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BLUE LETTER

September 2019

No. 3809



September Praise

Well, I respected part of August for the lessons in high temperatures and discomfort, but it was just a set up for the professional level of discomfort afforded by September. Each year, new adventure.

I have to say that this issue of the Blue Letter has outdone itself for content – diversity, quality, interest. Outstanding job to all! A few “call outs”:

Mark Peterson has been honored recently at regional and national levels for work in communities, certainly a complex and challenging endeavor. The story about Dumas examples his excellence and recognition – well done, Mark! In a related article, PTAC work featuring Melanie Berman and Debra Garcia relating about innovative economic development – helping small businesses. This program deserves greater visibility. Please note the new effort to create CPED, a powerful combination of skill and leadership now underway. I commend the “can-do” attitudes of all involved.

There are several articles about 4-H but the mention of clubs working creatively in the face of today’s challenges struck a nerve. I commend those mentioned for thinking outside the box, and being willing to take on new challenges – kudos! I congratulate the new 4-H state officers, you will not find finer leaders than this “Magnificent Seven,” and they are superlative representatives of the importance and quality of 4-H in Arkansas. Also congratulations to all of the students recognized at

the Ag Communicators of Tomorrow event in Minnesota (I am not sure where that is, but, whatever), however special congrats to Jessica Wesson. Not only has Jessica been in 4-H much of her life but also a communications department summer intern, and has become one of the best writers and speakers I have known. Her selection as president of the National Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow reflects what we all know, she is simply exceptional.



FROM THE DIRECTOR

We are the source of RESEARCH-BASED information and best management practices, but sometimes we need reminding of the effort it takes to do research and develop BMPs. The picture and article about hybrid rice breeding research illustrates this well, and my respect to Jill Bulloch and the others. I have been there, in rice, in the summer. It’s tough. I hope all noted the interesting tour examples involving Division researchers and extension personnel, from Experiment Station facilities to Discovery Farms – a lot going on, attracting visitors from around the world! I recently tried Cotton Candy grapes at a local supermarket in Little Rock – a grape that whose genetics originated in our Division breeding program – and they are among the most interesting flavors I have tried. I confess the diversity of apples, grapes and other fruit today is an incredibly

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U of A
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

Breakthrough Solutions Teams up with Rev. Hunt

to Bring Creative Economy to Dumas and Beyond

For Rev. Arthur Hunt a passion to serve others drives every task, every conversation and every pursuit. Over the past few years, Rev. Hunt has been working with Dr. Mark Peterson, professor of community and economic development and head of Breakthrough Solutions, to imagine what a creative economy could look like in Dumas – a type of economy rooted in the belief that people’s creativity and artistic expression adds value to ideas, products and experiences.



Rev. Arthur Hunt discusses his plans for Breakthrough Solutions Partner Ed Levy.

Now, a USDA technical assistance grant under the Rural Economic Development Innovation initiative is helping him achieve his desire to serve others.

The West Dumas Community Life and Legacy Center, which Hunt rebranded as The Legacy Center, was among 47 rural

recipients granted the REDI grant. This funding provides communities technical assistance to build their vision in partnership with a rural development organization. The Legacy Center will be paired with Communities Unlimited, a community development organization which will support initiatives in southern region.

Hunt sees this center as the place where he can bring a creative economy to Dumas and also give back to his community. “A strong renovation, rebuild and transformation work is now underway,” he said.

The campus sits on five acres and has a park and recreation area that features a full court basketball court, playground equipment and plenty of room for family, school and church reunions. This vibrant hub will be equipped with recording studios, internet, radio and television.

“The core mission is to provide and educate to students who are primarily low income housing and instill in them the necessary tools to be successful business executives or entrepreneurs inside the creative economy workforce,” he said.

With this emphasis on e-connectivity, Hunt’s programing not only aims to offer a physical space for students to connect but also hopes to reach students in more than 20 counties through virtual learning classrooms. ■

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positive development – I wish my father-in-law was still around to sample them, he loved fresh fruit more than anybody I ever met.

Commendations to Mike Looper on receiving the Arkansas Cattlemen’s Assoc. Education Award, outstanding and well-deserved recognition. In a related note, I have received considerable feedback about the Animal Science faculty presentations at the Cattlemen’s College at the ACA meeting in late August, so I greatly appreciate the professionalism and impact of this department and its faculty and staff.

