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## BLUE LETTER

June 2020

No. 3818



FROM THE DIRECTOR

# Farewell Kudos

June is here and finally a bit of warmer weather, not warm enough for my taste but at least better than much of the cooler-than-normal spring. The forecast for the next few days is very promising for Central Arkansas with highs in the mid or even upper 90s, finally! Time to scout rice, Hank Chaney!

The time for Workday training is getting short, so I encourage all employees to check out the fabulous materials provided on the web and weekly by our own Dr. Karen Ballard, Workday Change Manager for CES, and others involved in Project One. Karen has done an amazing job keeping us informed and translating the information into a more understandable form. I have started trying the online training myself, and while early days, so far I find it quite easy to understand, and the layout of Workday seems very intuitive to me. Of course, I have a ways to go, but so far I have been impressed with the training materials. As you work through this transition, we understand there will be some stress and challenge, but I encourage you to be positive and patient with the people and process – we will get through it, it will be better, and we will be better off. My prediction is that a year from now, all will wonder how we ever lived without Workday!

We are continuing to progress with our planning and implementation for the Division to “re-open” and more

of us return to our physical workplaces, mindful of best COVID practices to protect ourselves and others from transmission of the virus. While we are still in Stage 1 for the Division, soon we will enter other stages to get us back to a more normal setting by late summer. I commend Bridget Fortenberry and all those in administration who worked through the complexities of re-opening plans, having to consider so many public health and regulatory resources. It has not been a job for the faint of heart. Your unit leaders will share this information as appropriate when it is approved.

Please contribute to and read the Blue Letter; it is your internal information resource. This issue is rich with examples of the diverse nature of our educational, applied research and service efforts. It is also a clear record of the creative approach our colleagues have taken in not only educating the public about COVID-19, but coming up with creative ways to continue our mission-oriented programs in new ways because of COVID-19. Before this year is out, you will hear more of the impressive success stories or impact statements about extraordinary efforts in extraordinary times. I hope all of you will reach out to Diane Mashburn and Tracy Courage about how to account for your work and how to portray your success effectively to stakeholders and the public. It is worth talking about, and as I am bound

*Continued on page 3*

## INSIDE SCOOP

2. Arkansas Discovery Farms add two new Farms
3. Rice High Night Temperature Project Update
4. LeadAR Recruiting Next Class
5. RazorGrant to be Rebranded
6. Share Grounds Receives National Award
7. Face Shields for the Front Lines
8. New High in Number of Veterinary School Acceptances...And much more!

# Arkansas Discovery Farms add two new Farms

The Arkansas Discovery Farm program is adding two new farms to address critical natural resource issues associated with row crop farming in Eastern Arkansas, including a new farm for sustainable water use in rice and one for the sustainable use of poultry litter in row crops. The program has partnered with Anheuser Busch to help rice producers find more sustainable methods of water use, while NRCS in Arkansas has partnered with Discovery Farms to help farmers properly manage poultry litter added to fertilizer and how it may improve soil health.

The new sustainable water use farm for rice has been established in Greene County with the Compton family. Several division employees are involved including Mike Daniels, Andrew Sharpley, Mike Hamilton, Chuck Wilson, Lee Riley, Pearl Webb, Dave Freeze and Jarrod Hardke. Bill Jones of Anheuser Busch is also involved.

Chuck Wilson will lead the effort on the sustainable poultry litter project funded by NRCS. The project will start this fall where a Discovery Farm will be established in one of four counties: Greene, Jackson, Lawrence or Randolph Counties. Karl VanDevender will lead an effort to build a spreadsheet tool that will help producers with key nutrient management decisions. ■



Lee Riley is building housing for the edge-of-field monitoring equipment of the new Discovery Farm that will allow us to sample for runoff quality and determine runoff volume.

## One Clear Voice: COVID-19 Racks up Great Engagement

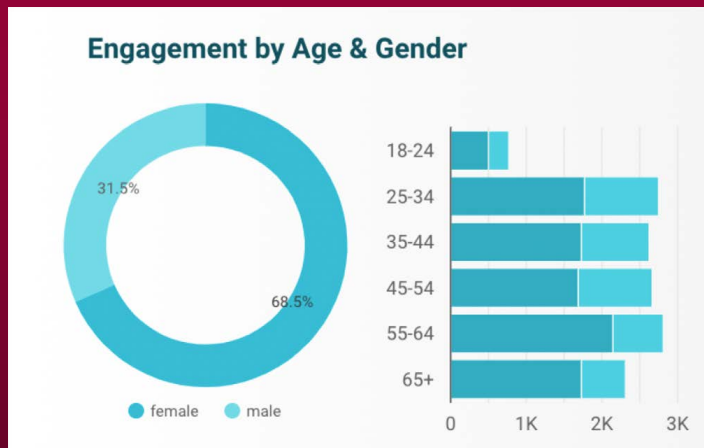
Thanks to your efforts in social and conventional media, our first divisionwide outreach campaign was able to increase our connection and engagement, not only with our usual audiences, but also with some new ones as well. Here's compilation of stats that show our efforts:

