BLUE LETTER October 2019

No. 3810



Informed and Engaged

We have had our first frost, at least in the northern part of the state where I was recently, so thanks October. Most people know that I don't like cold weather, but it is coming anyway. I confess that Saturday was one of the most beautiful and clear days I can recall though.

Speaking of beautiful and clear, the transition to Workday software is accelerating with the testing phase for the first group of University institutions beginning now and continuing for several months. This will be followed by two months of intensive training for all employees in May and June of 2020, then we switch over in July. Please stay aware of what is coming so that this changeover will be as trouble-free as possible.

How do I stay aware? I am glad you asked. We have a number of "change managers" to help us, with ours being Dr. Karen Ballard. The "change" team will provide a number of support helps to all of us as we get closer but starting soon will be a new Constant Contacts monthly message to let you know what is going on. It is very important that you receive this, that you read it, and stay engaged. Please do not unsubscribe from this new effort. All transitions of this magnitude come with some degree of pain, and your pain will be minimized if you stay alert and engaged from now on.

For support staff, Karen has designed and we will host our Administrative Support Staff training on April 30-May 1, 2020 at the 4-H Center and in addition to many important



agenda items, you will be privy to the first demonstration of Workday Software as designed for us, so you really need to attend this one.

There will be many other updates and support information forthcoming so stay tuned, but as positive as this change to a modern comprehensive software system will eventually be for the UA System, I cannot emphasize enough how important your awareness and preparation will be for a successful outcome and for as short a transition period as possible. Right now, just stay engaged and be aware of "what" is coming. All the "hows" will be answered next spring, but we must be ready to learn.

So, enough preaching, and back to rejoicing. Kudos to all of our county agents for their recognition and professional development efforts at the recent National FCS Conference in Hershey, PA, as well as the National Ag Agents Conference in

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Agricultural Agents Attend National Meeting and Improvement Conference

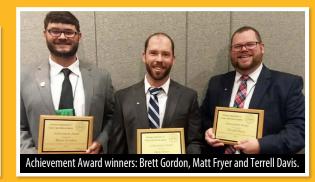
During Sept. 8-12, a delegation of 15 county extension agents, along with retired agent and ACAAA life member Jesse Clark, and District Director Jerry Clemons attended the National Association of County Agricultural Agents Annual Meeting and Improvement Conference in Fort Wayne, IN. Participants and their families had a wonderful opportunity to experience professional improvement tours, workshops and programs to gain new ideas for educational programing and share successful local programs with agents from all over the country. Four of the Arkansas county agents presented posters or talks showcasing their county educational programs or research. Stewart Runsick and Allison Howell were National Finalists, and Amy Tallent was a National Winner.

Three members received the Achievement Award from the National Association. This award is given to agents with 10 years or less of service in Cooperative Extension Service who exhibited excellence in the field of extension education. This year's award recipients were Brett Gordon, Woodruff County; Matt Fryer, Pulaski County; and Terrell Davis, Pike County.

Three members received the Distinguished Service Award, which encourages and recognize excellence in the field of professional extension for members with more than 10 years



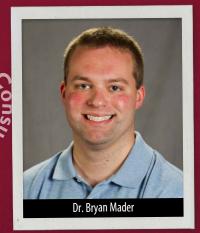
of service. This award is given to less than 2 percent of the membership, who are workers and are approved by the State Director of Extension. Recipients are held in high esteem by their fellow workers. This year's Distinguished Service Award recipients were Bill Robertson, Jackson County; Amy Simpson, Clark County; and Brad McGinley, Grant County.





Congratulations!

FCS congratulates Dr. Bryan Mader for successfully defending his dissertation titled "Assessing Food Offerings Among Emerging Food Outlets in Northern Arkansas." Bryan earned his doctorate in public health from UAMS. Way to go, Dr. Mader!



Dr. Doze Y. Butler Named Dean/Director

UAPB SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Dr. Doze Y. Butler has been named dean/director for the School of Agriculture, Fisheries and Human Sciences (SAFHS) at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB). In this position, she will provide leadership for the three academic departments in the School as well as its research,



extension, outreach and international programs.

Dr. Butler will supervise department chairs and other administrative and management personnel and will be responsible for the development of the School's vision and goals. Her responsibilities include implementing new

and emerging technologies that impact distance education, agriculture, human sciences, fisheries and Extension pro-

grams. She will also function as a member of the UAPB Dean's Council, the Association of 1890 Research Directors and Association of 1890 Extension Administrators.