I also deeply appreciate the leadership of Laura Hendrix, Teki Hunt-Winston and Blanca Hernandez for taking on the Racial Understanding training for the Division as part of this very

important regional and national effort. We will support further efforts and new ideas from this program. Kudos!

While not in this letter, I commend Dr. Debie Head, Dr. Martha Sartor and all FCS state and county faculty and staff for the exceedingly complex work in family and consumer sciences. Of special note was the recent 50th anniversary of EFNEP, a program started in 1969 that has positively changed the lives and fates of so many people. I also was allowed to briefly meet representatives from the Centers for Disease Control, who applauded our work on rural health, the opioid issue, and obesity. I deeply appreciate the hard work of all in this critically important program area.

Have a fantastic September and early October as we continue to slowly bake! ■

Animal Science Faculty Speak at Cattlemen's College Convention

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Three Animal Science faculty members spoke at the Cattlemen's College during the Arkansas Cattlemen's Association, ACA, Convention and Trade Show from Aug. 29-31 in Hot Springs.



Animal Science Faculty Member, Charles Looney, speaks at the Arkansas Cattlemen's Association Convention and Trade Show.

Charles Looney spoke on developing beef heifers, Shane Gadberry provided a GoGreen (Green Tag) program update, and Heidi Ward provided information on beef quality assurance. All three sessions were well attended.

The Cattlemen's Colleges provide educational opportunities for cattle producers of all types from leaders and experts in the industry. The annual ACA trade show and convention features information sessions with colleges, updates from throughout the industry, and opportunities for cattlemen-to-cattlemen fellowship. Additionally, the ACA also showcases a large farm and ranch show where cattlemen and women can meet with businesses from around the state. ■

4-H Money Camp II

On Aug. 6, Money Camp II took Cross County 4-H members higher in the realm of personal finance. Following last year's Money Camp I where 4-H members developed spending plans, Money Camp II's theme was "Investments: Simple Ways to Make Your Money Grow."

The day's program included presentations by Millie Collins, CEA-FCS, Linda Stegall, 4-H program assistant and Jennifer Wallin, account services officer of First National Bank of Wynne. 4-H members, leaders and Extension personnel toured First National Bank and were treated to gift bags containing coin purses, sunglasses and money "sponges."

A special program by Mrs. Wallin featured topics regarding types of accounts, credit scores, interest rates and simple investing. After the bank tour, the members came back to the courthouse where they developed individual written plans for investing the \$10 surprise gift they each received



Left - Carlee N. presents her plan of investment with her ten dollar gift.



Right - Delta Ridge 4-H club helping with 4-H ribs fundraiser. Griffin W. is wearing the orange hat, Henry W. is in the blue shirt and Ben W. is in the background talking Mr. Rick Wimberley.

from the Cross County 4-H Foundation, along with a certificate of completion.

Plans for investing included a lawn mowing business, gardening for profit, re-selling merchandise (antiques, tools, etc.) and more. 4-H members will be accountable for making the \$10 grow and will share progress on projects at the 4-H awards banquet this fall. ■

Breeding Hybrid Rice Moving Forward

To provide Arkansas rice growers the option of competitive hybrids, the rice breeding team at the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture's Rice Research and Extension Center is committed to develop hybrids with improved yield potential, milling and processing quality and disease package over existing hybrid options. Advantages of hybrid varieties over conventional ones include higher yields and better disease resistance. However, care must be taken to not lose grain quality characteristics like good milling and cooking.

Several experimental hybrids of both two- and three-lines look promising in the early preliminary trials. Because rice is a self-pollinated crop, producing hybrid seeds that involve two or three parental lines is one of the challenges in hybrid



A six-foot-tall isolation barrier/wall made of burlap cloth is being erected between different seed production/multiplication paddy/bay by the Medium-grain rice breeding crew. From left to right are Blake Sanders, Paul Braithwaite, Jill Bulloch and Tony Beaty. Not shown are Richie Weaver and Emily Carr who are behind the barrier.

rice breeding. Physical isolation/barrier and synchronization of flowering through staged planting are common practices for hybrid seed production. ■



In the center, three blooming rows of a male sterile line (serving as the female) are flanked by three rows of a male pollinator (one to the left and two to the right), which reaches flowering 10 days later than the female, therefore planted 14 days earlier in the same drill pass to achieve synchronization.

