

BLUE LETTER

The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Monthly Letter

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Each year, our farmers expect to be able to do two things: plant and then reap their crop. And each year, nature and the markets throw a few curveballs. Our job as Extension professionals is to be there for them with the tools and know-how to help our clients succeed. This spring, we saw record rainfall in parts of Arkansas, flooding hundreds, if not thousands, of acres in the Arkansas and Red River valleys.

During the drought of 2011-2012, our experts came together to offer producers the best possible guidance to deal with the situation. Earlier this month we did the same, hosting a meeting at Morrilton with our agronomists and a Farm Service Agency representative to give growers a look at post-flood crop and risk management. Later the same day, we held a webinar for growers on navigating disaster and the new tenets of the Farm Bill.

Once again, our Extension professionals have risen to the challenge.

And while these disaster-related efforts may have gained media attention and a high profile, let's not forget that as Extension professionals, this is core of what we do. Whether it's helping avert a chronic illness through healthy lifestyle choices, setting youth on the path to productive adulthood or finding new economic vigor for a struggling community, this is our vocation and our key value to the public.

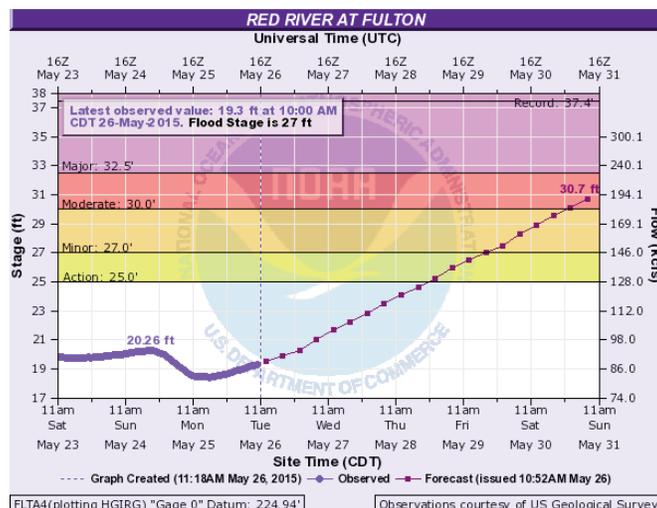
Whether our education efforts make the 6 p.m. news or helps save a life in a quiet long-term way, thank you for the work you do every day improve the quality of life for all of our neighbors.

– Tony Windham

Miller County watches flood waters

Miller County is monitoring flood activity as flood waters from Texas and Oklahoma cause the Red River to rise. Farmers have begun evacuating all cattle and machinery to higher ground. Bowie County, Texas, which borders Miller County, is already at major flood stage with predictions at 34.1. With all that water headed towards Miller County, as of May 26, 11:30 a.m., the flood waters show to crest at 30.7, which is moderate flooding for Miller County and could go higher.

To give an idea of the severity of the flooding that is and will impact our area, at 25 feet considerable flooding of lowland farm and grazing land takes place. [See FLOOD WATERS, p. 2](#)



DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

University of Arkansas,
United States Department of
Agriculture, and County
Governments Cooperating

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

Lacy Drive 4-H Community Garden Initiative

The Jackson County Lacy Drive 4-H Club worked long and hard to decide on a community service project that will benefit the community where they live and chose to plant a community garden, utilizing pallets, to grow vegetables and flowers for the residents at the local Housing Authority in Newport. Club members received donations from a local nursery to start their project. Their goal is for Housing Authority residents to have access to fresh vegetables all summer. ■



At work on the pallet garden at the Newport Housing Authority, left to right, Daveon Friar (planting vegetable), Malik Rucker, Eli Alcorn, Brendon Curry, Isaiah Kendall, DJ Friar (planting vegetable), Andrez Mallory and Kevin Friar.

ExCEL corporate challenge

Five businesses traded spreadsheets and reports for archery and water balloons in a one-of-a-kind-corporate challenge at the Vines 4-H Center that left contestants with smiles and maybe a little weekend warrior soreness.

For one morning in May, corporate competition went outside to play as five teams took on the ExCEL challenge around the lake at the Vines 4-H Center.

The winner of this inaugural corporate challenge was Farm Credit of Western Arkansas.

“We have a great team here at Farm Credit Services and the small group that participated was no exception,” said Clay Lance, assistant vice president for Farm Credit. “Everyone chipped in where they could and we all enjoyed the day out of the office.”

Next Year

Luke Nipper, ExCEL coordinator for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, said the teams enjoyed the outing.

“One of the participants came up to me afterwards and shared with me how much everyone on his team was engaged with the activities and the team the entire time,” he said. “The teams asked if we’re planning to do the event next year. We’ll definitely do the event next year, hopefully with more teams.”



The day after the competition, Heather Savage, vice president - Human Resources for Arkansas Federal Credit Union admitted to moving a little slower than usual but also said “battle scars are awesome!” She told Nipper she was ready to field a team for the next year. ■

FLOOD WATERS. continued from page 1

Ranchers are moving cattle and equipment to higher ground. At 36 feet, record flooding occurs. All establishments and residences should be completely evacuated.

