

BLUE LETTER

The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Monthly Letter

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Thank you to everyone who participated in or supported the annual State 4-H O-Rama and made it successful.

You came together with a single mission of creating an experience that allowed 4-H youth to learn and grow. It was great to see 4-H'ers demonstrate what they've learned through competitive events, cooperating with each other or passing along to the next generation responsibilities and traditions they have experienced.

The 4-H staff deserves special recognition for the long hours and teamwork required as they prepared for and coordinated each event. County agents, district directors, volunteers and faculty each had a job to do and did it well.

We appreciate the 4-H Foundation Board members, the Arkansas Farm Bureau, the Arkansas Electric Cooperatives and numerous individuals and professional organizations that donated toward 4-H scholarships.

The University of Arkansas hosted the O-Rama, and staff from the Dale Bumpers College treated us to lunch on Wednesday. Dr. George Wardlow, Department Head, Agricultural and Extension Education, welcomed 4-H'ers during the 4-H banquet and encouraged them to consider studying at UA.

Again, thank you for your support of the 4-H program in Arkansas. ■

– Tony Windham

Higgins wins awards from Arkansas Press Women

Public Policy Center publications were recognized with several awards in June from the Arkansas Press Women, a statewide organization of professional communicators.

Kristin Higgins, the Center's program associate, won first place awards for Public Service and Newsletters. Higgins also won second place for Social Media Campaign, Nonprofit, Governmental and Educational.

The public service and social media campaign awards were for Higgins' work on the 2012 Arkansas Election Ballot Preview updates that kept county agents and the public up to date on ballot issues. The newsletter award recognized *Energizing Arkansas*, a publication the Center put out in partnership with the Arkansas Energy Office. The newsletter, which focuses on alternative and renewable energy news in the state, is sent to legislators and county libraries and is posted online for the public. ■



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DR. TONY WINDHAM
Associate Vice President for
Agriculture - Extension and
Director, Cooperative Extension Service

Regional Delta Beef and Forage Field Day a success

An interactive tour of rotational grazing fields and a step-by-step how-to on tire tank watering systems were among the activities that were on tap Monday, June 24, for the Delta Beef and Forage Field Day held at Arkansas State University Farms.

The agenda included information on stockpiling bermudagrass, planting cool-season annuals for fall grazing and the benefits of the Natural Resource Soil Conversation's EQIP program to cattle producers.

The meeting was a presentation by the Craighead County Extension office in collaboration with the Arkansas State University Research Farm and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Participants were taken on an interactive tour of the ASU Research Farm beef cattle rotational grazing fields to learn about system setup

and implantation, as well as the benefits of and how to install tire tank watering systems. The local NRCS district coordinator was also on hand to explain and answer questions about implementing

techniques learned during the field day on their farms through the NRCS EQIP program.

Over 55 producers from eight Arkansas counties attended the field day. ■



Shofner named 2013 Arkansas 4-H Governor's Award recipient

Janeé Shofner, 19, of Benton County has earned the 2013 Arkansas 4-H Governor's Award, the highest honor accorded to Arkansas 4-H members.

A member of Centerton 4-H Club, Shofner accepted the honor at the State 4-H O-Rama in Fayetteville.

Among her accomplishments, Shofner was a 4-H state ambassador and elected state 4-H president. She also was an Arkansas delegate to the National 4-H Conference, and she has volunteered more than 500 hours counseling at 4-H camps. Enrolled at the University of Arkansas, she has been a member of 4-H since she was five years old.

"The 4-H Governor's Award is given to the 4-H'er who demonstrates excellence and embodies the 'Making the Best Better' motto of 4-H," said Brian Helms, instructor - 4-H Youth Development.

"Janeé is the epitome of the 4-H motto. This is one of the most difficult decisions members of our selection committees have to make each year. Janeé deserves the recognition for her commitment to 4-H and her community."