Since the pandemic began, we've worked 17,147 hours. That's almost 8.2 years of 40-hour workweeks. Our volunteers amassed 14,240 hours, some of which was spent making 94,000 masks.

- "We're Still on the Job" video – 9,893 views on Facebook
- "Staying Safe on the Farm" video – 2,671 views on Facebook
- "COVID-19 guidance

for employers and guest workers" – 2,511 views on Facebook

- News stories – 194 story placements, earning 656,878 contacts.
- Radio programs – Earned 678,204 indirect contacts.
- Total contacts: 1.8 million.



The uaex.edu COVID-19 website had 14,644 users, racking up 32,129 page views. An important outcome of this effort was our web performance among the 25-34 year-old and 35-44 year-old demographics. These are groups to whom we wanted to introduce ourselves, and COVID provided that opportunity. ■



# Rice High Night Temperature Project Update

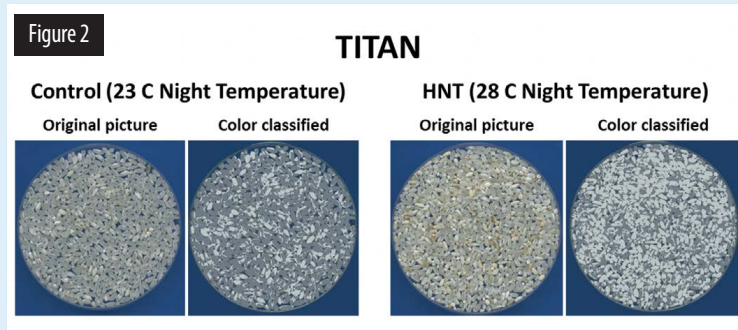
The High Night Temperature (HNT) project began in 2018 at the Rice Research and Extension Center, located near Stuttgart in Arkansas County, to address a problem that has increasingly been affecting Arkansas rice farmers for the past few years. Dr. Paul Counce, rice physiologist, in collaboration with other Division of Agriculture researchers such as Dr. Terry Siebenmorgen, distinguished professor of rice processing, conducted some of the foundational research that demonstrated the problems of HNT. Their work showed that HNT can cause a reduction in grain yield as well as decreased grain quality, both of which negatively impact Arkansas rice producers and processors.

The HNT team includes Dr. Manuel Esguerra, a postdoctoral fellow, and Courtland Hemphill and is being led by Dr. Counce as of fall 2019. An initial goal of the HNT project was to characterize the response of popular Arkansas rice varieties to HNT conditions at different stages of development, and progress has been made toward this goal. Controlled experiments conducted in the greenhouse and growth chambers have allowed popular Arkansas rice varieties to be screened alongside check varieties that are known to be tolerant or susceptible to the effects of HNT.

In addition to screening experiments, crosses were made between varieties known to exhibit HNT tolerance and high-yielding Arkansas varieties such as Diamond and

Titan. These developing mapping populations are being advanced to achieve genetic stability, and high-performing individuals will be selected as potential future Arkansas varieties and breeding lines.

The work being done by the HNT team was made possible by generous funding from the Arkansas Rice Promotion Board. ■



## *Farewell Kudos from page 1 continued...*

to repeat endlessly, our work needs to be more visible. It is clear to me that we have a great story to tell about our work during this unusual and challenging time, so let's tell it, but tell it effectively – you will be glad you did, and I will continue to be intensely proud of each of you for your hard work, creativity and dedication. You are the best, I want everybody to know that!

June is one of my favorite months because it features the

start of summer, and the longest daylight “day” of the year, so what is not to like about that. I hope you enjoy it like you never have before, and that the times ahead fulfill all your fondest aspirations. I noted when I first became your director that I still believe the best times are ahead for our organization, and I just wish I could start over now and join you in the times to come.

