BLUE LETTER

August 2022 No. 3844



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Extension in Motion

I had the opportunity to drop in on a few of the county interpretive events this fall already, and I have really enjoyed getting out into the state. It never ceases to amaze me that after 20 years in the Extension Service, I still learn about new programs and things that are happening that I had no idea we did. For example, in Clay County, Alison Howell's educational program on embryology for kindergartners was a new one on me!

I have also enjoyed visiting and observing the positive relationships that so many of our county staff have with their judges and quorum courts. This is evident in counties like Polk and White, which have partnered with leadership in their counties to build very nice Extension buildings. Also, Union County recently increased funding to add a 4-H agent! I know this is going on in many other counties as well. Brian Helms in our development office, the district directors and many others play a role in building these relationships. We need to keep up this good work as many new judges and officials take office next year throughout the state. Please share your positive county government interactions with Brian, your district director and me! We love to hear from you.

The State Office has been busy this past month. We have 11 Extension specialist positions open and in various stages of being filled. It's an exciting time for sure but makes for a crowded schedule. In addition to search committees, we are working on promotion and awards committees. This service component of your job is important to the organization. I want to thank all of you who are serving on committees right now as we fill critical positions and conduct our day-to-day business.

Moving into fall, I know that everyone is busy with harvest plans, county fairs and many other programs. I want to remind everyone that our call for Extension Excellence Awards has gone out. I know that this is the time of year for many organizations, including our Division award nominations to be called for. We have many deserving people throughout the Division, so please take time to nominate a deserving team or colleague for these awards. This act and these awards play an important role in the overall health of our organization and with job satisfaction.

INSIDE SCOOP

- 2. 4-H O-Rama Returns
- 3. Arkansas Blackberry Beer
- 4. National PTAC Day
- 5. Recruit, Retain & Engage
- 6. Leadership Log
- 7. Income Tax Schools
- 8. Tech Corner
- 9. Accessibility Corner...And much more!





CLOVERDRIVE 2022

4-H O-Rama Returns

More than 300 4-H members from 50 counties demonstrated their project work and participated in the 2022 Arkansas 4-H O-Rama, held in person for the first time in two years at the University of Arkansas on July 26-29. This year's theme was CLOVER DRIVE. The event included various contests, activities and programing.

Highlights included the Awards of Excellence dinner and ceremony, keynote speaker Dr. Laymon Hicks, workshops with

Bumpers College and the state officer election. Youth also participated in a statewide food insecurity service project, 4-H Lip Sync Battle and Fun Night at the Jones Center.

Event sponsors were Farm Bureau Insurance, Farm Credit, Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas and the Arkansas 4-H Foundation. For a list of contest winners, event pictures and live-streamed videos, visit: https://4h.uada.edu/youth/opportunities/orama.aspx.



Newly Elected 2022-23 4-H State Officer Team

Congratulations to the newly elected Arkansas 4-H State Officers Team:

- **President:** Jack Berryhill, Hot Spring County.
- First vice president: Wapiti Mefford, Newton County.
- **Secretary:** Ayden Jowers, Benton County.
- **Reporter:** Zach Gardner, Washington County.
- **Delta District vice president:** Magon James, Arkansas County.
- Ouachita District vice president: Diamond Jones, Pulaski County.
- Ozark District vice president: Kacie Clark, Faulkner County.

The team was announced during State O-Rama closing assembly on July 28 at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. The district vice presidents were elected at each district's O-Rama in June. The new team hit the ground running with orientation Aug. 9-12 at the Arkansas 4-H Center. The AR 4-H State Officer team provides statewide leadership for youth, adult volunteers, supporters, and more. The state officers:



- Serve as leaders and role models for 4-H youth and adults.
- Advocate for Arkansas 4-H.
- Connect the County, District, and State levels of Arkansas 4-H.
- Represent the youth audience to the Arkansas 4-H Foundation.