CED + PSD = Community, Professional & Economic Development (CPED)

In case you haven't heard, Community and Economic Development, CED, and Program and Staff Development, PSD, merged this month. The new unit is called Community, Professional and Economic Development, or CPED for short.

The core functions that were supported by the individual units will move forward. We will continue to provide training to faculty and staff in areas where we have capacity and expertise. We will go on providing education to individual Arkansans serving in a variety of roles, as well as communities, organizations and businesses.

As we make this transition, there are a lot of things such as webpages that are still in the process of being updated. There may also be changes in how we do things, as we seek

to leverage the talents of this new team. We will learn to work more effectively together, develop new partnerships and identify new ways of meeting the needs of the Division of Agriculture's employees, people and entities we serve as an organization. Things that haven't changed and won't change are the passion and commitment that members of the CPED team have for the people and mission of the Division of Agriculture and Cooperative Extension.

This is new territory for all of us, and we're all in it together. If you have specific questions about how this transition may impact you or your programs, or have ideas on how we can make the most of this new opportunity, please contact Stacey McCullough (smccullough@uaex.edu, 501-671-2078). ■

PTAC Invited on Serving Arkansas Vets Tour

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Arkansas Procurement Technical Assistance Center, PTAC, staff were invited by United States Senator John Boozman to join his Serving Arkansas Vets tour as he visited with veteran owned small businesses within Northeast Arkansas. Arkansas PTAC Counselor, Debra Garcia, joined Boozman for two very special events.

Garcia, along with the Arkansas State University, ASU, Small Business and Technology Development Center ASBTDC Director, Laura Miller toured Campos Truck Wash & Repair - one of the ASBTDC and Arkansas PTAC's clients. Senator Boozman was very impressed with the owner's business model and commented on what an outstanding job the two organizations did with assisting the veteran owned business owner which contributed to her company's success. Arkansas PTAC has assisted Campos with applying for state and federal government certifications. Campos is a young, female, veteran business owner who provides innovative solutions beyond any average truck wash. She saw the need in her area for certified food, hot water washouts for trucks and with the logistical skills learned in the military turned her business into a one stop shop, also expanding into repairs.

The next morning Boozman was the keynote speaker at a breakfast provided by the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas, Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce and Arkansas State University. The Senator yielded a few minutes of his time to Arkansas PTAC Counselor, Debra Garcia, as an opportunity to speak to more than

60 attendees, which included elected officials, community leaders and chamber members who represent many area small businesses. The Arkansas PTAC is currently expanding in Northeast Arkansas, and we are very fortunate to our elected officials, like Senator Boozman, for helping spread the word of the great work of the Arkansas PTAC, which is a program within the Community, Professional and Economic Development unit. Contact Melanie Berman, Arkansas PTAC Program Director, for more information on how you can bring Arkansas PTAC to your community by email at msberman@uaex.edu. ■



Senator John Boozman, Arkansas PTAC Counselor Debra Garcia and Arkansas PTAC Client Maria Campos.

Diego Ranch Inc. & 4-H Team Up

Churchill said "There is nothing better for the inside of a man than the outside of a horse." Over the past five weeks, Diego Ranch Inc. and Craighead County 4-H merged efforts to teach local children with disabilities a new life skill. This new, 4-H SPIN club used miniature horses and easy entry carts to give children with disabilities, ranging from autism and paralysis to oppositional defiant disorder, a chance to try out a new sport while using patience, core strength and memory.

Session one taught students to hitch using fine harness. Students learned the proper names of the harness parts, and each session a different SPIN members harnessed "Merrylegs," "Shade" and "Jelly." The second and third session resulted in each student riding and driving with assistance. Session four allowed the students to drive

unassisted in the outdoor arena and in session five the students went on a country drive with an instructor as their passenger. Students like Sadie who showed a particular prowess at driving were allowed to drive in the open field. Sadie was paralyzed from the waist down as a young child, but with a few modifications to the cart she can now harness, hitch and drive unassisted! ■



Sadie, of Diego Ranch 4-H Club, enjoying her first unassisted drive with Merrylegs.