The last major flood in this area was in 1990 where flood levels were at 34.42 feet. Thousands were forced from their homes near the Arkansas, Red and Trinity rivers in Arkansas, Texas and Oklahoma. Thousands of cattle were drowned or stranded and thousands of acres were flooded. This caused millions of dollars’ worth of damage. This year’s flood is predicted to be close to or as bad as 1990. ■



Revisiting the flood of 1990 in Texarkana.

What’s new in publications? Find out at:

<http://www.uaex.edu/publications/new.aspx>

Arkansas hosts national community development conference

Extension professionals from around the country convened in Little Rock May 17-20 for the National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals (NACDEP) annual conference.

Stacey McCullough and Krishna Ellington were conference co-chairs. Dr. Donald Bobbitt, University of Arkansas System president, kicked the conference off by welcoming attendees to Arkansas and highlighting the system and Extension's role in community and economic development.

With 70 concurrent session workshops, seven mobile workshops, posters presentations, a panel of federal partners and four fast-paced "ignite" presentations, the conference was action packed. Keynote speakers were Dr. Nancy Franz, professor



Outgoing NACDEP president Alison Davis passes the gavel to incoming president Stacey McCullough.

emeritus, Iowa State University, and Pierre Ferrari, president and CEO of Heifer International. Attendees even got to sample ice cream made from Arkansas-grown edamame by the Division of Agriculture's Food Science department.

Among conference highlights featuring Arkansas Extension professionals, Stacey McCullough, was installed as NACDEP president. The 2014 Ballot Issues Education Program received the national Educational Materials - Team award.

Mark Peterson, Nita Cooper, Amanda Perez, Kristin Higgins, Wayne Miller, Zola Moon, Stacey McCullough and Becky McPeake gave presentations at

the conference. These individuals and Carla Vaught, Robin Bridges, Ray Benson, Julie Goings, Skip Armes, Bobby Hall, Joe Waldrum, Kim Magee and Laura Connerly also assisted with other conference events. ■



The 2014 Ballot Issues Education Program received the national Educational Materials - Team award at the NACDEP Conference. Team members included Stacey McCullough, Kristin Higgins, Wayne Miller and Amanda Philyaw Perez, as well as Kerry Rodtnick and Chris Meux (not pictured).

Arkansas MarketMaker receives 2015 Innovation Award

Arkansas MarketMaker (ARMM), <http://ar.foodmarketmaker.com/>, received the MarketMaker 2015 Innovation Award at the National Value-Added Conference in Austin, Texas, on May 19. The award is sponsored annually by Farm Credit to highlight distinguished programmatic efforts. ARMM was acknowledged for successfully building partnerships to assist grower marketing efforts across the food value chain.

Successful partnerships have included the Arkansas Agriculture Department, Arkansas Farm Bureau, Arkansas Farmers Market Association, Arkansas Department of Health, Del-Monte Fresh North America, Mid-West Strawberry Growers Association, Pulaski County Technical College's Culinary Program, Subway Development Inc., Arkansas Children's Hospital, Arkansas Grow Healthy Study and numerous individual farmers across the state.

ARMM is excited to highlight the use of MarketMaker to develop "strategic partnerships" across the state and region.

"We have successfully enhanced our overall level of engagement with both growers and industry stakeholders," said Dr. Ron Rainey, professor - Economics. "The tool has allowed us to strategically engage and connect various partners across the food system from farm to table."

ARMM program impacts from the last year include increasing farm-to-school opportunities as part of the Arkansas Grow Healthy Study. ARMM has increased farmer collaborations with institutions resulting in increased direct farm sales. ■



Dr. Ron Rainey and Beverly Dunaway accept the MarketMaker 2015 Innovation Award during National Value-Added Conference award banquet. Left to right: Dr. Marco Palma, professor at Texas A&M and 2015 conference chair, Beverly Dunaway, Dr. Ron Rainey, and Stan Ray, chief administrative officer, Farm Credit Bank of Texas.

Lonoke County 4-H conducts Farm Safety Day

Lonoke County 4-H helped the Progressive Agriculture Safety Day® program celebrate its 20th anniversary by conducting a Farm Safety Day May 15 at Lonoke Elementary School.

Over 120 Lonoke fifth graders rotated through 12 stations: grain safety, animal safety, chemical safety, equipment safety, bicycle safety, electricity safety, food safety, disability awareness, tornado safety, fire safety, gun safety and ATV safety. Safety sessions were taught by volunteers from First Electric, Arkansas Farm Bureau, Arkansas State Police and the Cooperative Extension Service, along with Lonoke County 4-H Teen Leaders. Each session included a group demonstration or hands-on activity for the students.

