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BLUE LETTER

May 2022

No. 3841



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Big News, Busy Times

The big news this month has been the announcement of Dr. Deacue Fields accepting the position of Vice President for the Division of Agriculture. I have been lucky enough to get to know Dean Fields as a co-worker in his current role as Dean of the Dale Bumpers College of Agriculture. Dr. Fields has a great knowledge of both sides of the Division - Research and Extension. I know he will do a great job providing us leadership and representing us to stakeholders. I look forward to working with him, and I hope all of you do as well!

It has been a busy month already in May. I compliment the district office on a great Tri-District Administrative Conference. Many, including me, had never attended this meeting, and it was great to see so many county agents in one place. I felt this meeting went well, and there was good discussion and interaction that came out of it. I have had a couple of meetings as a result to answer or improve some issues that came up. We may not be able to fix everything that we talked about, but it is for certain we won't improve anything if we fail to talk at all.

I also want to mention other meetings that I have attended and compliment those who ran them. The 4-H educator conference was held at the 4-H Center and was well attended with some great speakers and opportunities to discuss issues. The Development Office hosted the retiree luncheon and awarded scholarships for continuing education of Extension personnel. It was a pleasure to talk to former employees, and we enjoyed

an excellent presentation on drones and their place in the "Extension toolbox" by Jason Davis. In addition, it was time for Check In and Tune Up this month. We had a great meeting at the Little Rock State Office and welcomed employees who had been with Extension for a little as 1 month. The Check In and Tune Up team did a great job as usual. All these were great interactions, and I sensed a lot of energy going into summer. There is a renewed energy for Extension activities post pandemic, and it feels good.

I am excited to announce that Mr. Les Walz has joined our ANR faculty as an Ag Educator for livestock and forages. This position will focus on training and providing support to new and existing agents in majority pasture and cattle counties or wherever new agents are trying to develop a livestock program for their county. Les joins Leigh Ann Bullington and Andy Vangilder as part of our growing team of educators focused on becoming a successful county agent.

Our 2022/23 budget meetings are now completed, and the proposed budget has been submitted for consideration by the Board of Trustees. This includes all departmental budgets, position requests, capital expenditures and salary programs. We anticipate that this will include a merit-based salary program which will be announced after it is approved. As we close out the current year, please respond in a timely manner to all requests from the Business Office including travel issues and inventory. In addition, look for other announcements in the future from Finance and HR concerning several changes for the next fiscal year. ■

INSIDE SCOOP

2. Chi Epsilon Sigma Summer Cereal Drive
 3. Cross County Omelet Day
 4. Leadership Logo
 5. Accessibility Corner
 6. Tech Corner
 7. New 4-H Foundation Board Members
 8. EHC Love Their Succulents
 9. Statewide Agent Training Conference Set...
- And much more!

UofA

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION

University of Arkansas System

Chi Epsilon Sigma Summer Cereal Drive



Chi Epsilon Sigma will host a food drive, May 23 - June 10, in partnership with the Arkansas Food Bank / THV11 Summer Cereal Drive. There will be several options to support the drive: donation tables at the state office, a donation table at the Don Tyson Center for Agricultural Sciences, and via an online portal for monetary donations. Items needed include cereal, oatmeal, toaster pastries, granola bars and monetary donations. ■



Chi Epsilon Sigma

Soybean Science Challenge

Showcases Benefits of Soybean and Research

Soybean Science Challenge Coordinator Diedre Young has had a busy spring educating students, teachers and the public about the benefits of soybean and soybean research. On April 14, she presented workshops to more than 70 students at Pinnacle West High School in Little Rock. Soon after, she hosted a booth at the Garland County Plant Show where she encouraged gardeners to plant soybeans in their garden. She received more than 50 requests for soybean seeds for various community gardens as part of the Soybean Science Challenge, which now has more than 100 gardens throughout the state and nation.

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 Cooperative Extension Service. ■



Arkansas State Science Fair first place winner and ASMSA West Central Arkansas Science Fair Soybean Science Challenge winner Abby Berger and Teacher-Mentor Dr. Brian Monson.



FFA Agriscience Fair Senior Division winners Hannah and Hadleigh Baker and Teacher-Mentor Jason Baker.