Dr. Butler joins UAPB after having served in a number of leadership roles at Southern University (SU) and A&M College in Baton Rouge, LA. She served terms as both interim dean and associate dean of the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences. In these roles, she provided leadership for the college's agricultural and family and consumer sciences programs and worked with the university's Ag Center to represent its land-grant interests. From 2012-2013, she served as interim dean of the SU School of Graduate Studies.

(Continued from Page 1)

Fort Wayne, IN. The life-long learning aspirations of our agents impress and not to be outdone, the 4-H agents hold their national conference in early November in West Virginia, and kudos to all who will be recognized. Great job, all!

I hope you have noted the recent hire of Dr. Doze Butler as Dean/ Director of the School of Agriculture, Fisheries and Human Sciences at UA Pine Bluff. Dr. Butler comes to Arkansas from Louisiana and has an impressive vision for advancing the mission of the school and fostering working relationships across Arkansas and the region. I know that all of our organization will welcome Dr. Butler and collaborate fully in achieving our combined mission and ideals.

Once again there are many fine articles about the reach and impact of the Division of Agriculture in this issue, so I hope you read them and be proud of this work and your colleagues. While none of us specialize in "self-promotion", it is OK to be visible and proud of our impact, and to accept credit when it is due. It is also important to give credit appropriately, and I think we do that in general but it is a professional expectation.

Speaking of credit, kudos to all those listed under grants and contracts in this issue, for their efforts on securing extramural support. This is really extremely important in today's extension world. Great job!

Here's hoping all of you have a great October! ■

Is Government Contracting Celebration Worthy?

IT IS IF YOU KNOW WHAT OUR CLIENTS AND STAFF KNOW.

Ninety-four Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTACs) joined the National PTAC Day celebration on Sept. 18. The National PTAC Day campaign celebrates the contracting success of thousands of small businesses who have benefited from training and technical assistance delivered by their local PTACs.

Arkansas PTAC joined the celebration, receiving a proclamation from Governor Asa Hutchinson declaring Sept. 18 as National PTAC Day in Arkansas. A special webinar viewing was hosted at the Little Rock office for Arkansas PTAC clients and staff. The webinar featured New Mexico PTAC Counselor Steve Hogan presenting tips such as getting ready to enter the government market place, finding government contracts and bidding on government contracts. For those Arkansas PTAC clients that could not be there in person, they joined online.

The recorded version may be viewed at https://youtu.be/
Ru8D_wUcmKY. At the end of the webinar, clients in the Little Rock office networked with Arkansas PTAC staff as well as other small businesses. Clients shared about their business.
PTAC Counselors and staff shared information about the Arkansas Procurement Technical Assistance program, what they do, and their excitement for their client's success.

Last fiscal year there were approximately \$895 million available in federal government contracts for work to be done in the state of Arkansas. In the past year,

Arkansas PTAC has helped Arkansas-based businesses apply for and receive over \$145 million dollars in government contracts for goods and services in the state of Arkansas, across the United States and around the world.

Even if government contracting does not make you feel like hosting a party, there is one thing we can all get excited about – boosting Arkansas' economy. Arkansas businesses making money through government contracting is definitely a reason to celebrate.

Get more information about National PTAC day and view pictures from PTACs across the country celebrating PTAC day by visiting the Association of Procurement Technical Assistance Centers website, https://www.aptac-us.org/.



ArDROP Helps to Support Forrest City Traffic Safety



The Family and Consumer Science department's Arkansas Delta Region Obesity Project (ArDROP) team, with support from the Centers for Disease Control, UAMS and Forrest



City leadership, conducted a traffic calming pop-up in Forrest City On Sept.10. The goal of the pop-up was to test ways to improve visibility and safety near two Forrest City schools and a local park. Temporary traffic tape was used to create designated pedestrian walkways, and Oak Ave. and Ash Ave. (on either side of the park) were temporarily turned into one-way streets. Tem-

porary speed bumps were installed near the entrances to the local park to slow traffic. As a result of the pop-up, the City



of Forrest City is exploring permanent options to improve safety in the area, including permanently making Oak Ave. and Ash Ave. one-way streets, installing pedestrian/bike lanes, and purchasing speed indicator signage.

The ArDROP team works with the City of Forrest City and St. Francis County as part of the CDC 1809 grant, and also works in Chicot, Lee, Mississippi and Phillips

Two students from Stewart Elementary walk home from school using the temporary pedestrian lane on Ash Ave. All images taken Sept. 10 at Forrest City. (All photos on page by U of A System Division of Agriculture by Caitlin Palenske)

Working With County Government

counties.