For the past 20 years, the Progressive Agriculture Safety Day® program has continued its mission of providing education and training to make farm, ranch and rural life safer and healthier for children and their communities. Lonoke County 4-H has been helping the program achieve this mission since 2013. The Progressive Agriculture Safety Day® program is now recognized as the largest rural safety and health program for children in North America, with more than 1.3 million children and adults being impacted to date. ■



Emergency procedures: practice makes perfect

Everyone's heard the phrase "practice makes perfect." That certainly played out on June 1, not only with our planned fire drill in the morning, but the very real evacuation we had in the afternoon.

"Overall, everyone did a great job," said Kyleen Prewett, head of the emergency procedures committee. "We had a quick evacuation – with everyone out of the building in a shade under three minutes."

"We appreciate everyone following the procedures," she said. "As a result of the drill and the real evacuation, we will be making some tweaks in how we do leave the building, and we will keep you posted on those changes."

In the meantime, a few reminders:

- Know your color and matching rally point.
- If you are away from your desk and have to evacuate to another rally point, please tell the color captain at your location so we can account for you.
- Evacuation coordinators, please be sure to sweep every room so no one is left behind.
- Stay away from the building during the emergency.
- Stay on sidewalks or grass and out of the way of emergency responders.

For those who are curious, the afternoon evacuation was sparked by an old toaster oven that is now out of service. ■



E-mail news – Microsoft Office 365

Time for a Checkup

IT reviewed the future product roadmap for Zimbra and looked at other e-mail options based on today's business landscape. As a result, Microsoft Office 365 Exchange Online has been selected and approved by the Executive Team as the new e-mail program.

Migration Timeline

The initial kickoff meeting with the migration vendor was held May 29. Tentatively, dates to complete the conversion are near the end of July or early August. The migration impact will be lessened by working with a company recommended by Microsoft experienced in Office 365 migrations.

Initial Focus

Extension stands to benefit from the Office 365 suite of products, but initially the focus will be on e-mail provided through Microsoft Office 365 Exchange Online. Microsoft Outlook (online, desktop and mobile) can all be used with Exchange Online.

Training

Multiple training venues will be available to ensure users are able to send and receive e-mail as soon as the migration completes.

Questions, Concerns or Comments?

Please contact Sam Boyster (501) 671-2135 /sboyster@uaex.edu or Diana Morian (501) 671-2341 /dmorian@uaex.edu if you have questions. ■

Highlights of 2015 Support Staff Conference

One hundred twenty classified support staff from across the state attended the 2015 Support Staff Conference May 14-15 at the C. A. Vines 4-H Center. The theme for the 2015 conference was “Arkansas Extension: A Lifetime of Learning.”

Conference sessions included presentations by faculty and staff from the following Extension departments: 4-H Youth Development; Family and Consumer Sciences; Financial Services; Information Technology; Program and Staff Development; Human Resources; Affirmative Action and Communications. Other breakout session presentations were given by officers from the UALR Police Department; J. J. Pitman, director of the C. A. Vines 4-H Center; and Hayse Miller of the Family Service Agency of North Little Rock.

Mark Hagemeyer, associate general counsel with the University of Arkansas System, gave a general session presentation on “To Friend or Not to Friend: Legal Issues Associated with Social Media, E-Mail and Our Computer.” Dr. Tony Windham, Associate Vice President for Agriculture - Extension, gave the administrative update and presented classified staff service awards to individuals who

had reached a milestone in their Extension careers. The twenty-one individuals recognized with service awards have contributed a total of 390 years of service to Extension in Arkansas.

Chi Epsilon Sigma, the classified support staff professional association, also held its annual meeting at the conference. New Chi Epsilon Sigma officers for the 2015-16 year are:

- Rose Dearin (Greene County), President
- Sandra McGinnis (Lawrence County), President-Elect
- Johnny Woodley (Facilities Management), First Vice President
- Glenda Sutherlin (Union County), Secretary
- Cecilia Harberson (Howard County), Treasurer/Membership Chair
- Beverly Brown (Dallas County), Administrative Advisor
- Karen Collins (Drew County), Annalist
- District Directors:
 - Karen Collins (Drew County), Delta District
 - Dana Stringfellow (Sevier County), Ouachita District
 - Christa Littlefield (Franklin County), Ozark District
 - Pam Ferrill (Print Media Services), LRSO District. ■



FIVE-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS. (L to R, back row) Kathy Reece, Cherie Bradley and Gay Flaherty. (L to R, front row) Karen Withers, Jan Hammond and Dr. Windham.



TEN-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS. (L to R) Susan Tucker, Paula Seago and Dr. Windham.



FIFTEEN-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS. (L to R) Cecilia Harberson, Kelly Cochran, Katie Reddick and Dr. Windham.



TWENTY-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS. (L to R) June Moody, Roxie Jones, Rebekah Beene and Dr. Windham.



TWENTY-FIVE YEAR SERVICE AWARDS. (L to R) Janet Slate with Dr. Windham.



THIRTY-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS. (L to R) Alta Lockley, Sheila Whiteley and Dr. Windham.



THIRTY-FIVE-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS. (L to R) Susan James, Debra Schneider and Sharon Treat with Dr. Windham.



