

BLUE LETTER

The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Monthly Letter

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Arkansas held its 16th Arkansas 4-H/Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC) State Competition on June 6-8, 2013. Approximately 355 4-H youth attended the three-day competition at the C. A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center. The program's mission is to "teach young people the safe, ethical and responsible way to shoot, hunt and enjoy the outdoors." YHEC is a program of the National Rifle Association. In Arkansas, it is co-sponsored by the Arkansas 4-H Shooting Sports Program.

Currently, more than 45 counties in Arkansas have a 4H/YHEC program. The core training uses the 4-H Shooting Sports curriculum and the 10-hour Arkansas Hunter Education program. These curricula include safe gun handling, safe shooting, conservation and ethics. Skill training includes how to shoot a rifle, shotgun, muzzleloader and bow. Other training includes wildlife identification, hunter safety, compass and orienteering and how to hunt deer, turkey, waterfowl and small game.

Over 120 adult volunteers assisted in conducting the four shooting events and four responsibility events. The competition culminated with the Awards Banquet on Saturday night, with approximately 650 people in attendance. The Arkansas 4-H/YHEC is now the largest YHEC program in the nation.

Congratulations to all involved for a successful event. ■

– Tony Windham

Family life faculty win communication award

Congratulations to Drs. Wally Goddard, James Marshall and the family life team who won two national awards at the Association for Communication Excellence Conference held June 11-14 in Indianapolis, Ind. They were the gold award winners in the exhibit category for their "Family Life" display.

They were also the overall silver award winners for their new "Getting Our Hearts Right: Three Keys to Better Relationships" program.

Regarding the display the reviewers said, "The whimsical style, bright colors and mixture of two and three dimensional elements are very clever and engaging. The

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RESEARCH & EXTENSION

University of Arkansas System

University of Arkansas,
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Agriculture, and County
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Accepting the award for 3rd place senior team for the Hunter Education Exam are Mallory Perkins, Graycen Perkins, Korey Vaughn, Dustyn Perkins and Tyler Fuhrman. Mallory and Tyler stood in for Tori Barnhill and Katie McGowan, who were not present.

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



stylized illustrations are well done and unique. The different sizes and shapes are fun to look at and keep people interested.”

And here’s what reviewers said about the Getting Our Hearts Right program; “There is no doubt this topic is relevant otherwise Dr. Phil wouldn’t be on the air anymore! I scored this document highly because of the educational and active readership components. Not only do the authors explain their topics and reasoning, but they include exercises for readers to try. This involves the reader into the document. I also scored it highly because of its ability to take scientific information and present it in an easily digestible format.” ■

Former state 4-H leader LaVerne W. Feaster passes

Mrs. LaVerne W. Feaster, Arkansas 4-H state leader from 1986-1990, passed away May 27, 2013, at her home in Little Rock. The Arkansas 4-H family is saddened by her loss but is much richer for the contributions she made. Countless adults fondly remember LaVerne for her genuine interest in their future and for her advocacy for 4-H.

She led a full life as an educator, both in public schools and with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service. During her 29-year tenure with Extension, LaVerne served as an agent in Clark County, a district agent, state 4-H agent and state 4-H leader.

As state 4-H leader, she served on numerous regional and national level 4-H committees. She was instrumental in organizing and conducting the first Arkansas 4-H volunteer leader training in the 1970s. LaVerne loved all things connected to 4-H and helping young people develop to their fullest potential.

LaVerne served as a member of the Arkansas 4-H Foundation Board of Directors for twenty-three years.

In October 2012, the Board named the seven-acre lake on the property of the C. A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center “Lake LaVerne” in her honor.

LaVerne was born in Cotton Plant, Ark., and graduated from Tennessee State University. She was married to Williams D. Feaster for 58 years until his death in 2011.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Arkansas 4-H Foundation to the LaVerne W. Feaster Fund (#1 Four H Way, Little Rock, AR 72223) or online at <http://www.arkansas4hfoundation.com/donate.htm>. All gifts will be used to provide positive leadership opportunities for Arkansas youth through 4-H. ■

Strong Women in Searcy



Dr. LaVona Traywick, assistant professor - gerontology, leads a workshop on using stretch bands at the Strong Women and Men Rally May 31 in Searcy. Dr. Lisa Washburn, assistant professor - health, Katie Cullum, White County family and consumer sciences agent, and White County Strong Women volunteers planned and conducted the event. ■

BENEFITS CORNER

Update your Address

Thanks for keeping your home address updated.