In late April, Young had a booth at the FFA State Convention in Hot Springs, where she encouraged teachers to use soybeans in classroom research and how to find free resources on Extension's 'soywhatsup' website.

The Soybean Science Challenge is a farmer-funded, statewide, junior high and



SSC Coordinator Diedre Young presents at one of her workshops at Pinnacle West High School in Little Rock.

Clay County 4-H Embryology Program

Clay County agent Allison Howell conducts an embryology program each year with kindergarteners at Piggott Elementary. This year, nearly 80 students participated this year in the program, which includes two sessions.

In the first visit, Howell set up eggs in incubators and show the students how the system works. The children each label an egg with their name so that can follow their egg to see if it hatches. The teachers explain what part of the chicken grows with each passing day. After 7 to 9 days, Howell returns for a second visit to candle the students' eggs. Candling includes shining a light beneath the eggs to view the developing chicken.

The students are given a pre and post test to determine what they learned.

The school also makes several Facebook posts about the chicks so that families can see what their kids are learning in the program. This is a very successful program that is requested each year by the teachers and staff. ■



Working hard, taking care of their eggs! Turning them every day and learning a lot about the chick's growing process.

Cross County Omelet Day

After a two-year hiatus, the Cross County 4-H Omelet Day returned April 23 with great success. 4-H members presold more than 325 tickets and more than 80 additional tickets at the door.

Over 220 patrons were served at what was the 45th Omelet Day for Cross County 4-H. Proceeds from

the event go to help pay camp/event expenses for county 4-Hers. 4-H Omelet Day originally began as a way for 4-H groups across the state to help raise money for building the Arkansas 4-H Center in Ferndale. The Cross County 4-H Foundation/Clubs have continued the tradition. ■



4hers from left to right, Brittany W., Madison W., Kayli S., Karma S., Joshua B., Logan B., Abby S., and Jessica D.



Kayle S., Emma and Riley H. can't wait to eat.





April Leadership Lunch and Learn: What is Conflict and How Do You Manage It?

In the April 2022 Leadership Lunch and Learn session, participants learned more about conflict management. Read more about this session [here](#).

LeadAR Class 19 Learns About Disaster Preparedness.

Spring in Arkansas can be pleasant and mild; however,



spring is also the primary severe weather season in the state. LeadAR Class 19 recently learned how the Arkansas Division of Emergency Management (ADEM) provides state-level leadership, resources, and coordination for a comprehensive all-hazards approach to emergencies and disasters impacting Arkansas. For more information click [here](#).



iLEAD Travels the Highway to Hope.

In mid-April, the iLead class visited the Southwest Research and Extension Center in Hope. Where they learned about the center's research and Hempstead County Extension programming. Read the blog post [here](#). ■

PTAC Attends Indiana Conference

Staff in the Arkansas Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) attended a spring training and membership meeting in Indianapolis in early April. Arkansas PTAC Program Director Melanie Berman taught a class for fellow program managers on how to market PTAC programs. She convened a panel of five experts across the country to present on the subject. Berman was also recognized for her volunteer service as regional director for the past three years. Her region includes 96 PTAC members living across Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas. PTAC staff attend conferences twice a year to learn from fellow program managers and counselors how to better help our Arkansas small businesses sell to the government. ■

Right: Melanie Berman, Arkansas PTAC Program Director and Kimberly Randle, NW Arkansas PTAC Procurement Counselor attending a session at the APTAC spring 2022 conference. Below: Kimberly Randle, Savanna George, Debra Garcia, Melanie Berman and Tim Hicks from the Arkansas PTAC attended this year's APTAC spring conference in Indianapolis, Indiana.



Why do we Have to Make our Content Digitally Accessible?



A combination of state legislation and federal regulations guide us in how we work to make our content accessible to any Arkansan.

Americans with Disabilities Act

The Department of Justice recently released guidance for web accessibility standards in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. This guidance reconfirms that web accessibility is required for all public sector websites, along with businesses that are open to the public.

Arkansas State Accessibility Legislation - Act 1227 of 1999

All state-funded sites and agencies must have all of their content accessible to blind and visually impaired users.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Section 504 is a civil rights law that protects students with disabilities from discrimination. Because of Section 504, all educational institutions - public, private, and at any level - are required to give students with disabilities the same access to instructional materials as their non-disabled peers.