FORTY-YEAR SERVICE AWARD. Pat Walters with Dr. Windham.

Financial Services tips and reminders

1. E-hire 100T's are due to Financial Services no later than June 16, 2015.
2. Be sure to enter and submit your time or leave report by the stated deadlines. Failure to meet the entry deadlines may result in you receiving a paper check for the pay period.
3. Employees should review their home address and phone number in Banner Self Service and update as necessary.
4. Supervisors should process termination notices as soon as it is known an employee is leaving or retiring. Notify Payroll personnel as soon as possible.
5. Always check your pay stub to make sure your deductions are correct.
6. If you transfer to CES from another state agency, be sure to get a prior proof of service form from the agency you are leaving.
7. Leave accruals for the period from the 1st day to the 15th day of the month are not available for use until the 16th day of the month. Leave accruals for the period from the 16th day to the end of month are not available for use until the 1st day of the following month.

Need more information?

Financial Services Website: <http://www.uaex.edu/support-units/financial-services/>

Who to Call List: <http://www.uaex.edu/support-units/financial-services/who-to-call.aspx> ■

2015 Chi Epsilon Sigma awards

Each year Chi Epsilon Sigma offers awards for support staff members that have done an outstanding job. One candidate from each district and one candidate from the Little Rock State Office are chosen. Then, one candidate is selected from these members deserving of the Overall Support Staff Member of the Year award. The Rookie of the Year award is also presented each year to a member of Chi Epsilon Sigma who has been employed with Extension less than one year and nominated by his or her fellow staff members for displaying characteristics exemplary of Extension.

Chi Epsilon Sigma met May 14, 2015, at the C A Vines Arkansas 4-H Center and presented the following awards.

- Delta District – Burnita Hearne presented the Delta Employee of the Year award to Vicki Huddleston of Lincoln County.
- Ouachita District – Beverly Brown presented the Ouachita Employee of the Year award to Cecilia Harberson of Howard County.
- Ozark District – There was not a nominee from the Ozark District, therefore there was not an Employee of the Year award presented.
- Little Rock State Office – Ursula Crow presented the LRSO Employee of the Year award to Laverna Waddell.
- Beverly Brown presented the Overall Support Staff Member of the Year to Cecilia Harberson, who then presented the Rookie of the Year award to Sandra Kirk of Hempstead County.



Vicki Huddleston (left) receives the Delta Employee of the Year award from Burnita Hearne.



Cecilia Harberson (left) displaying the crown and sash presented to her by Beverly Brown. Harberson is the Ouachita Employee of the Year and Overall Support Staff Member of the Year.



Sandra McGinnis and Ursula Crow honor Verna Waddell with the LRSO Employee of the Year award. (L-R) Sandra McGinnis, Verna Waddell, Ursula Crow.



Cecilia Harberson (left) presents the Rookie of the Year award to Sandra Kirk.

BENEFITS CORNER

MATERNITY LEAVE

Maternity Leave for mothers is treated as any other leave for sickness or disability, except that an employee unable to work because of pregnancy may elect leave of absence without pay without exhausting accumulated sick and/or annual leave.

Sick and/or annual leave may be used intermittently with LWOP each pay period to create a check large enough to cover insurance premium payments. Time not covered under sick and/or annual leave each pay period will be reported as LWOP.

To apply for Maternity Leave, forms EBEN 107 and EBEN 231 must be submitted to Human Resources. If the absence is longer than five (5) consecutive days, a Certification from your Attending Physician must be provided to Human Resources. Maternity Leave may not extend past three months following delivery, and you are required to provide at least two weeks' notice of your planned return to work date.

For those eligible for leave under the Family Medical Leave Act, Maternity Leave will be counted as FMLA leave.

Covered by UMR? Sign up for the free Maternity Management Program to receive one-on-one phone calls from a nurse coach, free educational materials and information regarding an incentive gift. Call 1-866-494-4502 for details.

Visit Policy at <http://uaex.edu/extension-policies/employee-benefits/leave-holidays/cesp7-13.aspx>.

Meet the *new* employees!



Carly Bokker
Program Associate - Soybeans
Lonoke

- **What's your background?**

I worked previously with Extension from 2004-2009 as a program associate and a county Extension agent. I left my position

as an ag Extension agent in 2009 to raise my children for the past six years.

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

My previous Extension experience has helped get me off to a quick start in my new position. I am excited to be back in the field, in the profession I truly have a passion for. I am by nature a planner, and I love to organize and create systems to make my work day flow efficiently.

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

My mom has called me the flip-flop gardener since I started raising vegetable gardens . . . rarely will you see me in shoes that are close-toed or require socks, unless it is below 50 degrees! And in the past four years, I have successfully run and managed my direct sales business, and my "team" has grown to one of the largest in Arkansas. It's something I enjoy very much, and I have been blessed to contribute to my household financially as a stay-at-home mom. Not only has it contributed to my family, but I've helped countless women change their family finances by teaching them the skills they needed to build their own businesses.