Michael Looper Receives ACA Producer Education Award

Michael Looper, head of the Department of Animal Science, received the Arkansas Cattlemen's Association, ACA, Producer Education Award while attending the annual ACA Convention and Trade Show from Aug. 29-31 in Hot Springs.

"It was a huge surprise to receive this award," said Looper. "I accepted it on behalf of the entire department, as it is a testament to the strong relationships we have with stakeholders—specifically the cattlemen and women of Arkansas."

The Producer Education Award is presented during a banquet on the final night of the event and recognizes the awardee's commitment to the education of producers in Arkansas and for their support of the Arkansas Cattlemen's Association.

The annual trade show and convention features information sessions with colleges, updates from throughout the industry and opportunities for cattlemen-to-cattlemen fellowship.

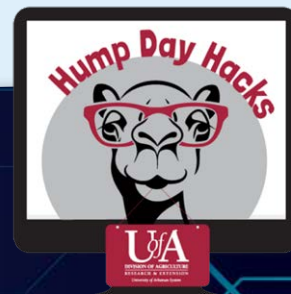


Michael Looper, on right, receives ACA award.

Additionally, the ACA showcases a large farm and ranch show where cattlemen and women can meet with businesses from around the state. ■



Tech Corner



UAEX Site Refresh Project – Your Help Needed!

We are excited to be working on the new website refresh project and to have an updated and more streamlined web presence in the very near future. Please take a moment to review the website, and email Amy at acole@uaex.edu if you see old or outdated content. This could be anything from an outdated resource to a person who no longer works here. If you see a page or section that could be removed, feel free to email Amy as well, and she'll take care of it!

Employee Resources Website – Tell Us What You Need!

The webteam is also excited to be working on the new employee website www.employees.uaex.edu. We are organizing content for each support unit and would love to hear if you have ideas on what you'd like to see in the new site. This could be anything from a link, to a popular template or form or a phone number you currently have to dig through the main website to find. The goal is to make your professional life easier and put all our resources in one handy place. ■

Arkansas 4-H State Officers Elected



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4-H announced the election of new state officers during the annual 4-H State O-Rama held in Fayetteville, AR on the University of Arkansas Campus. The newly elected officers campaigned throughout the summer at events such as Teen Leader Conference, District O-Rama and State O-Rama.

The 4-H State Officer team is comprised of a President, First-Vice President, District Vice-Presidents (3), Secretary and Reporter. The District Vice-Presidents were elected during the District O-Rama events held in June. Each district elects a representative for the 4-H State Officer team. The remaining four positions were elected during the annual business meeting held during State O-Rama.

The 2019-2020 Arkansas 4-H State Officer Team is as follows:

PRESIDENT	Brent C.	Faulkner County
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT	Sierra B.	Washington County
OUACHITA DISTRICT VICE-PRESIDENT	Eva B.	Hot Spring County
OZARK DISTRICT VICE-PRESIDENT	Cody O.	Madison County
DELTA DISTRICT VICE-PRESIDENT	Noralee T.	White County
SECRETARY	Chase B.	Baxter County
REPORTER	Faith F.	Benton County

The previous team handed over responsibilities during the Closing Assembly held July 25 with the announcement of the new 2019-2020 4-H State Officer team. "We are excited about each group of officers, and this group is no exception! They will represent Arkansas 4-H across the state to showcase the wide range of projects and skills learned through the program," said Lori Canada, state officer advisor. ■



4-H State Officers gathered for an orientation at the 4-H Center, Aug. 7 - 9. Pictured L to R: Sierra B., Chase B., Faith F., Brent C., Eva B., Cody O. and Noralee T.



4-H State Officers at the conclusion of their orientation, completing the ExCEL ropes course at the 4-H Center. Back row, L to R: Faith F., Eva B., Sierra B. and Noralee T.; Front row, L to R: Chase B., Cody O. and Brent C.



Moments after being announced as the 2019-2020 4-H State Officer Team at the conclusion of the annual 4-H State O-Rama in Fayetteville, AR. Pictured L to R: Cody O. (OZ District VP), Sierra B. (First VP), Chase B. (Secretary), Brent C. (President), Faith F. (Reporter), Noralee T. (DE District VP) and Eva B. (OU District VP).