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973


Section 508 is a regulatory guideline that ensures that all content, training materials, and public information is equally accessible to people with disabilities as it is accessible to people without disabilities. ■

Hot Spring County Beef Quality Assurance Field Day

Hot Spring County hosted a BQA Stocksmanship and Stewardship workshop May 7 at Whiskey Ridge Ranch for producers. These producers learned about proper nutrition with Hot Spring County Extension Agent Rachel Bearden, forages with Clark County Extension Agent Amy Simpson, reproductive efficiency with Dr. Charles Looney, and cattle handling and herd health management with Rachel Bearden.

This was a very successful field day. Producers received Beef Quality Assurance certifications, and all participants reported learning new management techniques they can implement in their own herds. Others reported learning important strategies in herd management, planning their operations, forage management, storing vaccines, and blood testing for pregnancy.

Producers who attended were very grateful for hands-on, in-person training using live cattle. The Arkansas Beef Council provide funds through Beef Checkoff for the field day. ■

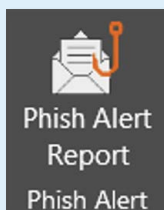


County Agent Amy Simpson worked with producers on options to improve their forages.



New Phishing Report Button

We have a new phishing report button for reporting suspicious emails in Outlook.



The old Microsoft Report Message Button has been replaced by the KnowBe4 Phishing Alert Button (PAB).

You should use the PAB to report suspected phishing emails or any potentially dangerous emails. The emails you report will be forwarded to the IT team for analysis.

The PAB should only be used to report emails you believe to have malicious intent. If you are receiving spam or marketing emails, you should not use the PAB. Spam or marketing emails can be deleted or you can add the sender, or sender's email domain, to a [block list](#).

See the articles linked below for information about where the Phish Alert Button is located and how to use it:

- [How Do I Use the Phish Alert Button in the Outlook Client?](#)
- [How Do I Use the Phish Alert Button in Outlook Web and Outlook App \(mobile\)?](#)

By using this new button, you are helping to keep our organization safe and defend it against cyberattacks.

If you have any questions, reach out to the call center for assistance.

Five Tips for Hosting More Inclusive Meetings

Create more inclusive hybrid meetings with these five tips:

1. Acknowledge your colleagues by greeting them.
2. Allow remote participants to speak first.
3. Encourage the use of virtual or blurred backgrounds for privacy or use the same virtual background as a team.

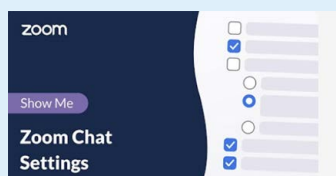


4. Be an active listener. Give verbal and nonverbal cues to show they have your attention.
5. Going virtual, even if most participants are in person, can level the playing field so no one feels left out.

Source: <https://blog.zoom.us/host-more-inclusive-meetings/>

Zoom Quick Reference "Show Me" Videos

Zoom Chat Settings (5.5 minutes)



Extending Chat Beyond Just Text (4.5 minutes)



Hacks from Hump Day

Caption File Hack: Removing Timestamps from a Panopto Caption File.

Accessibility Hack: How to Tag Your PDFs with the Reading Order Tool.

Excel Hack: When Merge & Center isn't the Best Option.

Foxit Hack: Convert PDFs to Word Documents using Foxit.

PPT Hack: Magnify Areas of Slides During a Presentation.

Social Skills

Join us for June Social Skills: Creating a Social Media Calendar. [Register](#) and check out past Social Skills sessions. ■



2022 TECH TUESDAYS WEBINARS

[Register](#) and join us for the June 14, 2022,

Tech Tuesday "Video Editing Options" webinar.

Did you miss May Tech Tuesday [Enhance Your Programs with Canva Graphics](#)? Check out the recording and resources.