This is important, as CES occasionally sends information to your home. For example, important benefits enrollment material may be mailed to your home so that your family may read it.

Please update your address within Banner Self Service. You will also need to personally notify your benefit carriers of your new address. When you update Banner, contact information for each benefit vendor will be emailed to your attention.

What’s new in publications? Find out at:

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

Meet the *new* employees!



Neal Mays
County Extension Agent -
Agriculture
Benton County

- **What's your background?**

I taught high school agriculture and science for 12 years prior to moving to Fayetteville in 2011 to finish my M.S. in horticulture. My

wife and I raised beef cattle and meat goats, as well as maintaining a couple of large gardens and a small orchard.

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

I enjoy sharing information with people. As a teacher, and more recently as a graduate student, I've had opportunity to polish my communication skills, and I look forward to interacting with and learning from the residents of Benton County.

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

My wife and I have four children, and we try to make family our central daily priority.

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

My primary goal for year one is to develop friendships with as many of the farmers and residents of Benton County as possible. Next, I hope to get a good idea of how to navigate within the Extension system and develop new friendships with my Extension colleagues.

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

Extension seems the perfect fit for me professionally. I enjoy visiting with people, as well as having the opportunity to help clients learn and expand their understanding of agricultural topics they find interesting or challenging.

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

My hobbies include gardening, completing woodworking projects and traveling to the western

U.S. Time spent fishing, canoeing and hiking with my family is also great, despite the whining and fussing often endured on such outings. ■

Logan Towles
Program Technician-Entomology
NEREC-Keiser



- **What's your background?**

I am originally from Manila, Ark., and am living in Jonesboro. I grew up on the farm and have always loved being around and involved in agriculture.

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

In May of 2012, I graduated from Arkansas State University with a degree in agribusiness and a minor in plant science. Before starting at the Extension Service, I scouted cotton for six summers and worked 10 months in crop insurance.

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

I have an English bulldog, Dexter, which I take everywhere. I am very talkative and have very rarely met a stranger.

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

I hope before next year's growing season I will be more confident in research and will have improved my leadership skills.

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

I wanted a job that's purpose was to be an aid to local farmers. I love that this career enables me to be fully involved with the crops from start to finish.

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

I enjoy reading, being at the lake, being outdoors and spending time with my dog. I also spend a lot of time working out and teaching fitness classes. ■

Personnel changes

Please welcome the following:

Jill R. Ellis

Administrative Support Supervisor, Financial Services, effective May 28, 2013.

Julie S. Goings

County Extension Agent - 4-H, Phillips County, effective May 16, 2013.

Sarah G. Hawkins

Institutional Services Assistant, Facility Maintenance, effective May 20, 2013.

Joshua L. Hesselbein

Program Technician, Discovery Farm, Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences, effective June 3, 2013.

Mary G. Macon

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

Neal M. Mays

County Extension Agent - Agriculture, Benton County, effective June 3, 2013.

Kristen A. Melson

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

Judy A. Sweet

Program Assistant - 4-H, St. Francis County, effective June 3, 2013.

Logan B. Towles

Program Technician - Entomology, Northeast Research and Extension Center, effective May 13, 2013.

Extension says goodbye to:

Jack C. Boles

Instructor - ATV, 4-H and Youth Development, effective June 28, 2013.

Sterling M. Boston

Institutional Services Assistant, Facility Maintenance, effective May 10, 2013.

Jennifer Carthron-Johnson

Fiscal Support Specialist, Financial Services, effective May 24, 2013.

Melinda M. Johninon

Institutional Services Assistant, Facility Maintenance, effective June 6, 2013.

Monte B. Milligan

Network Administrator, Office of Information Technology, effective May 20, 2013.

Chelsea M. Roberts

Program Assistant - EFNEP, Washington County, effective May 26, 2013.