TURN YOUR IDEAS INTO PROGRAMS

Reserve your spot now for November's county government workshop offered by Community, Economic and Professional Development.

Dr. Wayne Miller, Kristin Higgins and their teams will explain available tools and strategies to amplify your work with county officials, community leaders and citizens on finance and policy issues.

Respond to scenarios. Discuss issues from different perspectives. Hear from county agents, district directors and local officials about critical issues facing county governments, the budgeting process and local ballot initiatives. We bring you what has worked in other counties and give you some elbow-room to start building your local government program.

Travel and lodging is included for attending this day and a half training. Come prepared to discuss best practices and learn about Extension resources available for county government programming.

Questions? Contact Miller at 501-671-2085 or Higgins at 501-671-2160.

Dates and Locations

This inservice training is 1.5 days. At all locations, we will go from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Day 1, and from 8 a.m. through lunch on Day 2.

Nov. 5 -6 (Tuesday/Wednesday) Jonesboro Nov. 14-15 (Thursday/Friday) Hope Nov. 19-20 (Tuesday/Wednesday) Russellville

Where to Register

Go to http://learn.uaex.edu to save your spot. When registering, look for "Working with County Governments on Public Finance and Local Ballot Initiatives." ■



BL Soybean Science Challenge Participates in Field Trip

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY FIELD TRIP AT UA-FAYETTEVILLE

Soybean Science Challenge Coordinator Diedre Young participated in the UofA-Fayetteville Environmental and Sustainability field trip on Oct. 1. More than 100 students and teachers from across Arkansas attended the event where they learned about agricultural research, agricultural careers, and crop production and sustainability. Young discussed the importance of soybeans to Arkansas and how the agricultural sector needs students to consider a career in agriculture. Teachers and students also received soybean products, materials and resources.

The Soybean Science Challenge (SSC) is a farmer-funded, statewide, 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 Cooperative Extension Service.

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



Are you using the current version of Zoom?

If your computer is using Zoom version 4.1, it is an outof-date version. There are issues joining Zoom sessions, as well as audio issues with this version. V-4.1 will not allow the latest version to install over it. Zoom 4.1 must be manually uninstalled and the new version of Zoom downloaded and installed.

To find what version you are running on your computer follow these steps or watch this 34 second video:

- 1. Click on the "Start/Windows" icon.
- 2. Select "Settings."
- 3. Find and click on the "Apps" option.
- 4. Scroll down to find "Zoom."
- **5.** Click on "Zoom." The version installed will appear.

Directions to uninstall Zoom 4.1 and download the current version of Zoom: **Option 1:** Watch this video (less than 3 minutes): http://bit.ly/How-To-Uninstall-Zoom-4-1.

Option 2: Follow the steps below:

- 1. Manually uninstall Zoom through your computer settings.
- 2. Download and install the current version: https://uaex.zoom.us/download#client 4meeting.
- 3. Sign into UAEX Zoom Desktop App: http://bit.ly/uaex-zoom-sign-in.

Option 3: Contact the Call Center.

Quick Tips & Links

- Looking for the IT project/support request form and other IT request forms? Go to: https://uaex.edu/it-forms.
- Use Box to "Tame the Email Beast": Replace Email Chains with Comments and Tasks.
- Cloud Storage Options: Check the differences and similarities between Box and OneDrive for cloud-based storage and how to access each.

Amazing Race-Expedition

Citizenship Trip

The Montgomery County 4-H'ers concluded their yearlong lessons on citizenship with an Expedition Citizenship trip and the Amazing Race on Sept. 14 at Heifer International.

4-Hers first visited the Old State House where they learned about Arkansas government in the 1800s, the history of the Old State House and about pioneering medical research.

On their second stop, 4-H'ers were entertained by actors in period clothing who taught them about life in a pre-Civil War neighborhood, which included the oldest home still standing in Little Rock. They also visited the office of

William Woodruff, who first printed the Arkansas Gazette, Arkansas's first newspaper. Lastly, the 4-H'ers concluded their trip to Heifer International, where the group learned how Heifer is working to end hunger and poverty around the world.

For the Amazing Race section of the trip, 4-H'ers competed in three team building challenge activities testing their knowledge on all that they had learned throughout the day. The three groups had older teens who were team captains who provided guid-

ance and encouragement to younger 4-H members. After completing the three activities, the teams were ready for the final challenge game which was a questionnaire covering

the topics of citizenship. This year's Amazing Race had 16 4-H members vying for the title of Montgomery County 4-H Amazing Race Winners.