The team will represent AR 4-H at events such as Southern Region Teen Leader Conference, the state fair, and the Arkansas and American Farm Bureau conferences. They also plan the 2023 Teen Leader Conference and preside over O-Ramas next summer. ■

From Bush to Barrel:

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Arkansas Blackberry

Beer

A unique Arkansas blackberry beer was made from Arkansas-bred blackberry SHARE GROUNDS

CERTIFIED NITCHEN & DISTRIBUTION CENTER

Where Food & Innovation Meel

cultivars grown in Arkansas through a partnership among University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, the Share Grounds, the Arkansas Brewers Guild, Ritter Farms and Stone's Throw Brewing.

The Arkansas blackberry beer was featured at two events in July at Stone's Throw Brewing in Little Rock. Over 175 participants received two beer samples, one made from blackberry juice processed at Share Grounds in McCrory and one made from whole berries. Ritter Farms in Judsonia provided the blackberries. All blackberries used in the production of the beer were cultivars



released from the UA System's blackberry breeding program located in Clarksville. After tasting, everyone rated the samples for preference and by a very slim margin, the beer made with blackberry juice was preferred most by participants as compared to the beer made with whole blackberries. This project partnership hopes to find new and innovative products and increase awareness of Arkansas-grown blackberries.

4-H Members Tackle Food Insecurity

4-H members from 13 counties participated in a "Tackling Food Insecurity" workshop offered during 4-H State O-Rama and donated 695 pounds of food — enough to provide 666 meals for those in need in Northwest Arkansas (1.2 pounds = 1 meal).

Kim Daniels, annual food fund officer for the Northwest Arkansas Food Bank, presented the workshop and led 4-H members in group activities to show how food insecurity is real in Arkansas. Three agents and 28 4-H members attended the workshop held at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

The following counties donated food items: Benton, Boone, Craighead, Franklin, Garland, Hempstead, Howard, Jefferson, Lafayette, Marion, Prairie, Saline and Union.



Thank you to Jerri Dew (Lafayette County), Shaney Hill (Union County) and Keith Gresham (Dallas County) for submitting, organizing and conducting the workshop. ■



National PTAC Day

Thousands of small businesses benefit from training and technical assistance delivered by their local procurement technical assistance centers (PTAC). PTAC Day is a national campaign designed to celebrate contracting success. The fourth annual PTAC Day will take place on Sept. 21, 2022.



Arkansas PTAC clients have been awarded more than \$2 billion in government contracts in the past 20 years. Our procurement counselors support the entire state of Arkansas. If you know a business in your county that is looking to sell to the government, reach out to Melanie Berman, program director, or Kimberly Magee, PTAC outreach coordinator.

National PTAC Day will unite more than 90 Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTACs) and the 56,000 clients they serve by sharing, in real time, small business success stories and the significant economic impact that PTAC clients have created within their communities.

The Arkansas PTAC will celebrate with client success stories shared via social media and will host a virtual event on Sept. 21 at 10 a.m. To learn more about our trainings and events visit <u>here</u>. ■





Fun on the Farm

The Independence County Extension Office staff teamed up to offer Fun on the Farm to all children entering grades K-6 in the county. Thirty-eight children attended the two-week program to learn about agriculture. Agriculture agent Michelle Mobley and summer intern Sarah Gaskin taught students all about Arkansas agriculture.

FCS agent Julian Carpenter introduced a variety of Arkansas foods to the students, many of whom

reported trying a new food throughout the week. Students engaged in numerous hands-on learning activities, learned about different types of soil, visited a small animal farm and talked with a local cattle farmer. Students reported a greater understanding of Arkansas crops after attending Fun on the Farm. Linda Latus, 4-H program assistant, informed participants about what 4-H has to offer and invited them to a summer recruitment event.

In-Service for Agents:

Recruit, Retain, and Engage

Recruit, Retain, and Engage is an in-service that will kick off in August with three online sessions Aug. 19, Sept. 7 and Oct. 3 from 9-11 a.m.

The training will be an interactive and engaging three-part series focused on key strategies agents can use in their programming and with their volunteers for recruitment, engagement and retention through a community-centered nonprofit context. The in-service will conclude with an in-person session on strategic planning at the Dec. 7 Extension Agent Training Conference.

Agents will leave with specific strategies, tools and resources focused on working with volunteers in their counties. Agents also will gain information and resources for nonprofit organizations in their counties that also support and engage volunteers in their organizations as well as community development efforts.