European Journalists Tour Arkansas Discovery Farms with USSEC

European perception of American agriculture is that it lags behind European efforts for sustainability and natural resource protection. In an effort to change these perceptions, the United States Soybean Export Council, USSEC, selected the Arkansas Discovery Farm program to provide journalists from Germany, Belgium and the United Kingdom a first-hand look at sustainability efforts of Arkansas farmers.

Tour stops included the Mike Wood farm in Cross County, the Adam Chappell farm in Monroe County, the Johnny Maus farm in Pope County and the Jeff Marley farm in Washington County. Topics included in-field practices that reduce irrigation needs, farm-scale water conservation efforts such as tail-water recovery and reservoirs water quality

monitoring, crop production, the land grant agricultural model, soil health practices such as minimum tillage and cover crops. The group also toured the Point Remove Irrigation District and the Ralston Farms rice mill. Division of Agriculture participants in the tour included Mike Daniels, Bill Robertson, Andrew Sharpley, Jeremy Ross, Mike Hamilton, Lee Riley, Mike Freyaldenhoven and James Burke.

The tour culminated with a Sustainability Forum at the Don Tyson Center in Fayetteville that included Division of Agricultural personnel Mark Cochran, Nathan McKinney, Nathan Slaton, Michael Popp, Alvaro Durand-Morat, Harrison Pittman, Jun Zhu and Larry Barry. ■



Arkansas farmer Adam Chappell discusses his soil health efforts with European journalists.



Arkansas Discovery Farmer Jeff Marley discusses his sustainability practices for his poultry operation.

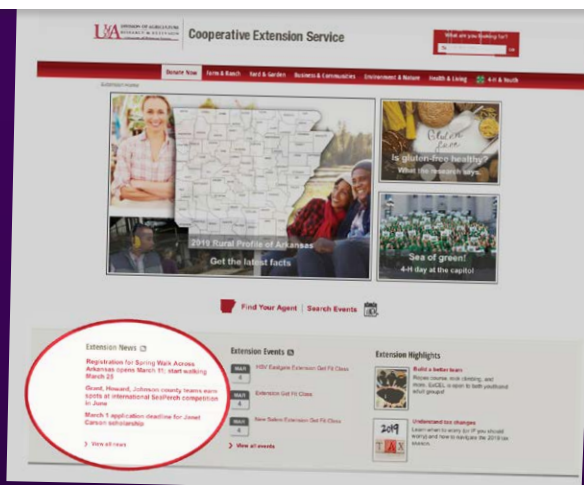


Arkansas Discovery Farmer Mike Wood addresses European journalists on his sustainability and conservation efforts.

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 Mary Hightower at mhightower@uaex.edu and the Communications Department will add you to the distribution list. ■



Inside the Farm Tour

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Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Visits Division of Agriculture Facilities

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, OLLI, sent members and guests to the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture facilities for an 'Inside the Farm' tour on Thursday, Sept. 5.

The group began their visit at the Don Tyson Center for Agricultural Sciences where they met with Ryan Dickson, assistant professor of horticulture, who shared information about research on hydroponics, closed production systems and hemp production. Additionally, John Clark, distinguished professor of horticulture, and Margaret Worthington, assistant professor of horticulture, led the group on a tour where they discussed the history of the division's muscadines and cotton candy grapes.

Following information sessions by Brian Haggard of the Arkansas Water Resources Center's research wing, along with Jamie Baum, professor of nutrition, the group was treated to a brisk hayride over to the Washington County Cooperative Extension Service office. Next, the group enjoyed a tour of the Animal Science research farm, where Dirk Philipp, associate professor of animal science, and

Darren Bignar, manager of the Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Center presented riparian zone and animal science research demonstrations.

In their final stop, the group visited the Whitaker Center to view a demonstration from the UA ranch horse team. Head coach Jordan Shore discussed the various events and disciplines featured in ranch horse competitions, while four team members and their horses offered impressive demonstrations of each section. ■



Four members of UA ranch horse team demonstrated competition events at the Division of Agriculture facilities.