As a finalist for the award, Shofner recently had lunch with Gov. Mike Beebe and first lady Ginger Beebe at the Arkansas Governor's Mansion with fellow finalists Sarah Mills and Meredith Williams.

See video profiles of the finalists on YouTube at <http://youtu.be/zBBNqoGKfL4>, <http://youtu.be/4-eF1ly6vK8> and <http://youtu.be/gBYnVb0xXCo>. ■



EXCELLENCE REWARDED – Janeé Shofner of Centerton 4-H club accepts the 4-H Governor's Award. At left is Dr. Anne Sortor, Associate Director - Family and Consumer Sciences and 4-H Youth Development, and at her right, Marc Harrison, representing Gov. Mike Beebe.

4-H State Horse Show surpasses O-Rama

The approximately 900 entries at the 2013 4-H State Horse Show has made that event the largest 4-H gathering in Arkansas, surpassing the State O-Rama.

The show, which ran July 9-12, drew entries from 29 counties, with youth competing in western and English disciplines plus halter classes and the hippology contests. New for this year's contest were the ranch horse classes held on the final day.

"We're pleased at the depth of involvement by 4-H'ers, parents, staff and faculty in this show," Mark Russell, assistant professor - equine, said. "It's a win all the way around." ■



Box full of ribbons waiting to be awarded.



Hunter under saddle competitors await the start of their class.



Competitor waits for the beginning of the trail class.

Rodibaugh receives honor from alma mater

Dr. Rosemary Rodibaugh, professor - nutrition, was recently inducted into the Purdue University Nutrition Science Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame Award honors alumni of the Nutrition Science Department who have made a significant contribution to the varied fields of foods and nutrition and have established a distinctive record in their work and life. Rosemary, who received her BS in dietetics and PhD in foods and nutrition from the department, says she is deeply honored by the award. ■

Employee ID Update

We're two months into our new employee ID system, and while we've moved ahead with relatively few hiccups, there have been a few.

Our challenges included obtaining current photos for our far-flung faculty and staff and the occasional Banner sync issues.

Accolades should be given to folks in Communications, IT and Facilities Management. The process has required a team effort, and the unit leaders, Bob Reynolds, Sam Boyster and Bobby Johnson, have been a great help in encouraging and supporting staff involvement. We could single out some folks who have been instrumental in the overall success but would certainly leave someone out.

We continually look for ways to make the system serve you better in terms of recognition and a more secure workplace.

Visitor badges are now available for nonemployees who are in the LRSO HQ building unescorted. That system remains in development but will become more visible with training and experience.

If you need an ID photo taken, please make an appointment with Kerry Rodtnick or Kevin Quinn. Other contacts for issuance of IDs are Ursula Crow, Tamiaka Daniels or Martha Thorpe for ID production, and Bobby Johnson, Bob Reynolds or Tom Riley for system problems.

Thanks for your patience! ■

— Tom Riley

4-H'ers receive scholarships

These 4-H'ers were recognized as scholarship winners July 25 at the 4-H Awards of Excellence Banquet at the State 4-H O-Rama. ■

2013 Arkansas 4-H Scholarship Recipients

Ada and Tyrell Anderson Scholarship
Lesleigh Beer, Madison County

Robert D. and Betty F. Oliver Scholarship
Dustyn Perkins, Lonoke County

John W. White Scholarship
Taylor McNeel, Faulkner County

C.A. and Joy Vines Scholarship
Austin Hamm, Washington County

Seidenstricker Family Scholarship
Meredith Williams, White County

Zack O. and Jennie D. Jennings Scholarship
Sarah Mills, Benton County

Donna Weissenstein Scholarship
Katy Tunstill, Washington County

**Arkansas Forage and Grassland Council
Larry Sandage Scholarship**
Haley Hensley, Boone County

Raymond C. Cox Scholarship
Jackson Mead, Independence County
Caleb Shepherd, Howard County

