incorporated
DLA Arkansas Procurement Technical Assistance Program (PTAP), FY19	595,741	Melanie Berman	Defense Logistics Agency
Stevens Farm Edge of Field Water Quality Monitoring Data Collection and Evaluation	28,289	Michael Daniels	C. B. Stevens Farms, Inc.
FY19 4-H Livestock Out of State Trip Funds	19,796	Michael Looper	Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission
LeadAR Seminar #4 (Forestry)	300	Noah Washburn	Ross Foundation
2018 National Direct Agricultural Marketing Summit	18,750	Ron Rainey	Agricultural Marketing Service - USDA
Measuring and Building on Local Food System Vitality for Communities in the South	45,000	Stacey McCullough	University of Kentucky Research Foundation
Ongoing Planning Support, Data Management, Stakeholder Engagement and Completion of 2011-2016 Adaptive Management Plan Appendix	3,861	Stacey McCullough	AR Natural Resources Commission
Dow/NA18F7B007 & NA18P2E002 & USA-18-300/Barber	22,100	Tom Barber	Dow AgroSciences LLC
Total Awards for July 2018	\$1,303,328		

Successes, cont.

the presenters and our horticulture staff for delivering this exceptional, creative content and answering so many questions behind the scenes (Amanda McWhirt and Jackie Lee).

There are many other wonderful examples of active programming in this issue. I hope you enjoy them as much as I. I sincerely appreciate all of your hard work, dedication and VISIBILITY!

Please note that the ERP implementation has been initiated, and we will keep you updated in future issues. Basically, we will be converting to Workday software by the summer of 2020, away from Banner (in Extension). Until then, we will be upgrading Banner a time or two to match the new Workday format but will try to keep changes and disruptions to a minimum. The new software will eventually handle all financial, personnel, grants and other business management needs of the Division and the UA System, and will largely function in a paperless manner. It is an exciting time as we move forward into 21st century technology.

Have a great rest of August and Labor Day.

– Dr. Rick Cartwright

Personnel changes

Please welcome the following:

Julianne Dunn, Instructor - Economic Development, Community and Economic Development, effective June 19, 2018.

Rachel Mayfield, Program Assistant - EFNEP, Pulaski County, effective July 10, 2018.

Becky Sterner, County Extension Agent - 4-H/Agriculture, Hot Spring County, effective July 2, 2018.

Allison Strickland, Program Assistant - EFNEP, Pulaski County, effective June 9, 2018.

Extension says goodbye to:

Matthew Bean, Program Technician - Horticulture, effective July 13, 2018.

Sarah Housley, Administrative Specialist, Searcy County, effective July 6, 2018.

Amy Kuykendall, Program Assistant - EFNEP, Woodruff County, effective July 15, 2018.

Kristi Latham, County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences, Searcy County, effective July 20, 2018.

Gloria Mayhugh, Publications Coordinator, Office of Communications, effective July 31, 2018.

Missy Ralston, Administrative Specialist, Faulkner County, effective July 31, 2018.



Event Calendar

September 3 – Holiday: Labor Day

September 6 – Muscadine Field Day, Fruit Research Station, Clarksville

September 15-18 – Direct Agricultural Marketing Summit, Arlington, Virginia

December 3 – State Faculty Conference, Little Rock State Office ■