Share Grounds Opening Three Certified Kitchens

And Are Actively Recruiting Clients

The Food Safety and Local Food Systems Team is rolling out a promotional campaign for recruiting clients to their Share Grounds facilities in Marshall, McCrory and Rison. Do you know a farmer, business or food entrepreneur needing a space for food processing or produce aggregation? Let them know about the Share Grounds informational booth at the Arkansas

State Fair in Little Rock. It will be located in the Arts and Crafts Building from Friday, Oct. 11 – Sunday, Oct. 20. A team member will be present to answer questions on the 11th, 14th-18th from 2-4:30 p.m. Visit www.uaex.edu/sharegrounds and <https://youtu.be/NOD5saIgQo4> to learn more about the project. ■



UPCOMING TECH TUESDAY WEBINARS

Tuesday, October 8: Excel Data and Equations (Kevin Lawson and Karen Watts)

Tuesday, November 12: Voice Search and Meta Data (Amy Cole)

Second Tuesday of every month, starting at 9 a.m.

To view the recordings, visit <https://uaex.edu/techtuesdays>

Phonics Phones Help Students Focus on Sounds



Prairie Angels 4-H Club in Arkansas County received one of four \$200 Innovative Program Grants from the Arkansas 4-H Alumni Association. Innovative Program Grants are awarded to counties for the purpose of providing financial support for educational or community service projects that teach youth skills and/or provide a service to the community. The proposal was to make phonics phones from PVC pipe for public kindergarten classes in Arkansas County. Phonics phones are a phone like device that allows children to hear themselves clearly while speaking softly and are used to help students learn their sounds quicker and become better spellers and readers.



Prairie Angels 4-H Club members delivered phonics phones to DeWitt Elementary School Kindergarten teachers.



Prairie Angels 4-H Club delivered phonics phones to Park Avenue Elementary School (Stuttgart) Kindergarten teachers.

Three hundred phonics phones were made for the 2019-2020 school year and delivered to kindergarten teachers at DeWitt Elementary School, Gillett Elementary School and Park Avenue Elementary School in Stuttgart. Pre-K teachers and special needs teachers at Dewitt Elementary School also received phonics phones.

Representatives reported on their completed project at the 4-H Alumni Association Meeting on Aug. 3.

"We are very thankful that we were chosen to receive this grant so Prairie Angels 4-H Club could help impact the lives of so many in our community. Thanks to the Arkansas 4-H Alumni Association." – Priscilla Bennett, 4-H Leader. ■



Prairie Angels 4-H Club members delivered phonics phones to DeWitt Pre-K teachers.

LIMS Comes to Soil Test Lab

A new Laboratory Information Management System, or LIMS, was initiated at the Marianna Soil Test Laboratory on July 15. The new LIMS requires that soil samples be submitted in the new soil boxes with barcode and pre-printed sample identification number. It also requires that client and soil sample information be entered directly into the system, rather than using the triplicate forms. We are currently identifying and correcting programming bugs and ask for your patience and your feedback to will help improve sample submission and result reporting.

Known issues include that the barcode and sample ID number smudge easily with the

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Name _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____

State _____

Phone _____

County _____

Field/Sample ID _____

New soil sample box.

slightest amount of moisture. If the soil sample is moist or the barcode and ID number are smeared please write the sample ID number on the box. You may want to keep track of sample information provided by the client until the lab receives the samples and samples are successfully received/scanned at the lab. The Marianna Soil Test Lab staff is developing a list of information and tips that may help avoid losing sample information. Thanks to everyone for your support and work to make the soil testing program a success. For more information, contact Linda (moorel@uark.edu) or Cindy (cherro@uark.edu) at the lab at (870) 295-2851. ■

Coming Together for Racial Understanding Training Held

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Extension in-service training for UAEX and UAPB was held Aug. 5-7 at the Vines 4-H Center. Coming Together for Racial Understanding training serves to build capacity for dialogue around racial issues. This was the first Arkansas cohort trained in civil dialogue. The purpose of the training is to build capacity within Cooperative Extension Service to help communities engage in civil dialogues around racial issues, and then to expand capacity to communities they serve.

The training was conducted by Dionardo Pizana, diversity, equity and inclusion specialist of MSU Extension, Blanca Hernandez, Pulaski County county extension agent-family & consumer sciences, Teki K. Hunt Winston, M.Ed., director of 4-H Youth Programs & SAFHS recruitment liason, School of Agriculture, Fisheries and Human



From left to right, the Coming Together in-service training was led by Blanca Hernandez, Teki K. Hunt Winston, Dionardo Pizana and Laura Hendrix.