New 4-H Foundation Board Members 'Bleed Some Green'

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The Arkansas 4-H Foundation Board of Directors has three new members:

- **Dr. Philip E. Ferguson**, a pathologist with Northwest Arkansas Pathology Associates in Fayetteville. He grew up in Pope County 4-H and was a 1990 state record book winner in photography. He served a year as Arkansas 4-H president, and in 1993, he was inducted into the Arkansas 4-H Hall of Fame. He will serve a two-year term on the foundation board.
- **Johnny Key**, commissioner of Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education for the Department of Education. Key was a member of Clark County 4-H and participated in the poultry project. He also was a delegate to Citizenship-Washington Focus and attended National 4-H Congress as a youth. He will serve a three-year term on the 4-H Foundation Board.
- **Krista Brimer**, registered nurse at Unity Health Out-patient Care Center in Searcy. She led the Velvet Ridge 4-H Club from 2008-2021. She is active with Extension Homemakers Clubs and served as White County's EHC president from 2011-2013 and on the Arkansas Extension



From left to right, new 4-H Foundation Board Members include: Dr. Philip E. Ferguson, Johnny Key and Krista Brimer. Welcome new board members!

Homemakers Council from 2013-2015 as the Delta district director. She's a member of the Bald Knob Extension Homemakers Club and will serve a three-year term on the foundation board.

"The Foundation is very pleased to add these exceptional leaders to our board," Arkansas 4-H Foundation Managing Director John Thomas said. "They exemplify the kind of influence Arkansas 4-H can have in someone's journey. They all have been involved with 4-H and continue to live out the 4-H pledge to serve with head, heart, hands and health."

Thomas said the new members all "bleed some green" – a reference to the signature green of the 4-H clover emblem. ■

a FARM to TABLE event
BENEFITING ARKANSAS 4-H YOUTH

DINNER at the VINES



Save the Date!

SEPTEMBER 27, 2022

C. A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center | Lakeside at the Rose Garden

ARKANSAS4HFOUNDATION.ORG

 The Arkansas
4-H Foundation

 DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action institution.

EHC Love Their Succulents

Prairie County Extension Homemakers learned all about succulents at EHC's spring council event, thanks to Jan Yingling from the White County extension office. Members each chose a succulent provided by Sutherlands in Stuttgart, and Yingling showed them how to mix their potting soil for the best results. After the planting was complete, members enjoyed lunch and their business meeting.

The Biscoe and Idlewild EHC clubs hosted this year's Spring Council meeting with the help of Prairie County Extension Agent Emilee Moody. The combination of the theme and Mrs. Yingling's program made everyone want to get their hands dirty and get to planting. Each fall and spring FCS agent Emilee Moody and the Prairie County EHC Council plan countywide educational events to promote EHC and recruit new members. ■



Left: Jan Yingling, White County 4-H Agent talks about succulents with Prairie County EHC Members. Right: Prairie County EHC Member, Marie Price plants her succulent with FCS Agent Emilee Moody.



4-H Pioneer Day



Izard County 4-H clubs participated recently participated in Izard County Pioneer Day and placed first in the parade with their convoy of four floats around the theme "Pioneering through the Decades with 4-H." The first float showcased livestock with goats, sheep, lambs and chickens on the float. A second float showcased the 1920s with a flapper girl and a gangster; several sock hop girls in poodle skirts from the 1950s; a 1990 exercise girl; and a 2000 4-H member in her county shirt promoting 4-H. The third float was full of Free Spirits from the 1960s and

1970s sporting tie-dyed shirts, round sunglasses, and long hair with headbands. Other members dressed as characters from the movie Top Gun to represent the 1980s. The fourth float showed the early pioneer homesteading and gardening. Parents lended their support by decorating and pulling the trailers for the floats. ■



Members representing "Top Gun" from the 1980s themed float.

Statewide Agent Training Conference Set for December



Extension's Leadership Team is excited to announce a new approach to offering in-service training for county extension agents from all 75 counties. A statewide training conference is planned for Dec. 6-8, 2022.

The conference will offer multiple concurrent sessions that will be repeated throughout the three-day training to keep group sizes manageable and give agents flexibility in choosing what sessions to attend. The conference will also provide an opportunity for state professional associations to meet with agents from all counties and disciplines present.

The December training conference will not replace all

in-service trainings held throughout the year. We recognize that some in-service trainings require a significant amount of intensive training time or must be held in certain locations or at specific times because of subject matter. However, all trainings that are suitable will be moved to the December conference and adapted to fit the new format.

There are many reasons for piloting this approach, including but not limited to:

- Reducing time that agents and specialists spend traveling to and from multiple trainings throughout the year and related travel expenses.
- Providing more opportunities for agents to participate in trainings they might miss during the year due to scheduling conflicts or time constraints.
- Creating an environment for employees from across the state and from different disciplines to network.