May the best day in your past be the worst day of your future. ■

# LeadAR Recruiting Next Class of Leaders

LeadAR is now taking applications for Class 19! If you're not familiar with LeadAR, it's a program designed to help Arkansans broaden their understanding of issues and opportunities facing our state, while also strengthening their leadership skills and their ability to make a difference. You can learn more about the LeadAR program here: <https://uaex.edu/leadar>.

LeadAR alumni can be found all across the state, with at least one LeadAR alumni in nearly all 75 counties. Some of our most successful alumni work closely with county extension agents in their counties, and many were even recruited for the program by their county agent. With that in mind, we

want to be sure our announcement and recruitment efforts reach as many industry and community leaders as possible. We ask that you help promote our call for applications by:

- Utilizing the [LeadAR Class 19 Communication Toolkit](#) (social media posts, newsletters, handouts/flyers, a press release, images and videos).
- Encouraging community leaders to apply.
- Taking on the challenge for every county to submit at least one nomination: <https://bit.ly/LeadARClass19Nomination>.
- Look for weekly e-mails with toolkit updates so you may continue to reach your communities and encourage them to apply.

## Apply to LeadAR Class 19

LeadAR holds two spots for UAEX employees. One spot is held for a county-level participant while the other is held for someone at the state level. Are you interested in being a part of LeadAR Class 19? Learn more by visiting <https://uaex.edu/leadar>.

Contact Julie Robinson at [jrobinson@uaex.edu](mailto:jrobinson@uaex.edu) with questions! Thank you so much for your help with this. ■



**BECOME A LEADER**

Join LeadAR and learn to:

- Communicate Effectively
- Strengthen Communities
- Influence Policy

[WWW.UAEX.EDU/LEADAR](http://WWW.UAEX.EDU/LEADAR)

**LeadAR**  
STRENGTHENING ARKANSAS COMMUNITIES

*Now taking applications for the 2019 Class!*

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

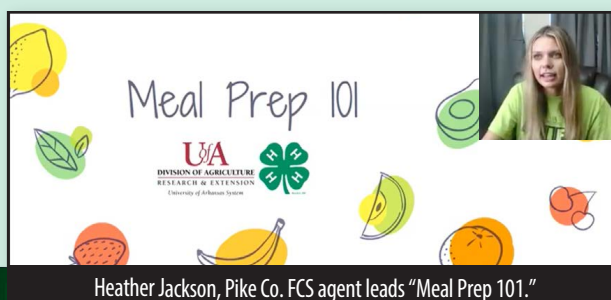
# Pike County 4-H Camps Adapt with Changing Environment



Summer day camps have been a highlight of 4-H programming in Pike County for many years. When plans had to change due to COVID-19 guidelines, the county staff quickly developed the Pike Co. 4-H Life Skills Virtual Day Camp Series, a virtual day camp utilizing Zoom and social media. Sessions are held each Thursday in June and July at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. The recordings are edited and posted on the [UAEX Pike4H Facebook page](#) and the [Pike Co. 4-H YouTube channel](#). Each session begins with a pre-session survey, an ice breaker, followed by the educational program, RealWorld

connection, Q&A session and finally the post-session survey.

A few topics include video tips and tricks, basic plumbing skills, meal planning and cooking skills, how to change a tire, how to administer injections to livestock, basic laundry skills, how to write a thank you card, fire safety and writing a resume. Programming is delivered by the county staff, 4-H members and members of the community. This video library of essential skills will be an asset to members for many years to come. ■





# RazorGrant to be Rebranded as Streamlyne

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5

The current electronic research administration system, RazorGrant, has been rebranded and is now called by the vendor's name, Streamlyne, effective June 11. The reasoning for this rebranding is to be in line with Workday, which replaces BASIS on July 1, and to allow for the inclusion of other institutions within the University of Arkansas System.

The University of Arkansas at Little Rock and the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, including both the Agricultural Experiment Station and the Cooperative Extension Service, will have access to the platform this summer.

As always, we will continue our monthly system improvements and notify the research community when changes are made that affect their

usage of the system. Planned future enhancements include an integration with Workday and additional modules to electronically connect all aspects of the research enterprise. ■



## Tech Corner



### 3 Ways to use Polls in Zoom Meetings

The use of polls in meetings is a way to engage your meeting attendees. Three ways to use polls are:

1. Create an icebreaker.
2. Let your audience pick the content
3. Get input on the meeting

Check out the Polling for Meetings Zoom resource.

