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BLUE LETTER

May 2019

No. 3805



May Showers

It is May in Arkansas, with all its rich complexity as a month. In most of the state, it has already been one of our wettest Mays, and it is barely half over. This continues a weather pattern starting late last summer, and forecasters tie this wetter than normal pattern to the current El Nino effect in the Pacific, which suggests a better chance than normal of a somewhat cooler and wetter summer. Regardless, this makes it tough on row crop agriculture, and on all our colleagues that work in this area, but we hope things settle down some more so the crops do well. The good thing to remember is that even with the craziness of Arkansas weather year in and year out, we have not missed a crop yet.

Visibility of the impact and value of Division programs continues to increase and I commend all of you for making this happen. This campaign is changing the way we are perceived by the public and improves our efforts to secure appropriate resources at all levels, thanks! More on this later.

I attended the first-ever high school hackathon in late April at the C.A. Vines 4-H Center. There were 40 or so high school youth from around Arkansas, competing in computer science problem solving and critical thinking related to Division program areas - in alignment with the governor's effort to improve digital literacy among young Arkansans and help attract them to high tech careers and

opportunities. I watched these talents as they talked about the new software and other methods they learned, the websites and apps they created to address the problems posed, and their excitement about the future, all in 24 hours! I can positively say I have never

seen anything like this, and it was one of the most interesting and impressive program events I have ever witnessed. The teachers and other adults attending agreed and were shocked that the Division did things like this, but they all want more. This is just one of many exciting things coming toward us in STEM education efforts led by our faculty and staff. Many thanks to Karen Watts, Julie Robinson, Lori Canada and Diana Morian for their leadership in creating this event and to all who made it a success.



FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we move further into the 21st century Division of Agriculture, we will be creating, leading and engaging in more and more of these technological efforts. This is a good thing and I am glad to see colleagues embracing new technologies to enhance their work and better improve the lives of our stakeholders. We will continue or increase our efforts to attract and hire those with these talents and interests because the impact we hope to make in the future

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DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

Ext. Homemaker has a Long History With EHC

Hello, I am Kristen Kiefer, the administrative support supervisor for Community and Economic Development. One Sunday, I was visiting my great granny, Lillie McKinney, and she asked me to put something away in my papaw's room. While completing the task, I noticed something hanging on the lamp next to my papaw's bed. I took a closer look and noticed it was a pendant from the Cooperative Extension Service Extension Homemakers. I shrieked and quickly took the necklace to my granny and said, "Granny, do you know the Cooperative Extension Service is where Mark and I work? Tell me about this!" Of course Granny knew the two were the same, and she proceeded to tell me the story behind the pendant.

Lillie McKinney was born on Nov. 25, 1923 in Stone County near Old Lexington. She and her husband later moved to Clinton, to help take care of their ill daughter. Lillie has been a resident of Van Buren County for 49 years. Her lifelong involvement with Extension Homemakers began as a 12-year-old when she attended EHC meetings with her mother in Lexington (Stone County). She watched and learned as the women baked, canned and made all sorts of crafts.

Even though Lillie participated in EHC activities with her mother since she was a child, she did not become an official member of Extension Homemakers in Clinton until she was about 45 years of age. Lillie created a beautiful quilt and one of her friends, an EHC member, invited her to come to the next meeting to talk about her quilt. She then visited a couple of times, had fun with the other members and liked what they were doing. She decided to become a member. EHC dues were then five dollars a year, she recalls.

Her EHC group shared craft ideas and recipes with each other and made Christmas crafts and cards for every resident. They also helped patients in the hospital,

staying with them at times to give relief to family members, along with making baby hats and booties for the newborns in the nursery.

She remembers being very surprised when her EHC group presented her with the pendant. They presented it to her for her outstanding number of volunteer hours to the community. Most of these hours were spent in the hospital while she stayed there with her daughter, Doris Jean Brown, who later passed away from her battle with leukemia.

Some of Lillie's fondest memories are of Council meetings with other groups where members would share crafts and recipes. She even still has a couple of books from EHC, *Yeast Bread and Rolls* and *Home Canning and Vegetables*. When asked if she had any advice for the younger generation of EHC members, she replied, "Go visit three or four times and you'll probably want to join." ■



Lillie McKinney and friend from EHC working on a project together in 1984.

Breakthrough Solutions Pre-Conference/Conference

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The 2019 Breakthrough Solutions Pre-Conference/Conference will discuss a strategic framework that communities can use to stay connected, grow jobs, attract resources, develop their workforce and retain residents. This year's theme is Creating Connected Communities in the Emerging 21st Century Economy.

