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BLUE LETTER

September 2022

No. 3845



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Change is Opportunity

As you can see by the content in the Blue Letter this month, we are busy. I know many of you are working in the field as harvest is fully underway, fairs are either over or happening, it is county review time, award nomination and promotion season, and for many the burden or opportunity (depends on how you choose to look at it) of travel is back with in-person meetings now taking place.

I recently attended two regional meetings, which is two more than I went to during the entire year and a half after I started as extension director! I encourage you to remember to take time for your physical and mental health as we get going again. I know that for many of you, this is your first full non-Covid year with Extension. I am on a Walk Across Arkansas team this year and hope this will remind me to take a few extra steps each week to stay healthy.

Interviews and seminars have been the order of the day for the months of August and September. I have been primarily involved with faculty searches for positions at the state office, and we have/had about 12 of them. There is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes to get interviews scheduled and committees put together. I want to thank all of you who are or have been involved with this process - especially committee chairs. It is an important part of your job and for the health of our organization. I am pleased to say that we have filled some

key positions in Horticulture, Animal Science and Family & Consumer Sciences. We will soon fill some vacancies in Community, Professional and Economic Development, and I am pleased to report that we have had some great candidate pools, which has been true in all our positions. I hope this trend continues as we work to fill other vacancies.

It seems like the past 2-3 years have been full of changes: Covid, Workday, domain name changes, a new director and now a new division vice president. You have probably heard the saying that "The only thing constant in life is change." Many of you tell me you are tired of changes or concerned about changes. One thing I like to point out is that not all changes are bad. For example, I am beginning to use Workday in more ways and with more ease than I thought I ever would two years ago. Without change, we cannot fix or at least try to fix many of the things that are presented as challenges for us with our programs, counties, salaries, promotions, personnel issues and infrastructure.

I see more opportunities to improve the Cooperative Extension Service not only for employees but also in how well we serve our mission in Arkansas. This will mean changes from time to time. So, what I would say, what I would ask of all of you, is bear with us, help where you can and be a part of the changes - this will help make them positive. ■

INSIDE SCOOP

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- ...And much more!

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Wildlife Habitat Education Program



National Contest

The Drew County WHEP team, consisting of Chloe Russell, Sy Lanthrip and Adrian Ratliff, visited the J.M. Feltner 4-H Camp near London, Kentucky to compete in the 2022 4-H and FFA Wildlife Habitat Education Program National Contest. This was the first in-person contest since 2019. Fourteen

teams from around the United States attended the competition.

Participants competed in multiple

hands-on events related to wildlife and habitat conservation. Students tested their wildlife identification and general knowledge skills and evaluated and provided management recommendations to improve habitat for various wildlife species in an eastern deciduous hardwood forest. The students also worked as a team to write and orally defend a wildlife habitat management plan. ■



Center: Sy L., Chloe R. and Adrian R.



Drew County WHEP team: From left to right: Adrian R., Chloe R., and Sy L.

Extension Staff Awarded at the American Society for Horticultural Science

In August, the American Society for Horticultural Sciences (ASHS) held its annual conference in Chicago. As part of the yearly gathering for horticulture researchers, educators, regulators, and industry professionals, the society recognizes educational efforts throughout the discipline, including the Extension Service.

UADA Extension faculty and staff were honored with two awards for creating Outstanding Educational Materials: one for the 2021 Southeastern Strawberry School webinar series, submitted by Dr. Amanda McWhirt (co-coordinators of this project include Dr. Aaron Cato and Lizzy Herrera) and another for the Agricultural Water & Microbial Water Quality Profile fact sheet series, submitted by Rip Weaver (co-authors of this resource include Dr. Amanda Philyaw Perez, Dr. Natacha Cureau, and Julia Fryer).

McWhirt and Weaver also participated in other conference activities, including moderating workshops and oral sessions, presenting posters on research and outreach, and even coordinating a showcase of the musical talents of Dr. John Clark on his career in fruit crop genetics and breeding.



Rip Weaver, Extension food systems and safety program technician, and Dr. Amanda McWhirt, Extension horticulture specialist, accept award certificates at the 2022 ASHS Extension Division Awards Breakfast in Chicago.

To view the strawberry school webinar resource, visit Extension's [Horticulture Publications webpage](#). To view the agricultural water resource, visit Extension's [Produce Safety Resources webpage](#). ■

Soybean Science Challenge Presents at Pinnacle West High School

Soybean
science challenge

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Soybean Science Challenge Coordinator Diedre Young presented six one-hour workshops to over 150 students at Pinnacle West High School in Little Rock on September 6-7. Young's workshops covered the many resources and advantages of soybeans, the benefits of soybean research, and how to make their own poultry feed from materials in the school garden by using soybeans as the main protein or oil ingredient.