4-Hers having fun at the Amazing

Race-Expedition Citizenship event.

Contact the County Extension Office at 870-867-2311 for more information about 4-H! ■



CONSTANT CONTACT – Best Practices for Adding Email Addresses

- 1. Do not upload a list of contacts without their knowledge. This is called spamming, and it violates federal CAN-SPAM laws.
- 2. If you are working on a grant project and need to use our global Constant Contact account, contact Amy Cole, accole@uaex.edu, first before uploading a list. The IT department needs to charge your grant for the use of Constant Contact. The more email addresses that are added to our database, the higher cost IT pays each month. This is a billable service for a grant.
- 3. Be mindful of how you name your lists. The lists show up automatically on the website here https://www.uaex.edu/register.aspx so if you name your list "MY TEST LIST" that name will appear on our website. Someone in IT has to manually remove those lists one by one.

Equipment to Optimize Your Zoom Experience

The following are current recommendations for a webcam and headset microphone:

- 1. Logitech C930e 1080P HD Video Webcam
- 2. Logitech USB Headset H390 with Noise Cancelling Mic. ■



UPCOMING TECH TUESDAY WEBINARS

Tuesday, November 12: Voice Search and Meta Data (Amy Cole)
Tuesday, December 10: Preparing Your Computer for Presentations (Kerry Rodtnick)
Second Tuesday of every month, starting at 9 a.m.
To view the recordings, visit https://uaex.edu/techtuesdays



NEAFCS Turns 85!

The National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Science (NEAFCS) has had a varied history over the past 85 years. The organization was started on June 29, 1933, during the annual meeting of the American Home

Economics Association (AHEA). Twenty-one home demonstration agents from 13 states met to discuss forming a national organization to promote the interest of home demonstration work. A constitution was adopted in 1934 naming the organization The Home

NEAFCS agents celebrate 85 years of service.

Demonstration Agents' National Association (HDANA). The organization later changed its name to National Association of Extension Home Economists (NAEHE).

In 1958, the National Negro Home Demonstration Agents Association was founded and merged in 1965 with NAEHE. The final name change occurred in 1995 to National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences.

The organizations has grown to nearly 1,800 members.

The anniversary has been celebrated over this year with state celebrations and individuals promoting NEAFCS in their own counties. The national celebration was held at the national meeting in Hershey, PA

from Sept. 30 to Oct. 3. Arkansas' affiliate celebrated at our June meeting in Hot Springs with a reminder of our history and a reception. ■

Extension Service to Sponsor Five Tax Update Schools

Do you know a professional tax preparer, farmer, small business owner or anyone else interested in income tax preparation? You can refer them to one of our two-day Income Tax Schools. This year's curriculum will include a Tax Cuts & Jobs Act update.

Each class runs from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and meets the guidelines for 16 hours of continuing professional education. Registration is \$275 per person.

We are excited to welcome a new instructor and welcome back an instructor that was well received last year. Representatives from Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration will also conduct sessions. We are an approved IRS Continuing Education Provider.

School dates and locations:

- Ionesboro Nov. 6-7
- Fayetteville Nov. 11-12
- Fort Smith Nov. 14-15
- Hot Springs Nov. 18-19
- Little Rock Nov. 21-22

Additional information, including registration information, can be found on our website: https://www.uaex.edu/business-communities/business-entrepreneurship/tax-school.aspx.

For more information, contact Casey Hill or Kim Magee at (501) 671-2072. □

Soil and Water Conservation Discovery Farm Virtual Field Trip

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The Soil and Water Conservation Virtual Field Trip (VFT) series continued on Aug. 21 with its second and third live broadcasts from the field in Stuttgart and from the Water Quality Lab in Fayetteville. The Discovery Farm Program was discussed during the second VFT featuring Steve Stevens, a Cotton Discovery Farmer. The third VFT demonstrated equipment, software and conservation practices used on the Stevens Cotton Discovery Farm. The subject matter experts answered audience questions live.

A total of 86 participants from eight states, plus one from the United Kingdom, participated. The Soil and Water Conservation VFT series is funded by USDA-NRCS. Please contact



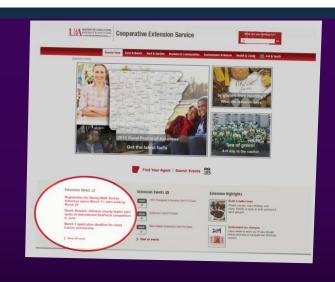
series coordinator and Virtual Education Specialist Rita Watson, rwatson@uaex.edu, in Community, Professional and Economic Development (CPED), for more information.