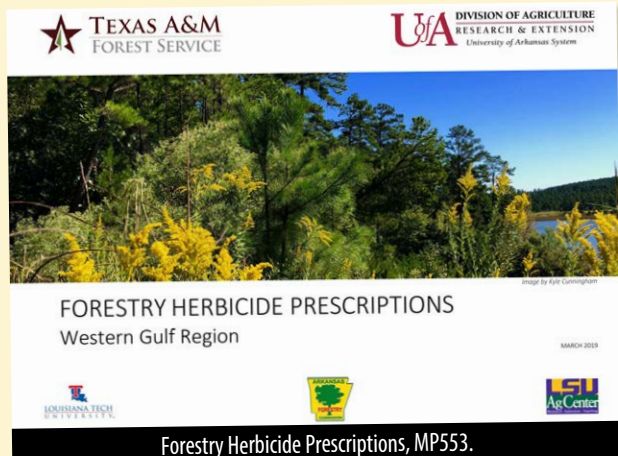
Sciences of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and Laura Hendrix, PhD, associate professor of the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service. ■

New Herbicide Forest Applications Publication Created

We recently published a new herbicide manual for forest applications MP553 authored by Kyle Cunningham. This publication will make recommendations to forest land-owners and foresters on herbicide applications based on labeled use and the latest research on efficacy. These recommendations cover both woody and herbaceous weeds.

MP553 can be found at the following link: <https://www.uaex.edu/environment-nature/forestry/managing-woodlands/forest-weed-management.aspx>. Due to funding from the USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, FY 2016 Southern Region Landscape Scale Restoration Grant, Dr. Cunningham in cooperation with Texas A&M assisted in developing a decision support system, DSS, that determines the best herbicide options for forested settings.

The recommendations from the DSS are based on those in the MP553 and require input of environmental conditions of the area to be treated. There have been DSS for herbicide application developed including in forest industry, but this one is designed for Arkansas and neighboring states. Field foresters widely have adapted a DSS, when available, and it is a needed tool, especially for young foresters. An invasive species module is planned to be added to the DSS soon. The link to the decision support system is as follows: <https://texasforestinfo.tamu.edu/HerbicideDSS/>. ■



Drew County Half-day Camps



Drew County Extension staff, 4-H leaders and Drew Master Gardeners conducted two, half-day 4-H camps at the Drew County Boy's and Girl's Club. The education stations consisted of nutrition using the smoothie bike, exercise, ATV safety and horse care and etiquette.

Soil and seeds education classes were taught by the Drew County Master Gardeners and Steve Kelley, Drew County agricultural agent. The students planted seeds to take home and care for them.

The nutrition education lesson was on the fruit and dairy groups. The students made smoothies using the smoothie bike. This was an awesome way to educate the group on food nutrition, while incorporating physical exercise. ■



Top photos - Soil & seeds education classes.
Middle photos - 4-H students learn about nutrition and make smoothies. Bottom photo (left) - Move More with EFNEP Program Angelia Anderson.
Bottom photo (right) - Horse education with 4-H Leader Becke Williams.

Grants and Contracts

PROJECT TITLE	AWARD AMOUNT	PI	GRANTING AGENCY
Southern Region SARE Sustainable Agriculture Training Program 2019-2020 Model State Program - Program Assistant	33,333	Amanda McWhirt	University of Georgia
NWA Regional Urban Stormwater Education Program	217,985	Katherine Teague	Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission
Retail Beef Production Practices Survey	25,901	Kristin Netterstrom Higgins	Arkansas Beef Council
TOTAL AWARDS FOR AUGUST 2019: \$277, 219			

Students Earn Individual, Chapter Awards at Media Summit

Several University of Arkansas Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow members were recognized for outstanding achievements at the 21st Annual Agricultural Media Summit July 27-31 in Minnesota.

Four U of A students competed in the National Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow Critique and Contest and placed with their entries. The NACT Critique and Contest allows students to submit work to be judged by agricultural communications professionals and ranked among fellow competitors.

Madelaine Giebler, a recent agricultural communications graduate from the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Science's Department of Agricultural Education, Communications and Technology, placed third in the Editorial category, second in Plant Photo and first in Short Personality Story. Tabitha Hudspeth, an agricultural and extension education master's degree student, placed second in the Infographic category. Jessica Wesson, a senior in agricultural communications, was fourth in the News Story category. Will Clark, an agricultural and extension education M.S. student, was first in the Logo category and received the Design and Layout Award of Excellence.