### Introducing Panopto™

Panopto allows a user to easily create video, record audio, host, search, share and stream videos. Here are a few reasons why Panopto might be useful for you.

- Video Content Management - Manage your recorded videos and other media assets in one location
- Video Editing
- Caption Videos

**How do I receive a Panopto account?**

1. Take the Panopto Training Course (in Learn)
2. Request a Panopto account

### Telework Tuesday



Join IT for their weekly open office drop-in session for answers to your software/hardware questions. Anything from Box, Zoom, Outlook, OneDrive to monitors, printers, cabling and all other techie stuff.

**When?** Every Tuesday from 2 – 3 p.m. Look for the link to join in the Weekly Tech Talk newsletter delivered to your inbox on Monday afternoons.

### UPCOMING TECH TUESDAY WEBINARS



■ **Tuesday, July 14: Game On – Making Workday Work for You**

■ **Tuesday, August 11: Game On – Workday Topic TBA**

Did you miss Workday Ready topics on New for You in 2020? (MFA & Microsoft A3 Licensing) and Zoom Ready (Zoom Chats, SSO, Equipment, Group Messaging and Projects), Computer Efficiency, Excel- Basics and Intro to Podcasts?, Game On – Intro to Workday visit

<https://uaex.edu/techtuesdays> to view recordings.

# Share Grounds Receives National Award

## Gets Funding for Food Business Mentorship Opportunity

Great things are happening for the Share Grounds! The Share Grounds team, directed by Drs. Amanda Philyaw Perez and Renee Threlfall and managed by Angela Gardner, received the *Cross-Program Award – Team Category, Southern Region and the National Runner-up Award* in the same category from the National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals (NACDEP) at the association's annual conference held virtually May 29 – June 3. The team was recognized "for excellence in Extension work that combines or integrates Community Resources and Economic Development (CRED) activities with work in other program areas."

**CREATING FOOD PROCESSING BUSINESSES IN ARKANSAS**  
*Free Webinar:* MAY 21 | 3 PM – 4 PM



Share Grounds project team hosted a food processing webinar in May with funding from the Southern Risk Management Education Center.

In May, the Share Grounds team hosted a webinar, *Creating Your Small Food Business at the Share Grounds Certified Kitchens*. With 53 in attendance, participants learned how to begin a food business in Arkansas. In addition to this expert technical guidance,

**Cross Program Award – Team**  
**National Runner-Up**  
*Share Grounds: Kitchen Incubator and Aggregation Center*



Amanda Philyaw Perez	Leigh Ann Bullington
Angela Gardner	Ryan Sinclair
Julia Fryer	Diane Clement
Les Walz	Angela Armes
Skip Armes	Renee Threlfall
	John Swenson

University of Arkansas  
 Cleveland County Fair Association  
 Searcy County Fair Association  
 Three County Fair Association (Woodruff)

**NACDEP**  
 National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals



Share Grounds receives the Cross-Program Award – Team Category, Southern Region at the NACDEP's 2020 annual conference.

15 clients will benefit from an initial consultation fee waiver, mentorship with Food Science interns and virtual and one-on-one technical support with Share Grounds managers. This opportunity is possible thanks to a grant from the Southern Risk Management Education Center.

Share Grounds sites opened in June after a pause related to COVID-19 restrictions. ■

## 2020 is a Ballot Issue Education Year

Arkansas is one of 15 states where citizens can propose constitutional amendments and state laws. Legislators may also refer three constitutional amendments to voters in General Election years.

2020 is a General Election year, so we will be providing educational materials later this summer and fall about every statewide ballot measure. The Public Policy Center, located in the Community, Professional and Economic Development unit, has provided neutral fact sheets on ballot measures since 2004 to increase voter knowledge, confidence in decision making and turnout.

The program is a highly visible one. County agents distributed more than 30,000 copies of the 2018 voter guide, and now the Secretary of State and many county agents link to our information at [uaex.edu/ballot](http://uaex.edu/ballot). Our website had more than 300,000 views in 2018, and we anticipate visits to grow this year.