Front Page News You Can Use

Looking for a news story to use in your local paper? Look no further than the front page of **uaex.edu**. And if you click on view all news, you'll see all of our archived news stories back to 2014.

If you want to be on the email list to receive our news stories, email Tracy Courage at tcourage@uaex.edu and the Communications Department will add you to the distribution list.





Grants and Contracts

AWARD AMOUNT	PI	GRANTING AGENCY
49,968	Amanda Philyaw Perez	Agriculture Experiment Station
170,543	Gus Lorenz	USDA, ARS MSA
1,000	Jarrod Hardke	Valent U.S.A. LLC
100,926	John Pennington	AR Natural Resources Commission
91,613	John Pennington	AR Natural Resources Commission
201,450	Katherine Teague	AR Natural Resources Commission
94,833	Mary Hightower	Agriculture Experiment Station
448,364	Michael Daniels	Natural Resources Conservation Service
19,796	Michael Looper	Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission
25,000	Ron Rainey	Agricultural Marketing Service - USDA
1,082,736	Ron Rainey	National Institute of Food and Agriculture
30,000	Sherrie Smith	University of Florida
0 150,000	Vic Ford	Natural Resources Conservation Service
	49,968 170,543 1,000 100,926 91,613 201,450 94,833 448,364 19,796 25,000 1,082,736 30,000	AMOUNT 49,968 Amanda Philyaw Perez 170,543 Gus Lorenz 1,000 Jarrod Hardke 100,926 John Pennington 91,613 John Pennington 201,450 Katherine Teague 94,833 Mary Hightower 448,364 Michael Daniels 19,796 Michael Looper 25,000 Ron Rainey 1,082,736 Ron Rainey 30,000 Sherrie Smith

Check it Out!

Did you know there are forms available for requesting all sorts of things from Information Technology?

- New web applications
- New form or registration
- Tech support for an event
- Zoom support for your webinar
- New webpage or blog
- New computer ordered
- Qualtrics account
- Mobile Training Lab reservation



And many more, go check it out. https://uaex.edu/it-forms. ■





Benefits Corner

Open Enrollment begins Nov. 1, 2019. Any changes made during the open enrollment period will be effective Jan. 1, 2020.

Qualification Process for Wellness Incentive

To qualify for the 2020 wellness incentive, you must complete two steps:

1. Visit with a licensed health care provider from Nov. 1, 2018 to Oct. 31, 2019 for a qualified wellness (*Preventive Exam) program visit.

*Preventive Exams are defined as:

• An office visit to a primary care physician, advanced practice nurse or other health care provider with the

visit billed as a wellness visit. Wellness visits are available at \$0 out-of-pocket cost for all health plan participants. The visits are at \$0 for those enrolled in the Classic Plan, Premier Plan or in the Health Savings Plan.

- The visit must be coded per ACA guidelines as a wellness visit.
- For women the annual exam at OB GYN clinic will be considered a wellness visit.
- 2. Complete a Tobacco Attestation Pledge and Notice stating the member is either not a tobacco user or will complete a cessation program. Information for this step will be provided during Open Enrollment in November. At that time you will be required to visit UMR's website to complete the 2020 Tobacco Pledge and Notice. ■

Personnel Changes

Welcome aboard:

Angela Berryhill - Administrative Specialist, Hot Spring County, Malvern Karen Boone - County Extension Agent – FCS/SNAP, Pulaski County, Little Rock Steve Campbell - Fiscal Support Analyst – Financial Services, Little Rock Brianna Ham - Program Assistant – EFNEP, Pulaski County, Little Rock Harlee Haney - County Extension Agent – 4-H, Greene County, Paragould Christy Holt - Administrative Specialist, Garland County, Hot Springs Tazin Islam - Administrative Specialist – EFNEP, Pulaski County, Little Rock Krista Quinn - Extension Agent – Agriculture, Faulkner County, Conway Gabby Sherman - 4-H Program Assistant, St. Francis County, Forrest City Josh Turner - EFNEP Program Assistant, Pulaski County, Little Rock



Farewell to:

Noah Washburn - Associate Professor – Special Projects, Community, Professional & Economic Development, Little Rock **Meredith Wayman** - County Extension Agent – Family and Consumer Sciences, Crittenden County, Marion **Jordyn Williams** - Program Tech – Obesity Reduction, Family and Consumer Sciences, Lake Village