The Soybean Science Challenge is a farmer-funded, state-wide, junior high and high school education program that seeks to increase student knowledge about the value of Arkansas soybeans to the Arkansas economy, 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 UADA Cooperative Extension Service.

For more information, contact Dr. Julie Robinson, jobinson@uada.edu or Diedre Young, dyoung@uada.edu. ■



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



LEADERSHIP LOG



iLEAD II ExCEL group photo. iLEAD Cohort II prepares to tackle the ExCEL ropes course. Pictured left to right: Dr. Julie Robinson, director, Lisa Barnes, Shaw nee Tichenor, Heather Friedrich, Renee Threlfall, Tes Sales, Nicole Nichols, Dee Henderson, Matthew J. Davis, and Brad Runsick. Mary Savin, not pictured.)

iLEAD

First iLEAD Cohort II F2F Seminar — A Personal Reflection

Matthew J. Davis, County Extension Agent-Staff Chair, Jackson County, and member of iLEAD Cohort II, shared his thoughts about the first face-to-face iLEAD seminar held at the C. A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center on Aug. 17-19, 2022. Read his personal reflection [here](#). ■



Leadership Lunch & Learn Change Management Topic for August Leadership Lunch and Learn

Dr. Karen Ballard, former professor in community, professional, and economic development, returned to extension briefly to present on the topic of [Change Management](#) during August's Leadership Lunch and Learn webinar. ■

LeadAR

LeadAR Class 19 Prepares for International Study Tour in Portugal

In the August virtual seminar, LeadAR Class 19 shared their research on important topics related to their international study tour to Portugal. Here's an [overview](#) of the session. ■

In-Person EFNEP State Meeting



From August 31 to September 1, EFNEP employees gathered for their first in-person State Meeting since 2019 at the Lake DeGray Resort State Park Lodge.

This year's theme was "Cruising into 2023 with EFNEP."

Participants participated in a two-day training, which covered topics such as Program Recruitment and Marketing Strategies, Safety in the Field, EFNEP's new look for adult programming, and "They Graduated – Now What?", which focused on helping transition EFNEP audiences into other Extension programs. ■



Jacqueline Silva – Benton/Washington County EFNEP Educator, Cathy Love – FCS/EFNEP Agent Ozark District, Chelsea White – EFNEP Educator Crawford/Sebastian County pose for a group photo during the 2022 EFNEP State Meeting.

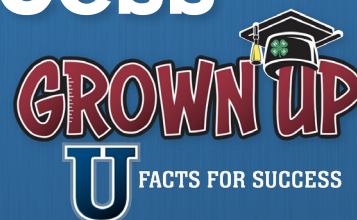


Mishanna Lanes – FCS/EFNEP Agent Ouachita District – Welcomes EFNEP Educators and Supervisors aboard the 2022 EFNEP State Meeting held Aug. 31 through Sept. 1 at Lake DeGray Resort State Park Lodge.



Lauren McGarrh – FCS Agent Union County and Kelley Rogers – EFNEP Educator Union County pose for a quick county picture during the EFNEP State Meeting.

Grown Up U: Facts for Success Podcast Milestones



The Grown Up U podcast team members are excited about starting season three of their "adulting" podcast program and reaching over 1,000 downloads. Designed to reach young people ages 17-25, the podcast features short episodes with relevant information about everything from finances to good mental health.

The team has been working together since the end of 2020 to make the podcast a useful resource for young adults and their families. "Our team came together because we wanted to meet

a need for young Arkansans in a creative way that would make the most impact," said Alison Crane, team leader.

This summer, the team partnered with Arkansas 4-H to expand the reach of the podcast to a national level. Educators across the state have started using the podcast episodes and resources in their classrooms. "I'm really excited to implement these podcasts in my classes," said Tina Taylor, a teacher in Mammoth Springs.

Each episode features educational resources for parents and educators to make the podcast useful for families and classrooms. Most of the episodes line up with educational standards.

The podcast is available on Spotify, Google Podcasts, Apple Podcasts and now Pandora. For more information visit www.uaex.uada.edu/grown-up. ■



The Grown Up U Team from right to left: Tristin Bolton, Pamela Luker, Rachel Chaney, Mary Ann Kizer, Jane Newton, Alison Crane, Pam Pruett, Jessica Angel, Casey Ford, Julie Goings, Valerie Turner. Not pictured: Tracy Courage, Amy Cole, and Kaitie Golden.