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

I hope to be an asset to Dr. Jeremy Ross's crew, to come in to his program and continue moving it in a successful direction. So much has changed in the six

years I have been gone from the agriculture research world, and I hope to learn as much as I possibly can to continue into the future.

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

Extension has always been a big part of my heart, even during my hiatus. My children have participated in 4-H events. They are now part of a new cloverbud club, and I am a co-leader. I was also a part of an Extension Homemakers couponing club in my county. I love Extension's values and the family atmosphere this position brings.

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

Top priority would be my husband, Jake, and our three children, Bradley (6), Caroline (5) and Wesley (1½). Together we love to garden, fish and go camping. I'm very involved in my church and with my church family in Hazen where I have attended for nine years. I love to cook, and because of my love of cooking, you can find me at the gym every morning for bootcamp at 5:00 a.m. ■



Denise Brown
Accounts Payable Manager
Little Rock State Office

- **What's your background?**

I have a B.S. in business administration with a minor in accounting from UAPB.

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

I have previous accounts payable experience. I have been a manager with DFA for three years and have worked in audit with DHS and DFA for three years.

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

To be able to learn more about the different areas of Extension so I can successfully perform my job.

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

I was interested in continuing to work in the accounts payable field.

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

I like to read and paint. ■



Lauren Brown
County Extension Agent - Family
and Consumer Sciences/4-H
Union County

- **What's your background?**

I grew up in Hope, Arkansas. My father owns and operates a local family grocery store where he grows local vegetables when in season. I had the opportunity to serve the public while helping in my family's local grocery business. I obtained my B.S. and M.S. degrees in family and consumer sciences from the University of Central Arkansas.

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

I have a strong work ethic. While going to college, I had the opportunity to use my experience in cosmetology to teach children and adults about skin care and makeup. I had the experience of serving as an Extension intern under Leigh Helms in Faulkner County.

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

I'm a twin, and I understand the strong bond of family. I'm excited to be a county Extension agent in Union County and am looking forward to this new adventure.

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

I want to gain an understanding of all the different programs Extension has to offer and build strong relationships within the county where I work.

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

I love the way that Extension is active in the community. I have always wanted to give back to the community, and I know that Extension will give me the opportunity to serve.

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

I enjoy spending time with family and friends, watching movies and spending time outdoors. ■



Sheri Coleman
Administrative Specialist
Clay County - Corning

• **What's your background?**

I was born and raised in Randolph County. I moved to Clay county in 2009. I worked full time as a mental health nurse after

graduating college in 2008. I have two children, Madelynn and Walker. Madelynn is 10 years old and is currently a state gymnastic champion. She is the proud big sister of Walker. Walker will be celebrating his first birthday soon. My husband is a third generation rice and soybean farmer in Clay County.

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

I am passionate about helping others. While working in nursing, I held several office positions. I assist my husband in our family farm business.

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

I am the youngest of six children, and apparently my siblings say I'm boss. I enjoy volunteering and helping others.

• **What would you like to accomplish your first year at Extension?**

During my first year, I would like to learn everything I can about the services we offer Clay County residents. I would also like to encourage our residents to use our resources and services, because many of the residents are unaware of our office and the services we offer.

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

I am happy about the change in pace and environment from my previous job. I love how inviting Extension staff has been locally and at the state level.

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

I love my family. I come from a very close large family and we often have gatherings. I have little spare time; I stay busy with my kid's activities. I enjoy crafting and trying out Pinterest projects and recipes. ■



JoAnna Cupp
County Extension Agent - Family
and Consumer Sciences
Poinsett County

• **What's your background?**

I have a master of science degree in nutrition/dietetics from the University of Central Arkansas

where I also completed a dietetic internship. I am a registered dietitian who has spent the last nine years as a clinical and outpatient dietitian. I also taught a basic nutrition college class for one semester.

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

My previous job experiences have equipped me with a wealth of knowledge and skills to work with others. I pride myself in having a strong work ethic and being passionate about helping others.

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

I am a proud farmer's daughter who grew up working on the farm. I also love beach vacations.

• **What would you like to accomplish your first year at Extension?**

During my first year, I would like to learn as much as possible about Extension as well as Poinsett County and how to best serve the residents.

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

I was seeking employment outside the hospital setting. Extension is valuable to me because I am able to educate others on living a healthy life. I also value the purpose of Extension.

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

I love exercising, cooking and spending time with family. ■



Kim Krummel
EFNEP Program Assistant
Washington County

• **What's your background?**

I worked in the restaurant business when I was in school, I taught kindergarten for eight years in Kansas City and was director of

Youth Ministries in Fayetteville for 15 years.

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

I have worked with and have connected with people in our community for several years, especially with nonprofit programs. I have a love for service and helping people. My previous job experiences have equipped me to teach others, both young and old, life skills that will help enrich their lives.

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

My husband works at the Walmart home office, my son works for Walmart transportation and is in the Arkansas National Guard and my daughter will be senior in high school. I also have a coonhound, a Siberian husky and a six-toed kitty cat.