At Least Three Key Ways to Support Nonprofit and Volunteer Organizations in Your County

Retain

Community, Professional & Economic Development

August 19, September 7, and October 3 9 to 11 am | Zoom

Extension agents are a trusted go-to source for their community and grass-roots organizations and local leaders committed to local change. True to our mission, we'll work on understanding key strategies for volunteer recruitment, engagement, and retention through a community-centered nonprofit context.







4-H Tuesdays

For the second year, Fulton County 4-H continued its successful day camp series titled "4-H Tuesdays." Day camps were held on Tuesdays during June and the first two weeks of July with a different theme each week. About 25 youth attended each of the six sessions:

- All About Shooting Sports (Archery, BB shooting and gun safety).
- All About Cooking (Kitchen basics, delicious snacks, and fun).

- All About Drones & Technology (Drone Flying 101 and Drone obstacle course).
- All About Having Fun (Popcorn, homemade treats and movies).
- All About Exploring AR (Educational program by Arkansas Game & Fish-Ponca Nature Center which included painting butterfly houses and wooden fish).
- All About Nature (Educational program by the Fulton County Master Gardeners with painting birdhouses and making terrariums). ■





LEADERSHIP LOG



Who's Who in iLEAD: Second Cohort of iLEAD Announced

The iLEAD program fosters a trusting, collaborative learning environment for the support of leadership skill development. In the year long program, iLEAD participants will learn about, identify and address real-world challenges facing the organization.

iLEAD Cohort II members include:

- **Lisa Barnes**, Administrative Specialist III, Crop, Soil, and Environmental Science.
- Matthew J. Davis, County Extension Agent-Staff Chair, Jackson County.
- **Heather Friedrich**, Director/Program Manager II, Center for Arkansas Farms and Food.
- Dee Henderson, Administrative Support Supervisor, Rice Research and Extension Center.
- Nicole Nichols, County Extension Agent-Agriculture, Saline County.

- **Brad Runsick**, County Extension Agent-Staff Chair, Baxter County.
- Tes Sales, Program Associate II, Poultry Science
- **Mary Savin**, Professor, Crop, Soil, and Environmental Science.
- Renee Threlfall, Research Scientist, Food Science
- **Shaw nee Tichenor**, County Extension Agent-Staff Chair, Sebastian County.

iLEAD Cohort II met virtually on July 15 for an introduction to iLEAD and leadership and in person at the Vines 4-H Center on Aug. 17-19.

The iLEAD program provides professional development opportunities to support employee retention. For more info about the iLEAD program, contact Dr. Julie Robinson, jrobinson@uada.edu or Lisa Davis, ldavis@uada.edu. ■

Agriculture in Arkansas Focus of LeadAR Class 19 Seminar in Stuttgart

LeadAR Class 19 members participated in their last in-state seminar. Here's a <u>recap</u> of the July 28-29 sessions in Stuttgart. ■

Persuasive Speaking Topic for Leadership Lunch and Learn

Dr. Hunter Goodman, assistant professor in community, workforce, and economic development, presented on the topic, <u>Persuasive Speaking</u>, during July's Leadership Lunch and Learn webinar. ■









SNAP-Ed Pilot SNAPED Program Presented at National Conference

BL₇

Crawford County FCS agent Tristin Bolton, Julie Thompson, design/support specialist in communications, and the state SNAP-Ed team presented a poster at the Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior (SNEB) annual conference in Atlanta, which is an outlet for nutrition educators from around the world to share their nutrition education programming.

The poster titled "ArFoods in the Garden: A SNAP-Ed Educational/PSE Strategy," highlighted a pilot project Bolton

Tristin Bolton, Crawford Co. FC Agent, leading students in a spinach yoga activity.

implemented at four schools during Farm to School month last October. The ArFoods resource was developed by Thompson and Lindsey Sexton and consists of nutrition education posters, newsletters and taste-testing activities that can be used alone or in conjunction with evidence-based curriculum.