All 75 counties can pre-order copies of the printed voter guide as well as display boards at no cost to their county budgets. Agents also will receive videos, social media posts, newsletters/press releases and one-page handouts later in the summer. County agent in-service trainings about the measures are scheduled for August. ■



# Face Shields for the Front Lines



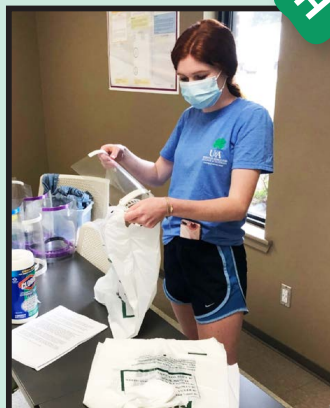
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7

As masks are in short supply, Hot Spring County partners teamed up to help those fighting on the front lines. With the help of ASU, Three Rivers and Arkansas 4-H, Hot Spring County was able to 3D print pieces to assemble over 330 reusable face shields for first responders, health care workers and other essential employees. This project was started by Hot Spring County volunteers and ASU Three Rivers. The biggest struggle was the time needed to print all the pieces. With the help of Arkansas 4-H, it was possible to add three more printers to that process.



From left to right: 4-H Teen Leaders, Jack B., Michael H. and Matthew H. assist with assembly of 3D printed face shields.

Our 4-Hers are excited to be able to help the community and those fighting on the front lines of the COVID crisis. During assembly, 4-Hers and volunteers were very careful to social distance, wear masks and keep surfaces sanitized.



4-H Teen Leader, Faith H., packages the final disinfected face shield for those on the front lines.

While most of their regular activities have started to look a little different, the one thing that doesn't change is the hands of service our 4-Hers pledge to our community. This is just one small way continue to uphold that pledge.

Find out more about the Face Shields for the Front Lines project at <https://youtu.be/LhevUvp7IMY>. ■



4-H Teen Leader, Hannah R. (left), delivers face shields to a local doctor's office.

## Soybean Science Challenge Presents Student, Mentor Awards at the 2020 Virtual FFA Agriscience Fair

The Soybean Science Challenge presented the student research and mentor awards for the 2020 Virtual FFA Agriscience Fair.

The Soybean Science Challenge presented the \$300 student research award to Alyssa Butler, a junior at Carlisle High School at the 2020 Virtual FFA Agriscience Fair on May 4. Butler also placed first in the Soybean Science Challenge at the Virtual Southwestern Energy State Science Fair. Her FFA Advisor, Carly Bokker, won the \$200 FFA Advisor-Mentor Award. The student research and mentor cash awards are provided by the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board.

The Soybean Science Challenge is a farmer-funded, state-wide, high school education program that seeks to increase

student knowledge about the value of Arkansas soybeans to the Arkansas economy, to the labor force and ultimately to feed and fuel the world.

The Soybean Science Challenge is a partnership between the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board and the UofA System Division of Agriculture - Cooperative Extension Service.

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



2020 Virtual FFA Agriscience Winner Alyssa B. and FFA Advisor Carly Bokker.

# New High in Number of Veterinary School Acceptances

The Department of Animal Science set a record this year for the number of students accepted into veterinary school with a total of 24 individuals who have already been granted admission.

"I'm so proud of our pre-professional students," said animal science faculty member and veterinarian, Lauren Thomas. "They've put in a lot of hours of hard work, both inside and outside of the classroom, to achieve their ultimate goal of veterinary school acceptance."

While the U of A does not have its own vet school, the Department of Animal Science has consistently done a stellar job in both assisting students with the admissions process and preparing them for the rigors of vet school. This year the department currently

has an 83 percent acceptance rate overall and has consistently seen over 70 percent of its applicants get admitted each cycle.



Lauren Thomas (center), dept. faculty member and veterinarian, participating in one of the anatomy labs available through our program.

"I think that this level of collective success not only speaks to the quality of our student body, but also to the various opportunities that exist here at the University of Arkansas and Department of Animal Science," said Thomas. "From the variety of classes offered to the various leadership and research opportunities that are available, there is ample opportunity for every student to put together an excellent individual vet school (or med school) application."

"We had a banner year this year," added Thomas. "And I can't wait to see what the future holds for these future doctors!" ■

## 2020 Awards of Distinction

The Department of Animal Science recently announced its 2020 Awards of Distinction. The recipients are:

- **Advanced Graduates of Distinction - Johnny Gunsaulis and Paul Beck**
- **Graduate of Distinction - Sam Tabler**
- **Friend of the Department - Buck Pendergraft**

Each awardee was recognized for his or her contributions to animal science industry and research, as well as to the Department of Animal Science.