**Oaklawn Jockey Club/Arkansas Livestock Show
Association Scholarship**

Melissa Nubbie, Johnson County
Connor Palarino, Franklin County
Will Pohlman, Washington County
Brittany Stettmeier, Benton County

Maeda Asbell Scholarship
Jonathon Lance, Howard County

2013 Arkansas 4-H Record Book Scholarship Recipients

Chance Schueren, Cleburne County, *Forages*
Aaron D. Warren Scholarship

Sarah Mills, Benton County, *Clothing*
Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council

Caleb Shepherd, Howard County, *Swine*
Dr. Richard Forsythe

Brittany Stettmeier, Benton County, *Sheep*
Justice J. Fred Jones Memorial Scholarship

Katy Tunstill, Washington County, *Beef*
Walta Lorea Hoback Jones Memorial Scholarship

Katie Crow, Madison County, *Arts and Humanities*
University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture

Ian Dexter, Benton County,
Environmental Stewardship
University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture

Ariana Woods, Jefferson County, *Leadership*
University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture

Jackson Mead, Independence County, *Beef*
University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture

Lane Wallis, Benton County, *Vet Science*
University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture
in honor of Dr. Lloyd Warren

Nathan Creasey, Benton County,
Environmental Stewardship

Arkansas 4-H Volunteer Leaders' Association
Haley House, Benton County, *Fitness Leadership*
Jeanette Roberts Endowment

Kendra Speer, Benton County, *Fitness Leadership*
Sue Marshall Endowment

Will Pohlman, Washington County, *Beef*
Centennial Scholarship Endowment

Quinten Parker, Benton County, *Dairy*
Southwest Dairy Museum

Jonathon Lance, Howard County, *Community Service*
James Endowment

Kelsey Switzer, Searcy County, *Safety*
CES Credit Union

Seth Harvey, Clark County, *Arts and Humanities*
4-H License Plate

Deanna Senn, Union County, *Photography*
4-H License Plate

Skyler West, Greene County,
Environmental Stewardship
4-H License Plate

What's new in publications? Find out at:

http://www.uaex.edu/depts/Administration/blue_letter/Monthly_Publications_Report.htm

Meet the *new* employee!



Beverly Dunaway (Bev)
Program Associate – SRMEC
Little Rock State Office

- **What's your background?**

My background is in sales, marketing, small business ownership/management, integral life coaching, farmers' market origination/management/promotion

and project direction. I'm past president of the Arkansas Farmers' Market Association.

- **What knowledge, skills and experience are you bringing to Extension?**

I've been working with Arkansas growers and producers since 2009 and have a deep respect for the hard work and dedication it takes to bring goods to market. I believe this, combined with a belief that a strong local food system is critically important to any region, enables me to effectively promote the MarketMaker Program to Arkansas growers, producers and businesses as an excellent tool for creating that.

- **What are one or two things you would like your colleagues to know about you?**

One of my favorite things to tell any born-and-raised "Little Rockean" boomer is that my dad and my grandad, John Tom Browning, opened Browning's Mexican Restaurant the year I was born. For those that are newer to Little Rock (or much younger), this may not mean

much. However, residents who've been around since the 40s know Browning's as a favorite establishment.

- **What would you like to accomplish your first year with Extension?**

I'd like to register a majority of Arkansas growers, producers and local food-oriented businesses in the MarketMaker Program and see a significant strengthening of Arkansas' local food network.

- **What brought you to Extension? What was it about Extension that you value?**

As director/manager of a farmers' market, project director of a USDA-funded FMPP grant and president of the Arkansas Farmers' Market Association, I worked with numerous Extension employees on a variety of projects. The end of my 2012 FMPP grant period coincided with preparations for the annual AFMA meeting that was held at the Little Rock state office where I learned about the opening for the position I now hold.

I see how integral a part Extension plays in strengthening the state's local food system and would like to do what I can to enhance its effectiveness in that process.