For the pilot program, Bolton combined ArFoods and MyPlate materials, along with taste tests and physical activity breaks, to illustrate how multiple delivery methods



[direct education, indirect education, and PSE (Policy, System, and Environmental change efforts)] can be incorporated into SNAP-Ed approaches. The project was successful in increasing students' and teachers' willingness to try new healthy foods and/or be more physically active. The poster presentation received positive feedback at the conference and increased visibility of nutrition education programming being done by SNAP-Ed through the Cooperative Extension Service.

Income Tax Schools

In-Person and Online Tax Schools

Know a professional tax preparer, farmer, small business owner or anyone else interested in income tax preparation? You can refer them to one of extension's two-day Income Tax Schools.

Each class runs from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and meets the guidelines for 16 hours of continuing professional education. Registration is \$310. We are an approved IRS Continuing Education Provider.

Participants can choose in-person or online schools. In-person options:

- Jonesboro Nov. 14-15
- Fayetteville Nov. 17-18
- Little Rock Nov. 29-30



Online live webinar option - Dec. 1-2

Additional information, including registration information, can be found on the website: www.uaex.uada.edu/taxschool.

For more information, contact Nikki Dawson at ndawson@uada.edu or Kim Magee at kmagee@uada.edu. ■

Tech Corner

Message ▼



Reporting Phishing and Junk Emails in Outlook

The Microsoft Report Message button has returned!

You will now see the MS Report Message button in Outlook rather than the KnowBe4 Phishing Alert Button. The security team decided to return to the MS Report Message button as it offers improved reporting and analytics for the security team as well as Microsoft. This will help to provide a more secure email platform.



Unlike the Phishing Alert button, the Report Message button will allow you to report Phishing as well as Junk emails. The difference is easy – if you think the email has malicious intent, report it as phishing. The junk option

should be used for unwanted spam or marketing emails.

Using the Report Message button is the preferred way of reporting suspicious emails. Reporting helps to improve the effectiveness of Microsoft's email protection.

Is your computer END-OF-LIFE? Time to order a new one?

Now is the time to check your computer and see if it is end-of-life (EOL). To remain in compliance with our standards, all computers over 5 years old must be turned into the warehouse for M&R. You can refer to the CES Computer Purchasing\Replacement Information located here for complete details: https://www.uada.edu/employees/information-technology/computer_ordering.aspx.

How do you determine if your computer is EOL?

Locate your service tag number (Dell) or your serial

number (Surface/MAC) and follow the instructions found on our website.

Please take the time to check each of your computers. If they are 5 years or more, you need to plan to get them turned into the warehouse with a MISC 374D.

The computer order request form is located <u>here</u>:

The MISC 374D disposal template is located here:

Have questions?

Contact the help desk for assistance - callcenter@uada.edu.

Zoom Quick Reference "Show Me" Video

Using Slides as a Virtual Background (1:40 Minutes)



Hacks from Hump Day

Import Data from a Website – Excel Dictate your Documents in Word – Microsoft Word Rehearse with Coach Feature – PowerPoint Getting Started with Zoom Whiteboards & Templates – Zoom

Join us for September Social Skills: Photo, Video, and Graphic Design Tips. <u>Register</u> and check out past Social Skills sessions.



2022 TECH TUESDAYS WEBINARS

<u>Register</u> for the September 13, 2022 Tech Tuesday webinar. Have you missed any past Tech Tuesday webinars or want to join future webinars? Check out the recordings and other resources on the <u>Tech Tuesday Blog page</u>. Did you miss August Tech Tuesday Zoom: More Than Just a Virtual Meeting? Check out the recording and resources.



Accessibility Corner

Closed Captioning

For a video to be accessible, it must have accurate closed captioning. Closed captioning helps people who are deaf, hard of hearing, forgot their headphones, are in a crowded room, or just like to read along.

Closed captioning is a requirement for all our video content at Extension. This allows us to be in compliance with accessibility guidelines.

Captions typically need to be edited for accuracy, especially when speakers are having discussions that may include hard-to-understand language. This language could include chemical or scientific names or complicated processes.

For accessibility help, please contact Madison Ellis at mjells@uada.edu. ■



Sadaka Wins Two Awards

Sammy Sadaka, associate professor-extension engineer in the Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department, received two awards during the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) international meeting. Several hundred

Sammy Sadaka

agricultural and biosystems engineers from several countries attended the meeting this year in Houston. Sadaka received the Superior Paper Award for his published manuscript entitled "Energy and Exergy Efficiencies of Fluidized and Fixed Bed Rice Drying," published in an ASABE journal.