The Pre-Conference Workshop, which will be held at the North Little Rock Chamber of Commerce on June 25 from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., will explore ways for communities to turn strategic planning into strategic action through the use of new tools. In order to demonstrate these tools, the Breakthrough Solutions Pre-Conference has selected the three-county Arkansas Coalition for the Ouachitas (ARCO) to be the pilot community. This group includes the regions of Montgomery, Polk and Scott counties. The Pre-Conference workshop will require Breakthrough Solutions Partners to tour the region and interact with community leaders to identify assets and possible opportunities, present their findings and lead small group discussions with workshop participants and



Keynote Speaker Matt Dunne

identify strategies and opportunities in more depth.

The conference, which will be held at The Four Points Sheraton on June 26 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., will further explore how to create vibrant communities and regions by becoming connected in and to the 21st century economy. The conference will feature keynote speaker Matt Dunne, founder & executive director of the Center for Rural Innovation in Hartland, VT, who will talk about "Stemming the Tide – Creating Digital Ecosystems in Rural Areas." The conference will also include Ignite presentations

on the most incredible community-focused projects in Arkansas along with eight concurrent sessions addressing the most promising opportunities for Arkansas communities and regions. Participants will also be able to experience a virtual reality presentation aimed at enhancing tourism marketing.

For more information and to register for the event, visit the Breakthrough Solutions website. ■

Cooking Your Way to a Healthier You COOKING SCHOOL

Carla Due and Jean Ince, staff chairs and FCS agents, saw a need and addressed it by developing and conducting a two-session Cook Your Way to a Healthier You Cooking School in both Miller and Howard counties. Thirty participants learned how to understand the effects of high blood pressure, as well as risk factors. They also gained knowledge to recognize the appropriate sodium intake through label reading, understand how MyPlate is a tool to help in healthy food choices and how to incorporate the DASH diet into everyday living.

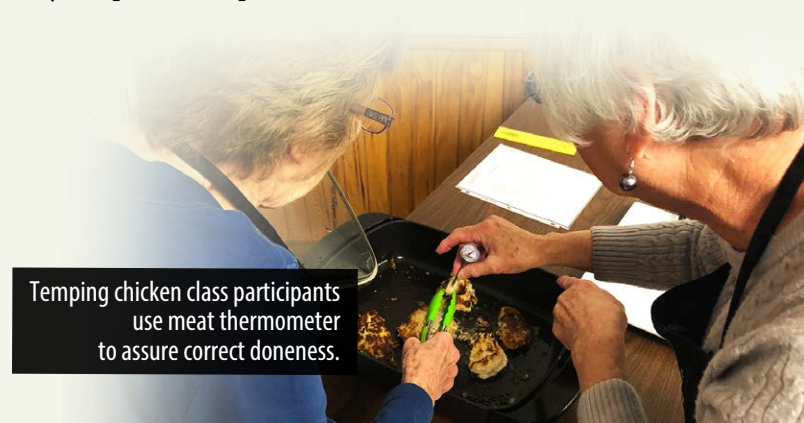


Label reading class participants evaluated nutrition facts labels to determine best product choice when looking for sodium.

After classroom instruction, participants went into the kitchen and made low-sodium recipes, such as cranberry kissed pork chops and spicy garlic shrimp to name a few.

When asked in a post evaluation what they learned from the program, responses included: "cooking with herbs can take the place of salt; new appreciation of how food can be delicious using spices; MyPlate guidelines made me aware of the proper make up of a balanced meal; check the labels that you purchase for sodium."

A three-month followup evaluation will tell what new skills they adopted. Also planned is a newsletter series. ■

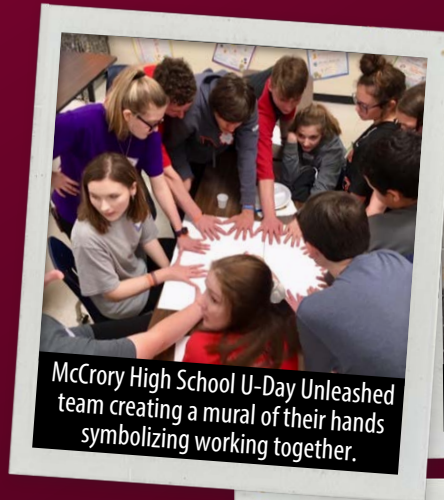


Tempering chicken class participants use meat thermometer to assure correct doneness.