Johnny Gunsaulis received his bachelor's degree in animal science from the U of A at Fayetteville in the fall of 1987 and, during his career with the Extension Service, returned to complete his master's degree with a focus on forages. He spent 15 years in Washington County as a county agent in water quality, agriculture and 4-H. In 2014, Gunsaulis was promoted to staff chair of the Benton County Cooperative

Extension office where he coached state-winning beef quiz bowl teams, along with various livestock and dairy judging and quiz teams.

Additionally, he was a shooting sports instructor, ATV safety instructor and had the chance to travel on several national 4-H trips. During his 20-plus year career, he taught thousands of producers in the areas of pesticide safety, forage quality and selection, beef cattle management, and pasture and hay land fertilization and weed control. He served on statewide committees to develop new programs and developed printed materials that were used statewide. ■



Johnny Gunsaulis



# Soil and Water Conservation VFT Series Hosts Live Broadcast #5

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9



The Soil and Water Conservation Virtual Field Trip (VFT) series, hosted its fifth live broadcast — Exploring Winter Cover Crops for No-till Watermelon Production — in mid-May. During the one-hour tour, University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture presenters Dr. Amanda McWhirt, Steve Eaton, Alden Hotz, Dr. Matt Bertucci and Dr. Aaron Cato explained best practices for incorporating cover crops into no-till watermelon production, what cover crop mixes work best, and how to plan for weed, disease and insect pest management. Subject matter experts answered audience questions live.

A total of 106 participants from 24 states and one participant from Indonesia attended. The VFT recording can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/xGIAtpueoJl>. You can find more information and links for the Soil and Water Conservation VFT series at <https://bit.ly/NRCS-AR-Soil-and-Water-VFT-Webpage>. The Soil and Water Conservation VFT series is funded by USDA-NRCS. For more information, contact series coordinator Rita Watson at [rwatson@uaex.edu](mailto:rwatson@uaex.edu). ■

## Local, Regional & Safe Foods Team Hosts Remote PSA Grower Training

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Produce Safety Alliance quickly approved and created guidelines for the PSA Grower Training to be delivered remotely. Though many businesses shut down temporarily, the growing season did not, and growers must still comply with the FSMA Produce Safety Rule. Two in-person trainings were canceled because of the pandemic; therefore, the Local, Regional and Safe Foods team seized an opportunity to deliver the training remotely. Instead of the normal one-day schedule, the training was spread over two half-days. Registration opened, and all 20 available spots filled within a week.

Participants were highly engaged through the chat. We created a variety of engagement activities for each module including poll questions, chat questions and callout questions. Overall, participants were pleased with the remote training, and we are delighted to still be serving our growers. ■





# Animal Science Cohosts Beef Marketing Webinar

The U of A System Division of Agriculture Department of Animal Science teamed up with the Arkansas Cattlemen's Association, Arkansas Farm Bureau and the Arkansas Beef Council on June 4 to host a webinar covering the basics of a few need-to-know ideas for getting started with marketing beef directly off the farm.

The webinar, "Farm to Freezer: Direct Marketing Arkansas Beef," featured four speakers who discussed feeding, inspection requirements for selling cattle versus beef and how to develop a happy customer base.

Speakers and their topics included:

- **Shane Gadberry, UADA Animal Science – Feeding Farm-Raised Cattle for Local Slaughter**
- **Janeal Yancey, UADA Animal Science – Carcass Perspective; how much product should I expect?**

- **Andy Shaw, CEO, Cypress Valley Meat Co. – Do's and Don'ts of a Processing Facility**
- **Kenny Simon, UADA Animal Science - Alternative Production – Pasture-raised Beef from a Producer Perspective**

The webinar can be viewed at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e\\_uIfb6AYU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_uIfb6AYU), and the presentation PowerPoints can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/farmtofreezer>. ■



# CPED Hosts Bingo to Support Small Businesses

Community, Professional and Economic Development hosted a Supporting Small Business BINGO contest May 4-8 to encourage residents to support small, local Arkansas businesses during challenging times.

We would like to thank all employees who liked our Facebook page and shared the BINGO posts. Congratulations to Logan County Extension 4-H Agent Sarah Enoch on winning the cupcakes.

Our successful BINGO efforts resulted in the following:

- Local businesses supported = 57
- Increase in CPED Facebook likes = 46
- Total known reach = 7,213
- Total known engagement = 971

For anyone wishing to launch similar efforts, we wanted to share some tips and lessons learned:

- Have employees identify themselves if they share posts from their county page.