He and his former doctoral student, Dr. Kaushik Luthra, co-authored the manuscript. He also received the Outstanding Publication Reviewer Award from ASABE's Refereed Publications Committee for his dedicated ASABE manuscript review.



ASABE President Keith Tinsey, left, presented Sammy Sadaka the award certificate.



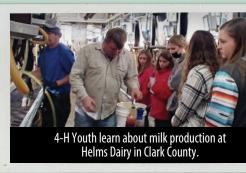
Kid's Chef Challenge

Connecting Kids to Food, Agriculture & 4-H

Clark County is serving its youth through Kid's Chef Challenge, a fun yearlong program to enhance youth understanding of healthy eating patterns, increase cooking skills and deepen connections with Arkansas grown foods, producers and career opportunities. The monthly cooking challenges focus on Arkansas commodities. The program is enhanced with farm and local food business tours and food preparation workshops to increase youth awareness and adoption of positive life skills spanning all Extension disciplines. Clark County extension's Ag, FCS and 4-H agents have developed lessons based on the proven experiential learning model. Youth accumulate points and prizes for each activity, with the high-point junior and senior claiming the title of Kid's Chef Champion.

The program has reached 32 participants so far, with 78%

indicating increased knowledge of healthy eating patterns, 97% indicating increased cooking skills, and 94% indicating increased knowledge of how food is produced with 83% of participants indicat-



ing intent to adopt healthy eating behaviors.

The program was formatted into a full curriculum package available for other counties to implement. We would love to have a multicounty Kid's Chef Championship next year. Contact Amy Simpson, JoAnn Vann or Cindy Ham for details. ■



Sewing Club **R**Provides Blankets

The Bradley County 4-H Sewing Club constructed more than 40 "angel baby" blankets to donate to Layla's Baby Angel Gowns, a Louisiana-based organization that provides infant burial gowns to families who have lost babies. These gowns and blankets are provided directly to hospitals, birthing centers and funeral homes to be given to families free of charge.

4-Her Turns Project into Business

Howard County 4-Her Delaney Ford has turned her 4-H project into a small business making goat milk soap. Delaney started her 4-H career showing dairy goats. She then wanted to raise her own dairy goats to show and be able to provide milk for her family. Delaney now has more than 15 dairy goats that she cares for with help from her brother, Briley. This year, she started her own business, Tall Peak Farm, selling handmade goat's milk soap. She is looking at expanding her business into lotion, shampoo and other goodies. Not only has she learned how to make these products, but she has also taught others in her 4-H club and community how to make soaps.

Summer Classic Cattle Show

Miller County 4-H Agent McKenzie Rigdon hosted the first Southwest Arkansas Summer Classic Cattle Show on July 29-30. Fifteen 4-H and FFA members from Arkansas and Texas attended the show.

With the help of local business sponsorships, winners received ribbons, banners and other programmatic support items. Miller County is sending out surveys to find ways to improve the show. ■

Farm 2 Table Week







4-H Youth at Cross Farms in front of the Row Crop Equipment. Pictured left to right: Elijah W., Dakota D., Ryleigh C., Sawyer P., Hunter N., Alyssa A., Brandon Yarberry (Pope Ag Agent), Caleb L., Remi P., Ronnie Cross (Owner & Operator of Cross Farms), and Matthew B.

Pope County 4-H youth learned all about where food comes from during a four-day "Farm 2 Table" educational program held July 18–21. The 4-H members toured local producers, including Tyson Hatchery, Ouachita Livestock Market, Pope County Farmer's Market, Cypress Valley Meat Company and the Ronnie Cross Farm. Each location provided hands-on learning about how food is grown, harvested and processed. The 4-H members experienced broiler chicks hatching to be sent to Arkansas broiler producers.