"I entered my work in the NACT Critique and Contest so I would have an opportunity to showcase the work I created through my academic experiences," Clark said. "When I found out I had won not only my category, but my division, I was ecstatic."

NACT is a national professional organization for college students who aspire to careers in agricultural communications. The organization provides professional and academic development opportunities for members. The University of Arkansas' chapter is housed in the Department of AECT.

"ACT helped me as a student by providing me with opportunities to learn, serve and network," Clark said. Clark is pursuing his graduate degree at the U of A. "I'm working to earn an M.S. in agricultural and extension education as well as serving Bumpers College students through the International Programs Office," Clark said.

The U of A ACT chapter was recognized for being Chapter of the Year-Leadership. Giebler was named NACT Distinguished Member of the Year and Maggie Jo Hansen, U of A and Bumpers College ACT graduate, was recognized as NACT Distinguished Alumni of the Year. Jefferson Miller, AECT professor of agricultural communications and ACT advisor, was elected to the organization's executive treasurer position.



At the Agricultural Media Summit this summer, Bumpers College students Grace Vehige (left) was a finalist for the Livestock Publications Council Forrest Bassford Student Award, and Jessica Wesson was awarded the AAEE/ACT Presidential Scholarship and Livestock Publications Council Forrest Bassford Student Award, and elected president of the National Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow.

Also during the summit, Grace Vehige, a senior agricultural communications student and ACT member, was a national finalist for the Livestock Publications Council Forrest Bassford Student Award. Jessica Wesson was awarded the AAEE/ACT Presidential Scholarship and the Livestock Publications Council Forrest Bassford Student Award, and was elected as the National Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow President. ■

Benefits Corner

Clinic-Flu Shots will take place at the Little Rock State Office in conference room 107 in the main building on Thursday, Oct. 17, 2019, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Wellness Program 2020

Take the first step to qualify for the 2020 wellness incentive by: Visiting 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 UMR Classic Plan, UMR Premier Plan or in the UMR 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.

Keep your address updated in Banner. Log into Banner 9, select Applications, select Employee Dashboard, select My Profile, select Edit (the pencil) on the right under addresses and then select Edit under Residence address. Choose Edit Address and then select Update. ■

Personnel Changes

Welcome aboard:

Tim Burcham - Director – NE Rice Research & Extension Center, State University
Micahla Burns - EFNEP Program Assistant, St. Francis County, Forrest City
Presley Capps - County Extension Agent – 4-H, Nevada County, Prescott
Aaron Cato - Extension Specialist – Horticulture, Little Rock
Laquita Desmuke - Human Resources Specialist – Human Resources, Little Rock
Carlie Duggan - Program Assistant – EFNEP, Woodruff County, Augusta
Anna Harlan - County Extension Agent – Family & Consumer Science, Stone County, Mountain View
Ronnie Horn - County Extension Agent – Agriculture, Washington County, Fayetteville
Leah Flynn - Administrative Specialist, Logan County – Booneville
Pamela Luker - County Extension Agent – Family & Consumer Science, Pope County, Russellville
LaJoy Montgomery - Early Childhood Program Associate-BCC, Family & Consumer Science, Little Rock
Lance Rice - County Extension Agent – Agriculture, Lafayette County, Lewisville



Farewell to:

Stephannie Baldwin - Program Assistant – EFNEP, Little Rock
Haley Beaty - Program Assistant – 4-H, Drew County, Monticello
Katy Campbell - Program Tech – EFNEP/Food Safety, Family & Consumer Science, Little Rock
Emily Hays - Program Associate EFNEP, Family & Consumer Science, Little Rock
Sarah Metzger - County Extension Agent – Family and Consumer Sciences, Cleburne County, Heber Springs
Shelbi Pinson - County Extension Agent – 4-H, Nevada County, Prescott
Shandrena Sims - County Extension Agent – Family and Consumer Sciences, Ouachita County, Camden
Lauren Thornton - Program Associate – Health, 4-H and Youth Development, Little Rock
Brandon Vines - Maintenance Specialist, Vines 4-H Center, Little Rock
Holli Webster - County Extension Agent – Program Assistant, Little Rock
Liz White - Accounts Receivable and Funds Manager, Financial Services, Little Rock