U-DAY UNLEASHED!

U-Day Unleashed was a project of Jameka Harston and Ashley Skinner with the McCrory High School EAST initiative. They requested a collaboration with the Woodruff County Extension Service to host a day of team-building activities for the entire high school. There were multiple meanings of the event name according to the project team. First is U, as in you, meaning students can learn more about themselves by participating in the activities. Second, the U is for unity, meaning everyone working together in unity throughout the day by participating. Increasing student awareness, acceptance and understanding of others and lowering judgmental attitudes and assumptions were project goals.

Teams were randomly designated to include a mix of ages, backgrounds and gender of students. The project team met with administrators and staff to plan the schedule. They selected activities including Amoeba Tag, Pool Noodle Towers, Keep It Up, Beach Ball Pass and a photo scavenger hunt. Creatively expressing themselves, each team painted a mural to display at school. Six 4-H and Youth development specialists and county Extension agents facilitated the day. Over 200 youth and adults participated in the event. Students who typically don't interact with each other saw the benefits of cooperation. ■



McCrory High School U-Day Unleashed team creating a mural of their hands symbolizing working together.



MHS EAST Initiative Project Team: Ashley Skinner and Jameka Harston



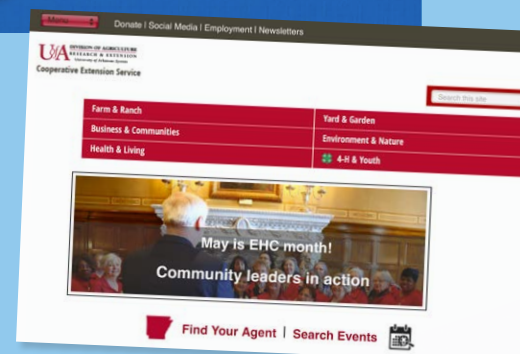
Arkansas 4H Youth Specialist assisting with the event included Shannon Caldwell, Taylor Knox, Luke Nipper and Lori Canada.

Take a Moment to Look at Your Webpages!

- DOES THE PAGE DISPLAY NICELY ON A PHONE?
- IS YOUR RESEARCH/CONTENT STILL RELEVANT?
- ARE YOUR PHOTOS RECENT?

If the answer to one or all of these questions is "no," fill out our website update request form and we can help you spruce up your content. The form can be found here: www.uaex.edu/websitehelp.

Remember it's up to YOU to ensure the integrity of your website content for our clients. The webteam is here to help you with anything you need! ■



Arkansas Master Gardener Conference

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Four-hundred-fifty-four Master Gardeners, MG, from 40 different counties converged in Hope to participate in the Arkansas Master Gardener Conference "Planting Seeds of Hope" on April 29 – May 1. The event planted new seeds of ideas and "hope" with participants attending homesteading workshops at Old Washington State Park, seminars, trade show, workshops and keynote address at Hempstead Hall at the U of A Hope – Texarkana campus. It also included tours to U of A Southwest Research and Extension Center, Grandview Prairie and garden tours in Miller County. This year's state meeting was a coordinated effort with over 100 volunteers who are members of County 76 as well as Master Gardeners from Hempstead, Nevada, Miller and Howard counties.



Branon Thiese receives the Master Gardener Agent of the Year from Berni Kurz.



Rachel Bearden receives the Master Gardener Agent of the Year from Berni Kurz.

Peer Awards were presented and included:

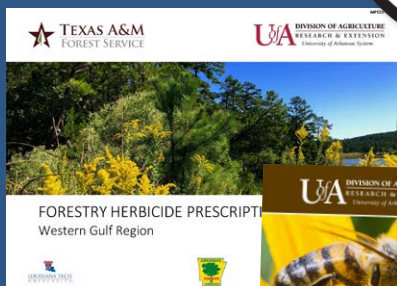
- **MG of the Year**, Kim Hughes of Polk Co. and Donna Woodard of Faulkner Co.
- **MG Rookie of the Year**, Terri Gregory of Boone Co. and Pamla Stevens of Garland Co.
- **Friend of MG**, Union Co. Judge Mike Loftin, Bruce Ward of Hempstead Co., Main Street Paragould, Green Co. and Quapaw Association, Pulaski Co.
- **MG Project of the Year**, HAPS School Garden, Hempstead Co., Salad Tables, Lonoke Co.
- **MG Newsletter**, Greene Co.
- **MG Excellence in Education**, Ten Year Fig Trial River Valley and SFC Cub Scout Pack 224 Partnership St. Francis Co.
- **MG Co. Agents of the Year** were also recognized: Branon Thiese, Staff Chair Craighead Co. and Rachel Bearden, staff chair, Hot Spring Co.