A conference committee has been appointed to provide leadership for the training conference. The committee includes a representative from the Delta, Ouachita and Ozark districts, ANR, FCS, 4-H and CPED. ■

Diamond Age Luncheon

Izard County Extension Homemakers hosted the Diamond Age Luncheon for the 70th year on May 7. Izard County EHC members were key players in the founding of the county's annual Pioneer Day, which is held the first Saturday in May to honor the community's founders.

This year, the EHC members honored the elderly by providing meals to those over the age of 70. They served 95 people. At this year's Pioneer Day event, Izard County Judge Eric Smith also signed the EHC proclamation declaring May as EHC month. ■



Izard County Extension Homemakers with County Judge signing proclamation declaring May as EHC month.



Arkansas Association Extension 4-H Agents Names State Winners

Congratulations to the following employees who won awards at the annual Arkansas Association of Extension 4-H Agents meeting:

Service Award Winners:

Rookie of the Year – Morgan Taylor
Achievement in Service Award – Rachel Bearden & Lori Canada
Distinguished Service Award – Creenna Bocksnick & Hope Bragg
Meritorious Service Award – Erica Williams



Morgan Taylor

Communicator Awards:

Educational Package – Individual – Lori Canada
Educational Package – Team – Jesse Bocksnick, Creenna Bocksnick, Ashley Dingman
Media Presentation – Isaac Gauvey
Promotional Piece – Individual – Rachel Bearden
Social Media Package/Campaign – Individual – Ashley Dingman
Social Media Package/Campaign – Team – Hope Bragg, Ashley Dingman, Lori Canada
Social Media Piece – Individual – Rachel Bearden
Social Media Piece – Team – Jesse Bocksnick, Creenna Bocksnick, Ashley Dingman

Specialty Awards:

Denise Miller National 4-H Innovator Award – Megan Maulden
Educational Technology Award – Lori Canada & Hope Bragg
Excellence in 4-H Club Support Award – Jeanie Rowbotham & Cindy Ham
Excellence in Animal Science Award – Jeanie Rowbotham, Cindy Ham, Rachel Bearden, Scharidi Barber
Excellence in Camping Award – Creenna Bocksnick
Excellence in Natural Resources/Environmental Education Award – Eric De Vries, Shannon Caldwell, Taylor Knox, Roanna Wilson, Marshall Dickey, Justin Kirkes, Phyllis Scurlock, Hannah McCoy
Excellence in Peer Professional Development Award – Hope Bragg & Lori Canada
Excellence in Shooting Sports – Jesse Bocksnick, Shannon Andress (AL), Todd Williver (OR), David White (OR)
Excellence in Teamwork Award – Megan Maulden, Kris Boulton, Nicole Nichols
Jim Kahler Excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Award – Lori Canada. ■



Megan Maulden



Hope Bragg

Drew County



4-H Team Heads to National Contest

Arkansas 4-H youth competed April 29 in the Wildlife Habitat Education Program, WHEP, statewide contests, which tested their ability to identify local wildlife and manage their habitat.

Drew County's senior team – Sy L., Job R., Adrian R., and Chole R. – placed first and will advance to the National WHEP invitational in London, Kentucky. Chole R. also placed first in the individual competition. Drew County's junior team – Ada R., Bliss B., Ben C., and Aurora O. –

placed third in their division. ■



Drew County's Senior Team First Place winners.



Drew County's Junior Team Third Place winners.

Star City Sensory Garden



The Lincoln County Extension Homemakers recently planted a Lantana in the Star City Sensory Garden in honor of those affected by COVID. Visitors are welcome to have a picnic, admire the plants and say a prayer for those affected by COVID-19. ■



From left to right: Lincoln County Extension Homemaker members Stacie Blundell, Helen Edwards, Pauline Myrick, Edith Eagle, Margaret Tucker, and representing the Star City Garden Lovers Club is Hope Robinson.

Beans, Brains, and Things

The Arkansas Association of Cooperative Extension Specialists' April virtual series of Beans, Brains, and Things featured Dr. Wally Goddard, retired FCS professor of family life.

Dr. Goddard's presentation "Getting Our Hearts Right: 3 Keys for Better Relationships" and discussed how

conflict is a universal problem that doesn't diminish unless we change how we approach it.