- **What are your interests or hobbies outside of work?**

I like to hike, kayak, read and play music. I'm a beginner mandolin and ukulele player...emphasis on beginner...as in definitely not ready for gigs...but do enjoy playing! ■

BENEFITS CORNER

Have you ever thought about...

Qualified status changes: Allows you the opportunity to make changes to your benefit coverage within 31 days – changes such as gaining a dependent by marriage, birth or adoption; loss of a dependent through divorce or death. You may also have a 31-day enrollment window if your spouse loses coverage due to loss of job, unpaid leave of absence or change to part-time status. Documentation of these events is required for the change to be processed.

Dependent child reaches age 26: You have a 31-day window, from the qualified event, to complete the necessary forms to cancel coverage for this over-age dependent. In the event this is your only covered child, an adjustment may occur to your premium and your child will be offered continuation of coverage under COBRA. Miss the 31-day deadline and your over-age child will not have coverage; however, your premium will continue for the remainder of the plan year.

Just had a new baby: Do not wait until you receive the Social Security card to add the baby to your benefits. You only have 31 days from the baby's birth to add the newborn to your coverage. ■

Grants and contracts

For Month Ended June 30, 2013

Project Title	Award Amount	Principal Investigator	Granting Agency
MS4 Stormwater Education for City of Pine Bluff	168,846.05	Dennis Bailey	City of Pine Bluff
MS4 Stormwater Education for White Hall	14,897.05	Dennis Bailey	City of White Hall
MS4 Stormwater for the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff	4,632.50	Dennis Bailey	University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
MS4 Stormwater Education for Jefferson County	3,844.40	Dennis Bailey	Jefferson County
Promoting the Use of Multiple Inlet and Evaluating Intermittent Flood Potential in Arkansas	10,960.00	Dharmendra Saraswat	Rice Research Promotion Board
Compare Field Efficacy of Current and Future Bt Technologies Against Lepidopteran Pests	14,640.00	Gus Lorenz	Monsanto Company
Determining Relative Rainfastness of Insecticides Used for Control of Tarnished Plant Bug in Cotton	24,000.00	Gus Lorenz	Cotton Incorporated
Agronomic Production Practices for Rice	124,599.00	Jarrold Hardke	Rice Research Promotion Board
Promoting the Use of Multiple Inlet and Evaluating Intermittent Flood Potential in Arkansas	2,500.00	Jarrold Hardke	Rice Research Promotion Board
Integrated Resource Management Tool to Mitigate the Carbon Footprint of Swine Produced in the U.S.	65,778.00	Karl VanDevender	Agriculture Experiment Station
AgrAbility Arkansas State Project	161,978.00	LaVona Traywick	National Institute of Food and Agriculture
Sorghum Nitrogen Use Efficiency Through Fertilizer	20,000.00	Leo Espinoza	United Sorghum Checkoff Program Board
4-H Youth Voice: Youth Choice Healthy Living Project	65,000.00	Lisa Washburn	National 4-H Council
Operation Military Kids	39,575.00	Maureen Rose	Department of Army
South Shore Marion County Youth Leadership	2,700.00	Renee Myers	South Shore Foundation
Integrated Resource Management Tool to Mitigate the Carbon Footprint of Swine Produced in the U.S.	51,646.00	Samy Sadaka	Agriculture Experiment Station
Studying Dicamba Spray Drift Potential	18,300.00	Tom Barber	Monsanto Company
Assessment of the Importance of Rhizoctonia Aerial Blight of Peanut in Arkansas	2,956.00	Travis Faske	National Peanut Board
Total New Awards for June 2013	\$796,852.00		

Personnel changes

Please welcome the following:

Beverly M. Dunaway

Program Associate - SRMEC, Southern Regional Risk Management Education, effective June 24, 2013.

Shalanda L. Lucas

Financial Program Manager - CARS, Southern Regional Risk Management Education, effective June 18, 2013.

Addie L. Wilson

County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences, Nevada County, effective June 17, 2013.