• **What would you like to accomplish your first year at Extension?**

To be educated on the latest nutrition and healthy guidelines and to provide that information to as many people as I can to be help them be healthy and be active. To give children a head start on food, nutrition and cooking healthy.

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

I have seen Extension and different programs they offer in action in our community at no cost. I was seeking employment and was very excited when I learned more about the position and met the staff.

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

Being involved in my children's lives, motorcycle trips in Arkansas and across the country with my husband and friends, camping and canoeing, photography, flower gardening and love to read. ■



Cathy Love
EFNEP Program Assistant
Benton County

• **What's your background?**

I grew up in southwest Missouri and was an active 4-Her. I have a bachelor's degree in home economics and a master's in

clothing and textiles. My husband and I have worked in Christian ministry for many years and moved to Arkansas 10 years ago to serve in a NWA church.

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

I have been a high school home economics teacher, Missouri Extension clothing and textiles specialist, children's ministry assistant, and a wife and mom.

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

I love to learn new things and would much rather hear about you and your life and work than to tell about myself.

• **What would you like to accomplish your first year at Extension?**

Benton County has not had EFNEP available to the English-speaking population, so my main goal is to make as many agencies and people aware of the nutrition education opportunity that is now available for them as I can.

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

I enjoyed working for Extension before and believe in its mission. I appreciate that we can offer solid, research-based information in a practical and usable way to the general public.

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

I like to work in our garden, try new recipes, hike with my husband, shop with my daughter, read and do just about any of the needle arts. ■



Lauren Milum
Administrative Specialist
Marion County

• **What's your background?**

I am originally from outside of St. Louis. In high school I played volleyball, basketball and golf for my high school team. In 2013, I graduated from the College of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, Missouri, where I earned a bachelor of science degree, double majoring in allied health interdisciplinary (pre-physical therapy) and animal science. After graduation, I went to work for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Swine Research Farm in Fayetteville, where I was the assistant farm manager. At the Swine Research Farm, I managed student workers, maintained swine herd health, kept farm records, entered data for research trials, performed general maintenance, AI breeding, hog sales, feed orders, and much more.

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

At College of the Ozarks, students are able to work for the cost of their tuition. The school is very dedicated to teaching students responsibility and having a good work ethic. At the college, I worked in a few different work stations including the dairy farm, agriculture lab assistant, agriculture department secretary and the hog farm. I learned a lot of valuable skills with my past work and educational experience including time management, organization, preciseness of records, communication, problem solving, team work and many more.

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

I am looking forward to starting on master's degree program through U of A this fall. I plan to get my degree in agricultural and Extension education. It is my goal to become an agent in my local area; I am interested in both agriculture and family consumer science Extension areas.

• **What would you like to accomplish your first year at Extension?**

I would like to learn about all of the programs offered through the Extension Service so I can help promote them in my community.

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

I really enjoyed working at the University of Arkansas Swine Research Farm and being a part of the

U of A community. Having that experience brought me to Extension. I love being able to help others; therefore, I truly value and believe in what Extension is about: helping and educating others to improve their quality of life and well-being.

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

Farming, photography, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, scrapbooking, woodturning, hiking, camping and basically anything outdoors. ■



Jerrie Nelson
EFNEP Program Assistant
Craighead County

• **What's your background?**

I was in the Navy for a few years and then became a stay-at-home mom for seven years. I went back into the work field as an administrative assistant/payroll manager and then advanced to program manager before coming to the Extension office.

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

I do have some knowledge about child nutrition from my previous job and went through a food safety course for it as well.

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

I am a dedicated, hard worker who loves to learn, and I love a good challenge.

• **What would you like to accomplish your first year at Extension?**

I am not really sure what I would like to accomplish my first year. I am loving my job because I work with a great team who are very supportive and always have a helping hand.

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

I honestly had never heard of Extension until this job. Now that I have discovered it and its wealth of resources for so many different people, I am spreading the word and making sure everyone knows about us!

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

Outside of work, I love to spend time with my family as well as my fur babies. I also enjoy working in the yard, gardening and doing various types of crafting projects. ■



Mary Poling
 Coordinator for Interactive
 Communications
 IT Department, Little Rock
 State Office

• **What's your background?**

The background I bring to Extension includes: Growing up on a farm, I was a 4-H member. My projects included beef cattle, flower gardening, sewing and cooking. I served as summer camp director for one of the district 4-H camps in Illinois. I worked as a county 4-H agent in Illinois for 7½ years and served as the president of the Illinois 4-H agents' association during that time. After moving to Ohio so I could see better football games, I worked as an admissions counselor for the College of Agriculture at The Ohio State University. As a part-time employee here in Arkansas, I have been working as a SNAP-Ed and AIMS user support manager for the past 12 years.

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

All of these experiences have helped me understand the important roles Extension can play in the lives of our clientele and communities and how I can be a part of that. They also have all involved working with people, both in groups and individually, which is what Extension work is all about. I enjoy working with people and helping them learn new things and solve problems. When you can do that, you make the other person happy and you get that good feeling yourself.