- Adjust Facebook settings to allow for photos in comments if you require that.
- Plan accordingly. It is time-consuming but worth it.
- Utilize our organization's great social media, IT and communications assistance.
- Think of a creative incentive.
- Spell out as much as you can in your rules to save time answering questions.

Please continue to support small, local businesses in your communities. ■

**Supporting Small Business BINGO**

Share a small business social media post	Tag a favorite restaurant in appreciation post	Call to support. Not complain	Follow three new local businesses	Purchase a gift card for future use
Shop over the phone	Order curbside pick up	Write three Google reviews	Share a pic of your favorite take out meal	Watch an online tour of a small business
Purchase a gift card as a gift	Subscribe to the mailing list of a local business	<b>FREE SPACE</b>	Buy a hair care product for pickup	Write three positive Facebook reviews
Order a takeout meal	Re-schedule an appointment; don't cancel	Take a virtual class	Stream a workout video from your local gym	Share an uplifting business interaction
Tip your server or delivery driver BIG	Write three business Yelp reviews	Shop a small business online	Order something for delivery	Share a pic of a family outing to pick up food order

UADA DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE RESEARCH & EXTENSION University of Arkansas System [www.uaex.edu/COVID19](http://www.uaex.edu/COVID19)

**Your Resource for COVID-19 INFORMATION** for Agriculture, Families & Communities

Supporting Small Business BINGO Card



# ACAAA Members to be Recognized at National AM/PIC in Virginia

Several Arkansas Extension agents and faculty will be receiving awards at the National Association County Agricultural Agents' Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conferences in Virginia this fall.

They include:

- **Blair Griffin** - national winner of the JCEP Creative Excellence Award for the Peer to Peer Training Program for County Agents in Arkansas. Griffin's team members are Sherri Sanders, Hank Chaney and Andy Vangilder.
- **Sherri Sanders** — NACAA national winner in the Search for Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture Recognition Program - Educating the Public on Sustainable Agriculture and Local Foods in White County.
- **Amy Tallent** — NACAA national winner in the Search for Excellence in Environmental Quality, Forestry and Natural Resources - End of Season Grower Discussion and Irrigation Tour. Amy's team members are Brent Griffin and Jan Yingling.
- **Sherri Sanders** — finalist in the Bound Book division with her Arkansas Common Landscape Problems



Blair Griffin



Amy Tallent

(MP 468) entry. She is one of four people in the running for the national award. Sherri's team members are Sherrie Smith, John Hopkins, Mary Hightower, John Boyd and Chris Meux.

- **Sherri Sanders** — national finalist winner in the Individual Newsletter division with her White County Horticulture newsletter. She is one of four in contention for the national award in this division too.
- **Sherri Sanders** — Southern Region winner in the Program Promotional Package division with her "Promoting the Peach Pruning Workshop" entry. Her team members are Chris Meux, Barbara Batiste and Tonisha Thorpe.
- **Terrell Davis** — Southern Region winner in the Video Presentation division for "Scouting for Armyworms."
- **Allison Howell** — Southern Region winner in the Published Photo division with her 4-H Survival Day Camp photo.

Congratulations to all ACAAA members on their regional and national awards. ■



Sherri Sanders



Allison Howell

# Chi Epsilon Sigma Awards Support Staff of the Year



Patricia Johnson

Chi Epsilon Sigma installed new officers and announced awards during a virtual meeting May 20. Patricia Johnson received the scholarship this year.

Rose Dearin was named the Chi Epsilon Sigma Support Staff of the Year.

New officers and district director include Shaura Ivy, president; Renee Hunthrop, president elect; Christy Holt, secretary; and Robbie Rye, Ozark District director. ■



Rose Dearin, recipient of the 2020 Support Staff of the Year award from Chi Epsilon Sigma.