Clay County 4-H Youth Leadership Program

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Each year, Clay County offers a 4-H Youth Leadership Program for high school juniors in cooperation with local schools and sponsors. The program was established to provide eleventh grade students with the opportunity to develop leadership skills necessary to improve their school environment and encourage them to become actively involved in their communities by volunteering. The participants attend seven workshops where they build self-confidence, team building, trust, accountability, and leadership skills that prepare for the challenges of life so they can make a positive impact their communities.

Recently, Christin Holmes took thirteen Youth Leadership participants to tour the State Capitol in Little

Rock. Then, the participants attended a True Colors session to learn more about themselves and their peers and completed an ExCEL challenge team building program at the 4-H Center in Ferndale. The youth also discussed their 4-H Tech Changemakers service-learning project, which they will participate in over the course of the year within their community. These teen leaders will explore the impact of the digital divide in their communities, learn high value digital skills, and provide adults in underserved populations with tools to find employment opportunities through expanded access to digital skills training. ■



ExCEL Program - Ropes Course. Front Row: Left to Right- Gracie C., Sophie H., McKenzie G., Karter W., Josh H., Jasmine J., Alexandra F., Emmah T., Mattie M., Jessie H., Riley G. and Laura J.



State Capitol Tour. Front Row: Left to Right- Joslin W., Alexandra F., Jasmine J., Sophie H., Gracie C., Emmah T., Back Row: Mattie M., Josh H., Karter W., McKenzie G., Jessie H., Riley G. and Laura J.



Accessibility Corner **NEW**

Introduction to Accessibility

LEARN Online Training Course

We are thrilled to announce our "Introduction to Accessibility" online course in LEARN.

This course addresses the basic accessibility training needs of all University of Arkansas Division employees.

What will I learn?

- What digital accessibility is
- Why digital accessibility is important
- What we are legally obligated to accomplish
- What tools we can use to make our content accessible

Why should I take this course?

- Enrich your knowledge of accessibility. (The more you know, the better you do!)
- Get a course certificate. You can add this to your annual review. (It counts toward your DEIA efforts).

Completing this course should take about 1 hour. ■



Legal Name vs Preferred Name

Is your legal name displaying in Email and Workday instead of your preferred name?

You can change that in Workday using the instructions below:



Log in to Workday.

Click your profile picture (upper right).

Click on **View Profile** under your name.

Click on **Personal** on the left.

Click on **Names** tab.

Under Preferred Name click on Edit.

UNCHECK "Use legal name as preferred name" and then edit what is shown.

Submit.

The request must go through approval. Once approved, it should display your preferred name.

Why Robotexts are Scammers' Favorite New Tool

So far in 2022, the Federal Communications Commission has received more than 8,500 complaints about "unwanted text messages,"



according to a consumer alert released last month. That number is on track to surpass the number of complaints in 2021, which totaled 15,300. But according to industry data, the number is likely just a small sliver of the problem. Spam-blocking app RoboKiller estimated that consumers received more than 12 billion robotexts in June alone. Like robocalls, robotexts aren't just a

nuisance — they're a powerful tool for scammers. In fact, experts say that in some ways, scam text messages can be even more dangerous than robocalls. With one click, a victim could be tricked into providing information used to hack into their bank account or work email. [Tonya Riley reports.](#)

Zoom Pro Tip

Using Live Transcription

Live transcriptions are now available for UADA Zoom accounts for meetings. Enable live transcriptions for your account by signing into the UADA Zoom web portal. Go to your settings, select the meeting tab, and then select In-meeting (Advanced) and enable Automated Captions. In your next meeting, you will have the option to enable live transcripts. Click the Live Transcript icon and then Enable Auto-Transcription. Participants in your meeting will have automated captions shown on their screen.

Participants can also request live transcriptions be enabled for the meeting.

Hacks from Hump Day

[Accessibility Checker in Microsoft Products](#) - Accessibility
[Quickly Clear Formatting](#) - Excel
[Adding External Contacts](#) - Zoom



Social Skills

Join us for October Social Skills: Cybersecurity on Social Media. [Register and check out](#) past Social Skills sessions.



2022 TECH TUESDAYS WEBINARS

Have you missed any past Tech Tuesday webinars or want to join future webinars? Check out the recordings and other resources on the [Tech Tuesday Blog page](#). More Tech Tuesday topics coming soon! Did you miss September's [Tech Tuesday Time Management and Organization with Microsoft's Outlook and To-Do](#)? Check out the recording and resources.