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

I am one of 11 children, so I am used to being around crowds. One of my younger brothers showed hogs at the county fair and competed against Arkansas Coach Bret Bielema, who grew up just down the road a bit from my hometown. I met my husband at a regional Extension professional association officers' conference in Omaha, Nebraska. He was an association officer in Ohio and I was one in Illinois. The temperatures in Omaha were sub-zero during the conference, he asked me to dance and, as they say, the rest is history.

• **What would you like to accomplish your first year at Extension?**

During my first year as the coordinator for interactive communications, I hope to be able to provide employees the support and resources they need to be effective in their use of Zoom. I am a visual person, so I really like the visual capability that Zoom brings to online meetings, and I am passionate about helping people connect with and get the resources they need to do their job.

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

Throughout my life I have been connected with Extension, as a client/recipient of Extension programs growing up in Illinois, as an employee (both in Illinois and Arkansas) and as a spouse of a long-time Extension employee. I value the three-fold purposes/connections of the Land Grant university.

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

I enjoy trout fishing with my husband; following whichever sports team our son is associated with (especially if the team is in a warm, vacation-friendly part of the country); traveling and visiting family; experimenting with new recipes; yoga and walking. ■



Rachel Will
 Administrative Specialist
 Jefferson County

• **What's your background?**

I am originally from Rison, Arkansas. I recently graduated Southeast Arkansas College with a AA degree in general studies. I currently attend Arkansas Tech University online where I will receive my bachelor's degree in early childhood education P-4.

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

The knowledge, skills and experience that I am bringing to the Extension office will be my hard work, dedication and my expertise with computers.

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

I am a hard worker and I can get the job done in an accurate time!

• **What would you like to accomplish your first year at Extension?**

I would like to accomplish the ropes and the hang of all of the things that the Extension office has to offer.

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

I am fresh out of college, and I was seeking full-time employment. I value the loyalty and the years that the Extension office has been around.

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

Spending time with my family and friends. ■

Grants and contracts

for the month ended May 31, 2015

Project Title	Award Amount	Principal Investigator	Granting Agency
Rice Enterprise Budgets and Production Economic Analysis	\$ 10,000	Archie Flanders	Rice Research Promotion Board
Team Approach to Weed Management in Soybean	65,723	Bob Scott	Soybean Promotion Board
Weed Management in Rice	104,480	Bob Scott	Rice Research Promotion Board
Flag the Technology GPS/GIS Support	25,000	Dharmendra Saraswat	Soybean Promotion Board
Improving Yield and Yield Stability for Irrigated Soybeans	4,584	Dharmendra Saraswat	Soybean Promotion Board
Promoting the Use of Multiple Inlet and Evaluating Intermittent Flood Potential in Arkansas	15,563	Dharmendra Saraswat	Rice Research Promotion Board
Mobile Rice App for DD50 Program and Calculators	10,000	Dharmendra Saraswat	Rice Research Promotion Board
Spring 2015 SARE/NACAA Fellows Seminar	9,021	Elena Garcia	University of Wyoming
Developing a New Threshold for Corn Earworm, <i>Helicoverpa Zea</i>	5,339	Glenn Studebaker	Soybean Promotion Board
Sugarcane Aphid Research	12,333	Glenn Studebaker	United Sorghum Checkoff Program Board
Determining the Impact of Common Pesticide Applications When Applied to Southern Row Crops on Managed Honey Bee Health	40,000	Gus Lorenz	USDA, ARS MSA
Educating Growers and Consultants on Insect Monitoring and Control	5,000	Gus Lorenz	Soybean Promotion Board
Fire Ant Control in Soybean	4,687	Gus Lorenz	Soybean Promotion Board
Investigating Emerging Production Recommendations for Sustainable Soybean Production	19,680	Gus Lorenz	Soybean Promotion Board
Developing a New Threshold for Corn Earworm, <i>Helicoverpa Zea</i>	5,322	Gus Lorenz	Soybean Promotion Board
Evaluation of Automatic Applications on Profitability of Soybean Production	10,000	Gus Lorenz	Soybean Promotion Board
Rice Insect Control	42,614	Gus Lorenz	Rice Research Promotion Board
Eco-System	42,416	Gus Lorenz	Rice Research Promotion Board
Potential Exposure of Honey Bees to Insecticides in Rice	20,000	Gus Lorenz	Rice Research Promotion Board
Sugarcane Aphid Research	12,379	Gus Lorenz	United Sorghum Checkoff Program Board
Sugarcane Aphid Research	12,379	Gus Lorenz	United Sorghum Checkoff Program Board
Rice Verification	179,599	Jarrold Hardke	Rice Research Promotion Board
Arkansas Rice Performance Trials	76,400	Jarrold Hardke	Rice Research Promotion Board
Continuation of the DD50 Program to Include Seeding Date Affect on Grain Yield and Development of New Cultivars	72,731	Jarrold Hardke	Rice Research Promotion Board

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Grants and contracts (cont.)