## Grants and Contracts

PROJECT TITLE (GRANTS & CONTRACTS CONT.)	AWARD AMOUNT	PI	GRANTING AGENCY
Accurate Test Data to be Gained Through the use of Peanut Weigh Wagon	29,908.00	Andy Vangilder	National Peanut Board
Peanut Variety Testing Trials	12,750.00	Andy Vangilder	National Peanut Board
Studies of the Effects of Gypsum on Peanut Yields	1,600.00	Andy Vangilder	National Peanut Board
University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture 2020Study of Apogee Growth Regulator	1,000.00	Andy Vangilder	National Peanut Board
4-H National Mentoring Program Year 10	44,977.00	Ashley Dingman	National 4-H Council
Development of Integrated Management Strategies for Insects in Peanuts	5,742.00	Glenn Studebaker	National Peanut Board
BAS375 BAS450/CORN ST/SOIL INSECTS/EFFICACY YIELD	8,843.00	Gus Lorenz	BASF Corporation
Cotton B64 Open Field Efficacy Trial	40,000.00	Gus Lorenz	Monsanto Company
Cotton Lygus Open Field Efficacy Trial S0 110	20,000.00	Gus Lorenz	Monsanto Company
Cotton Thryv0n-B3XF Regulated PCM4-S0 111	6,500.00	Gus Lorenz	Monsanto Company
MON 88702 System Evaluation in Large Blocks -S0 113	57,190.00	Gus Lorenz	Monsanto Company
2020 4-H Pollinator Habitat Program	14,000.00	Hope Bragg	National 4-H Council
Evaluation of SUPERU Fertilizer Rice Production System	16,100.00	Jarrod Hardke	Koch Agronomic Services, LLC
2020 NRA Foundation Multi-County 4-H Shooting Sports Cash Awards	6,350.00	Jesse Bocksnick	NRA Foundation
Validation of P and K Recommendations for Warm Season Grasses	20,000.00	Leo Espinoza	Agriculture Experiment Station
Hempstead County 4-H United Way Support	4,000.00	Terrie James	United Way of Hempstead County
Dic gly Premix with adjuvants/XtendFlex SoyPostemergenc/Efficacy and Phyto 2020-01-N8-09	8,645.00	Tom Barber	Monsanto Company
Evaluating Herbicide Programs for Effective Weed Control in Peanuts	14,000.00	Tom Barber	National Peanut Board
XtendFlex Soybean Herbicide Recommendations 2020-01-N8-08	9,555.00	Tom Barber	Monsanto Company
Competitive Soybean Systems Comparison 2020-01B7-08	11,025.00	Tommy Butts	Monsanto Company
Evaluate ILEV0 against Nematodes in Soybean	11,790.00	Travis Faske	BASF Corporation
Integrated Management of Peanut Leaf Spot Disease in Arkansas	10,000.00	Travis Faske	National Peanut Board
TOTAL AWARDS FOR MAY 2020: \$353,975			



# Benefits Corner

## Employee Assistance Program

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) supports benefits-eligible employees and immediate family members through difficult times. It offers confidential, no-cost individual, family and work-related counseling. Assistance areas include marital relationships, family relationships, finances, health issues, substance abuse disorder (e.g., alcohol and/or drug abuse), legal concerns, emotional- and stress-related concerns and more.

The Employee Assistance Program is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call 800-452-6021 / 501-686-2588 / [eap-mlink.uams.edu](http://eap-mlink.uams.edu) any time, even at night, on weekends and during holidays.

## Member Assistance Program

More than 20 percent of employees lose 5+ hours on the clock each week to stress and worry. Whether it's concerns over

work, family, medical issues or your mental health, the UMR Member Assistance Program (MAP) provides employees enrolled in a University medical plan and their enrolled family members personal and confidential support, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Call 877-660-3806 (TTY: 711) for personal and confidential assistance. Translators are available for non-English speakers. Visit [liveandworkwell.com](http://liveandworkwell.com).

There are two ways to access the site:

- Sign in using your HealthSafe ID® (found on the back of your medical ID card) to securely access your personal benefit information.
- Enter anonymously.

Visit the U of A System benefit site to learn more about EAP and MAP: <https://benefits.uasys.edu/other-benefits/member-assistance-program/>. ■

# Personnel Changes

## Welcome aboard:

**Kayla Kelsey** - 4-H Program Assistant, Montgomery County, Mt. Ida

**Whitney Howerton** - CES Program Assistant, Carroll County, Berryville

**Alan Honey** - Program Tech-Newport Extension Center, Jackson County, Newport

**Kaitie Golden** - CES Program Assistant, Pope County, Murfreesboro

## Farewell to:

**Gabby Sherman** - 4-H Program Assistant, St. Francis County, Forrest City

**Steven Hefner** - Web & Application Development, Office of Information Technology, Little Rock

**Leah Flynn** - Administrative Specialist I, Logan County, Booneville

**Kevin McPherson** - Program Associate - Entomology, Entomology, Lonoke

**Glenda Sutherlin** - Administrative Specialist III, Union County, El Dorado

**Wes Plummer** - Program Associate-Entomology, Entomology, Stuttgart