Faulkner County Extension Tour

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The Faulkner County Extension Office held its first ever “Extension Tour” on August 5, welcoming the county judge, Quorum Court members, stakeholders, and other community members as a new way of hosting their interpretive event. The tour was from 2-6 p.m. and started with Mary Beth Groce, FCS Agent and Staff Chair, and Kami Green, 4-H Agent, who gave presentations on their program areas from the past program year.

These presentations included pictures, statistics, and opportunities for questions. From there, all in attendance loaded an air-conditioned bus to tour demonstrations and projects around the county. Krista Quinn, Horticulture Agent, and Zach Gardner, Agriculture Agent, explained and answered questions relating to each stop on the tour. This portion of the tour lasted a little over two hours and ended back at the office, where everyone enjoyed a catered meal sponsored by Faulkner County Farm Bureau. 4-Her's led the pledge and Master Gardeners



Faulkner County Extension Staff (left to right) Mary Beth Groce, Krista Quinn, Mindy Beard, Kami Green, Zach Gardner and Tracy Clark.

provided desserts. There was overwhelming positive feedback that supported this new way of showing community members and officials a better picture of the impact that Extension has in the county. The Faulkner County Extension Office plans to continue this tour for the future! ■



Krista Quinn, Horticulture Agent, presents on the tour bus to attendees about updates, challenges and needs for the different projects and demonstrations.



Faulkner County Producers for SalScilla Farms present about the ways that the Faulkner County Extension Office has assisted and benefited their operation.

Grants & Contracts

PROJECT TITLE	AWARD AMOUNT	PI	GRANTING AGENCY
Sustainable Practices for Strawberry Production	71,481	Amanda L McWhirt	University of Georgia
Extension Health Ambassadors	349,481	Bryan Mader	National Institute of Food & Agriculture (NIFA)
Grant Writing Workshop	6,000	Hunter P. Goodman	Mississippi State University
Agrauxine - Rice Studies	6,500	Jarrod Hardke	Agrauxine Inc.
TOTAL AWARDS FOR AUGUST 2022: \$433,462			

Benefits Corner

Boo to the Flu!

Get your flu shot at the LRSO on Wednesday, October 19, 2022, from 1:00 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. in Meeting Rooms 1 and 2 in the Educational Wing. You must bring these required documents to participate:

- A completed copy of the Freiderica Flu Shot Consent Form.
- A completed copy of the HIPAA Form.
- A copy of your driver's license.
- A copy of the front and back of your insurance card (Most major insurances are accepted).

Benefits Open Enrollment will last only 2 weeks this year!

October 31 – November 14, 2022

Open Enrollment is your once-a-year chance to add, drop, or change your benefits coverage. Elections made during open enrollment will be effective January 1, 2023. Ensure you and your family have the coverage you need for the coming year! Open Enrollment is also your once-a-year chance to elect

contributions to a Healthcare and/or Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account — your contribution elections don't roll over year to year.

Is your Home Address Current in WorkDay?

Please access your Workday Profile Page to manage your personal and professional contact information. To access your Workday profile page, click your Profile icon, then View Profile. Your Profile page displays.

To Add or Change your contact information:

1. Click the Contact tab. The Contact subtab is selected.
2. Click Edit. Within each section, click the Edit button to change existing information or click Add to add new information. You can also click within a field to edit. Please review the privacy setting to make sure your work phone number is listed as "public".
3. Click Submit.

Have questions? Human Resources can be reached at your-benefits@uada.edu. ■

Personnel Changes

Welcome Aboard:

Shannon Ballard – Administrative Specialist III, Pike County
Tasha Jones – Administrative Specialist III, Cleburne County
Leslie Stuart – Administrative Specialist III, Hempstead County
Janet Perkins – County Extension Agent - Family & Consumer Sciences, Van Buren County
Aleya Hassan – Administrative Specialist II, Community, Professional, & Economic Development, Little Rock
Jessica Rodriguez – County Extension Agent - Family & Consumer Sciences, Hot Spring County
Alexa Clark – Administrative Specialist III, Montgomery County
Carol Teague – 4-H Program Assistant, Lawrence County
Kierra Mendez-Ward – Administrative Specialist II, Family & Consumer Sciences, Little Rock
Lacey Hall – County Extension Agent - Family & Consumer Sciences, Cleburne County
David West – County Extension Agent - Agriculture, Cleveland County

Farewell to:

Jane Newton – County Extension Agent - Family & Consumer Sciences, Lincoln County
Grant Bennett – County Extension Agent - Agriculture, Crittenden County
Chrissy Phillips – Administrative Specialist III, Montgomery County
Whitney Haigwood – ANR Technical and Social Media Writer, Little Rock
Chelsea White – Program Assistant - EFNEP, Crawford County
Hannah McCoy – Administrative Specialist II, C. A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center