"It takes more than knowledge and skills to help reduce conflict," he said. "It is also not enough to say the right words. We need a different way of thinking and a different way of feeling. We need a change of heart. Bias distorts our vision and keeps us from seeing things clearly."

Dr. Goddard offered three strategies keys for activating our hearts, which make our relationships better.

1. **Humility** - opens the door and our hearts to see how others think.
2. **Compassion** - connects our hearts and allows us to be sensitive to the struggles and suffering of others.
3. **Positivity** - inspires our hearts and enables us to see the good in people.

If you missed the live presentation, a recording is available on the AACES website: <https://www.uaex.uada.edu/about-extension/professional-organizations/aaces/events-development/professional-development.aspx>. ■

BEANS, BRAINS & THINGS



Getting our Hearts
Right: 3 Keys for
Better Relationships



Grants and Contracts

| PROJECT TITLE | AWARD AMOUNT | PI | GRANTING AGENCY |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 2022 Healthy Habits | 68,200 | Angie Freel | National 4H Council |
| 2022 Healthy Habits Mini Grants | 41,800 | Angie Freel | National 4H Council |
| 2022 Soccer for Success | 3,000 | Angie Freel | National 4H Council |
| Mid-South Entomology Working Group Insect Management in Mid-South Cotton | 42,500 | Ben Thrash | Cotton Inc. |
| Rice Insect Management | 23,013 | Ben Thrash | Rice Research Promotion Board |
| Determining the Effectiveness and Economics of Dual Gene vs Three Gene Bt Cotton and fit for Conventional Cotton for Arkansas Cotton Growers | 20,000 | Ben Thrash | Cotton Inc. |
| Investigating Emerging Production Recommendation for Sustainable Soybean Production | 46,647 | Ben Thrash | Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board |
| Refining Insect Thresholds in Arkansas Soybean | 46,155 | Ben Thrash | Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board |
| Impact of Water Quality on Insects | 20,000 | Ben Thrash | Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board |
| Cotton Specialists Partnership: Large-Plot Replicated Variety Evaluations - AR | 10,000 | Bill Robertson | Cotton Inc. |
| Evaluation of Plant Population | 31,200 | Bill Robertson | Cotton Inc. |
| Rice Enterprise Budgets and Production Economic Analysis | 7,500 | Breanna Watkins | Rice Research Promotion Board |
| Soybean Enterprise Budgets | 10,000 | Breanna Watkins | Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board |
| Economic Analysis of Soybean Production and Marketing Practices | 7,113 | Brian Deaton | Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board |
| Promoting Irrigation Water Management for Soybeans | 55,425 | Chris Henry | Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board |
| Refining Insect Thresholds in Arkansas Soybean | 9,221 | Glenn Studebaker | Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board |
| Agronomic Production Practices for Rice | 105,000 | Jarrold Hardke | Rice Research Promotion Board |
| DD50 Thermal Unit Thresholds and Seeding Date Effects for New Rice Cultivars | 60,000 | Jarrold Hardke | Rice Research Promotion Board |
| Nitrogen Recommendations for New Rice Cultivars | 57,000 | Jarrold Hardke | Rice Research Promotion Board |
| Arkansas Rice Variety Advancement Trials | 90,000 | Jarrold Hardke | Rice Research Promotion Board |
| Arkansas Rice Performance Trials | 100,000 | Jarrold Hardke | Rice Research Promotion Board |
| Rice Research Verification Program | 101,305 | Jarrold Hardke | Rice Research Promotion Board |
| Investigating Emerging Production Recommendation for Sustainable Soybean Production | 201,303 | Jeremy Ross | Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board |
| On Farm Variable Soybean Seeding Rate Study | 43,747 | Jeremy Ross | Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board |
| Improving Technology Transfer for Profitable and Sustainable Soybean Production | 49,419 | Jeremy Ross | Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board |
| Arkansas Soybean College | 15,042 | Jeremy Ross | Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board |
| Soybean Research Verification Program | 199,087 | Jeremy Ross | Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board |
| Buffalo River Watershed Enhancement Project | 30,450 | John Pennington | Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA NRCS) |
| Soybean Science Challenge | 90,773 | Julie Robinson | Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board |
| Arkansas Future Ag Leaders Tour | 5,000 | Julie Robinson | Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board |
| Arkansas Discovery Farm | 23,071 | Mike Daniels | Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board |
| Rice Insect Management | 105,989 | Nick Bateman | Rice Research Promotion Board |
| Determining Factors Associated with Poor Grain Quality in Soybean and Management Options | 17,413 | Nick Bateman | Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board |
| Refining Insect Thresholds in Arkansas Soybean | 15,325 | Nick Bateman | Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board |
| Climate Smart 300 Bushel Row Rice on 12 inches of Automated Irrigation | 7,892 | Sammy Sadaka | Rice Research Promotion Board |
| Advancing Digital Access | 5,000 | Stacey McCullough | Mississippi State University |
| Understanding Taproot Decline: a Soybean Disease of Increasing Importance in Arkansas | 18,542 | Terry Spurlock | Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board |
| Determining the Value of Fungicide Application on Regional, Whole-farm, Field Level, and Within-Field Scales | 32,800 | Terry Spurlock | Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board |
| Promoting Irrigation Water Management for Soybeans | 5,204 | Terry Spurlock | Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board |
| Comprehensive Disease Screening of Soybean Varieties in Arkansas | 42,057 | Terry Spurlock | Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board |
| Determining Factors Associated with Poor Grain Quality in Soybean and Management Options | 29,807 | Terry Spurlock | Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board |
| A Team Approach to Improved Weed Management in Rice | 73,175 | Tom Barber | Rice Research Promotion Board |
| A Team Approach to Weed Management in Soybean | 57,947 | Tom Barber | Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board |