Project Title	Award Amount	Principal Investigator	Granting Agency
Agronomic Production Practices for Rice	128,338	Jarrold Hardke	Rice Research Promotion Board
Promoting the Use of Multiple Inlet and Evaluating Intermittent Flood Potential in Arkansas	2,500	Jarrold Hardke	Rice Research Promotion Board
Understanding Autumn Decline - H2S Pathology	2,000	Jarrold Hardke	Rice Research Promotion Board
Exploring Potential of Corn, Wheat, Soybean Rotation in Arkansas	20,000	Jason Kelley	Soybean Promotion Board
Understanding Autumn Decline - H2S Pathology	1,500	Jason Kelley	Rice Research Promotion Board
Investigating Emerging Production Recommendations for Sustainable Soybean Production	44,511	Jeremy Ross	Soybean Promotion Board
Soybean Research Verification Program	150,000	Jeremy Ross	Soybean Promotion Board
Improving Technology Transfer for Profitable and Sustainable Soybean Production	45,000	Jeremy Ross	Soybean Promotion Board
Development of an Online Course - Future of Biotechnology Crops	9,000	Julie Robinson	Soybean Promotion Board
Soybean Challenge	60,000	Karen Ballard	Soybean Promotion Board
Fire Ant Control in Soybean	689	Kelly Loftin	Soybean Promotion Board
Fire Ant Control in Soybean	5,313	Kelly Loftin	Soybean Promotion Board
Personal Finance Education at Rich Smith Development Properties	7,500	Laura Connerly	Family Service Agency, Inc.
Improving Yield and Yield Stability for Irrigated Soybeans	25,180	Leo Espinoza	Soybean Promotion Board
Arkansas Discovery Farm Program: Addressing Sustainable Water Issues Associated with Crop Production	17,000	Michael Daniels	Soybean Promotion Board
Developing a New Threshold for Corn Earworm, <i>Helicoverpa Zea</i>	5,339	Nick Seiter	Soybean Promotion Board
Sugarcane Aphid Research	24,667	Nick Seiter	United Sorghum Checkoff Program Board
4-H Shooting Sports - Range Events	26,450	Rex Roberg	NRA Foundation
Improving Germination Rate of Soybean Seed Dried Using Recently-Introduced In-Bin Drying Systems	1,000	Samy Sadaka	Soybean Promotion Board
Prevention of Mycotoxin Development and Quality Degradation in Rice During On-Farm, In-Bin Drying and Storage	1,000	Samy Sadaka	Rice Research Promotion Board
Foliar Disease Management in Full- and Double-Crop Soybean Production Systems in Arkansas	18,000	Terry Spurlock	Soybean Promotion Board
Application Technology Demonstration and Education Program for Arkansas Crops	40,000	Tom Barber	Soybean Promotion Board
Team Approach to Weed Management in Soybean	42,341	Tom Barber	Soybean Promotion Board
A Team Approach to Improved Weed Management in Rice	94,694	Tom Barber	Rice Research Promotion Board
Application Technology Demonstration Program	9,987	Tom Barber	Rice Research Promotion Board
Integrated Management of Nematodes	20,490	Travis Faske	Soybean Promotion Board

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Grants and contracts (cont.)

Project Title	Award Amount	Principal Investigator	Granting Agency
Development of an Effective Program to Manage Strobilurin-Resistant Frogeye Leaf Spot in Arkansas	18,997	Travis Faske	Soybean Promotion Board
Using Spatial Distribution and Colonization of <i>Rhizoctonia Solani</i> AG1-IA for the Precision Management of Aerial Blight of Soybean	7,890	Travis Faske	Soybean Promotion Board
Comprehensive Disease Screening of Soybean Varieties in Arkansas	57,310	Travis Faske	Soybean Promotion Board
Evaluation of Automatic Applications on Profitability of Soybean Production	10,000	Travis Faske	Soybean Promotion Board
Rice Breeding Program Pathology Tech Support	10,162	Yeshe Wamishe	Rice Research Promotion Board
Development of Practical Diagnostic Methods for Monitoring Rice Bacterial Panicle Blight Diseases and Evaluate Rice Germplasm for Resistance	62,000	Yeshe Wamishe	Rice Research Promotion Board
Development of Short Term Control for Bacterial Panicle	67,879	Yeshe Wamishe	Rice Research Promotion Board
Understanding Autumn Decline - H2S Pathology	20,858	Yeshe Wamishe	Rice Research Promotion Board
Total New Awards for May 2015	\$1,862,845		

Personnel changes

Please welcome the following:

Denise Brown

Accounts Payable Manager, Financial Services, effective April 20, 2015.

JoAnna Cupp

County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences, Poinsett County, effective May 1, 2015.

Cathy Love

Program Assistant - EFNEP, Benton County, effective April 20, 2015.

Clark Moore

Program Tech - Weed Science, Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences effective April 16, 2015.

Mary Poling

Coordinator for Interactive Communications, Office of Information Technology, effective April 16, 2015.

Phyllis Scurlock

Fiscal Support Specialist, Credit Union, effective April 16, 2015.