The youth experienced the sale of livestock, how beef is processed,

animal health programs and cattle farm financing in Pope County's own Get Real − Farming Edition. These 4-H youth also learned about soybean and corn production from by getting out in the fields and in the combine seat. The youth also collected produce from the Pope County Farmer's Market and made their own grape jelly, golden pepper jelly, homemade butter and biscuits. At the end of the week, the 4-Hers prepared a dinner of beef and chicken enchiladas, Spanish rice and fresh salsa for the Pope County Quorum Court members and shared presentations on their week's experiences. ■



Youth Beef Grilling Contest

Extension staff in Randolph and Lawrence counties conducted their first beef grilling contest with help from Grigg Cox, a member of the Randolph/Lawrence County Cattleman's Association. Cox previously served as a judge for the 4-H Poultry BBQ Contest and proposed the idea for the beef grilling contest. Both 4-H members and non-members participated in the contest held in June. Several non-members requesting information to join 4-H. Hopes are that this opportunity will

be offered in all counties and become an annual statewide program like the 4-H Poultry BBQ program. ■



Grants & Contracts

PROJECT TITLE	AWARD AMOUNT	PI	GRANTING AGENCY
Model State Program - Program Assistant - 2022-2023	31,966	Amanda L McWhirt	University of Georgia
Produce Safety Program FY23	164,764	Amanda Philyaw Perez	Arkansas Agriculture Department
Rice Field Trial - Work Order No 22-01	7,200	Jarrod Hardke	Indigo Ag, Inc.
Benton County American Rescue Plan - Improving Health	79,500	Johnny Gunsaulis	Benton County Government
4H Council Tech Changemakers 2022-2023	200,000	Lori Canada	National 4-H Council
Farm Tax Education & Asset Protection	5,126,371	Ron L Rainey	USDA Farm Service Agency
St. Francis County Master Gardener for Arts on Tour	440	Sarah Stone	Arkansas Arts Council
United Way 4-H Program Support	3,000	Terrie James	United Way of Hempstead County
Artificial Intelligence System for Poultry Behavior Monitoring	16,853	Yi Liang	University of Arkansas, Fayetteville (UAF

TOTAL AWARDS FOR JULY 2022: \$5,630,094





Benefits Corner

Financial Protection Products:

You can enroll in employee-paid Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) Insurance, which provides a benefit to you if you have a covered injury, or to your beneficiary if you die from a covered accident.

You can purchase coverage in units of \$25,000, to a maximum benefit of \$300,000. If you choose coverage:

- Your spouse is covered automatically for up to 60% of the coverage you elect.
- Your eligible children are covered at 20% of your elected coverage, to a maximum benefit of \$25,000 per child.

ID Watchdog

- Understanding the complex world of identity theft and identity fraud can be overwhelming. It's more complicated than the use of a stolen credit card or fraudulent withdrawals from your bank account. It can impact everything from your tax refunds to your medical insurance.
- The good news is you don't have to face identity theft alone. With ID Watchdog®, you have an easy and affordable way to help better protect and monitor the identities of you and your family.

For more info on these voluntary products visit: https://benefits.uasys.edu/ and select the Financial Protection tab.

Personnel Changes

Welcome Aboard:

Codie Jamison – County Extension Agent - Agriculture, Pike County
Maya Powell – County Extesion Agent - Family & Consumer Sciences, Woodruff County
Christine Sasse – Nutrition Instructor - Family & Consumer Science, Little Rock
Christin Holmes – County Extension Agent - Family & Consumer Sciences, Clay County
Ka'Meisha Gaither – Fiscal Support Analyst - Credit Union, Little Rock
Kelly Krause – Administrative Specialist III, Little River County



Berni Kurz – Horticulture - Extension Educator - Consumer Horticulture, Little Rock

Araceli Oswald - County Extension Agent - 4-H, Sebastian County

Olivia Middlecoff - County Extension Agent - Family & Consumer Sciences, Randolph County

Hayley Rice – County Extension Agent - 4-H, Nevada County

Gracie Wilson – Administrative Specialist III, Union County

Diane Mashburn - Community, Professional, & Economic Development - Instructor - Program Planning, Little Rock

Dixie Miller – Program Technician - Animal Science, Little Rock

Celeste Chmura – Administrative Specialist I, Garland County

Jodi Fisher – 4-H Program Assistant, Pope County

Laura Robertson - County Extension Agent - Family & Consumer Sciences, Crittenden County