Grants and Contracts

Continued

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| PROJECT TITLE | AWARD AMOUNT | PI | GRANTING AGENCY |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| Evaluate Weed Efficacy on GLIXTP Cotton | 22,000 | Tom Barber | BASF |
| A Team Approach to Improved Weed Management in Rice | 79,267 | Tommy Butts | Rice Research Promotion Board |
| A Team Approach to Weed Management in Soybean | 62,895 | Tommy Butts | Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board |
| Fast Tracking MG4 and Early MG5 Cultivars with Southern Root Knot Nematode Resistance | 25,507 | Travis Faske | Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board |
| Monitor and Management of Fungicide-Resistant Soybean Diseases in Arkansas | 34,160 | Travis Faske | Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board |
| Integrated Management of Soybean Nematodes in Arkansas | 46,540 | Travis Faske | Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board |
| Comprehensive Disease Screening of Soybean Varieties in Arkansas | 57,152 | Travis Faske | Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board |
| Rice Breeding and Pathology Technical Support | 60,816 | Yeshi Wamishe | Rice Research Promotion Board |
| TOTAL AWARDS FOR APRIL 2022: \$2,412,459 | | | |

Benefits Corner



New Vision Administrator for 2022!

The University's vision plan is now administered by EyeMed! Vision coverage includes eye examinations, prescription eyewear, and contact lenses. You have the option to see a provider in the EyeMed national network or an out-of-network provider; however, you'll always pay more for out-of-network services.

To find a provider, go to eyemed.com and select "Find an eye doctor". Then, choose the Insight Network

from the drop down. You can search by location or doctor name.

For assistance on the go, download the EyeMed Members App. For assistance with LASIK, call 800.988.4221.

To review benefit information related to UADA, visit the UA Systems site at <https://benefits.uasys.edu/>.

Questions regarding your benefits?
Contact yourbenefits@uada.edu. ■

Personnel Changes

Welcome Aboard:

Kamelle Gomez – Program Associate - Economic Development, Community, Professional, & Economic Development, Little Rock

Khaliah A. Coleman – Administrative Specialist III - Horticulture, Little Rock

Dawson Bailey – County Extension Agent - Agriculture, Howard County

Lacy B. Wheelless – 4-H Program Assistant, Lawrence County

Farewell to:

Debbie DeRossitte – County Extension Agent - Family & Consumer Sciences, Poinsett County

Lisa Ann Lynn – Administrative Specialist III, Columbia County

Tiffany Harris – Credit Union - Fiscal Support Analyst, Little Rock

Megan Nicole Maulden – County Extension Agent - 4-H, Saline County

Matt Scott Fryer – Agriculture and Natural Resources - Instructor, Little Rock

Avanlea Chaney – Administrative Specialist II, 4H & Youth Development, Little Rock

Megan Christina Huddleston – 4-H Program Assistant, Randolph County

Kelly Baranyk – 4-H Program Assistant, Carroll County