Next year's conference will be in Jonesboro, May 14-16. ■

New Publications:

(You know you want to look.)

uaex.edu/publications/new.aspx



GREAT NEWS!
Logging into Learn just got easier!



The login to learn.uaex.edu, our learning management system we use for our in-service training, is being updated as of May 20 to be your active directory username and password. Any employee with a uaex.edu e-mail address will now be able to login with the same user name and password used to access our other Extension single sign on software. Instructions with screen shots are coming soon to an e-mail inbox near you. Stay tuned... ■

Ready. Set. Graduate!



Logan County CES partnered with Paris High School to conduct a Ready, Set, Graduate, RSG, program for graduating seniors. County Extension Council members identified the need for youth to increase their understanding of how the “real world” works after high school. In response, the county FCS agent and high school staff created a multi-day RSG program.

During the first two days of RSG, students participated in classes on budgeting, banking, credit, resume writing and interview skills. Lessons were taught by the county FCS agent, teachers and banking professionals. On day three, students participated in the “Mall of Life” simulation. Stations were set up and manned by area businesses. At each station, students made decisions similar to those adults make each month. They bought or rented a home, purchased a car and insurance and paid other common expenses, all while staying within their budget.

Students then participated in mock interviews conducted by community members from professions such as nursing, insurance and manufacturing. During interviews, students were evaluated on their professionalism, dress and resume. Students were then informed whether or not the company would “hire” them based on this evaluation. Students gained a greater understanding of “adulting,” and a few even left with job offers! ■



Agents from Farm Bureau Insurance sell home and auto insurance to Paris High School seniors during the Mall of Life.



The director of program management and personnel development coordinator from Stark Manufacturing conducted a mock interview for a Paris High School senior.

Chi Epsilon Sigma Awards Support Staff of the Year

Ozark District and Overall Support Staff of the Year awards went to Joyce Mendenhall. Joyce has worked for Extension for 16 years. She works in the Washington County office. Her co-workers rely on her to process over 2000 soil samples, 200 plant disease samples, 120 forage samples, 160 liquid manure/litter samples and 25 water samples each year. Her nominators for the award describe her as “friendly, helpful and extremely efficient.” Congratulations, Joyce!

Support Staff Rookie of the Year award went to Renee Hunthorp. Renee began working for Extension in 2017 and works in the Cleveland County office. Her nominator for the award described her as “knowledgeable and courteous.” She comes to Extension with experience and a warm personality that is an asset to Extension. Congratulations, Renee!

The Ouachita District Support Staff of the Year was awarded to Dana Stringfellow. Dana works in the Sevier County Extension office. Congratulations, Dana!



Retiree Reception and Luncheon Held at 4-H Center

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Approximately 100 Extension retirees and guests were on hand Wednesday, April 10, at the C. A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center in Ferndale for the 2019 Retiree Luncheon and scholarship presentation.

The event opened with a reception for retirees, spouses and current Extension staff and faculty. The program for the luncheon included a remembrance of retirees who passed away in 2018, the presentation of two retiree scholarships and speakers.



Stan Chapman presenting a \$500 Extension Retiree Scholarship to JoAnn Vann.

The Extension retiree scholarship supports professional development opportunities for Extension faculty and staff. Funded by donations from retirees, Extension faculty and staff, and friends and family members of retirees, the scholarship fund has awarded 20 scholarships to Extension employees since 2009, for a total of \$10,000.

Speakers included Leslie Carter from UMR who outlined health plan updates, Rachael Price, FCS program technician, who talked about the Extension Homemakers program, Matt Brown, assistant director of operations, who spoke about the upcoming implementation of the Workday record keeping system, Dr. Vic Ford who spoke about the FieldWatch system for registering the location of pesticide-sensitive crops and bee hives, and Dr. Rick Cartwright who expressed appreciation for the past contributions of retirees to the Extension program effort. ■



Stan Chapman presenting a \$500 Extension Retiree Scholarship to Jodi Blackard

Retiree scholarships of \$500 each were awarded to Jodi Blackard, administrative coordinator for the entomology group, and JoAnn Vann, Family and Consumer Science agent in Clark County.



All the retirees in attendance gathered on the steps of the cafeteria for a group photo

4-H State WHEP Competition



Drew County had three teams compete at our 4-H State WHEP Competition in Hazen this year. We had two junior teams placed first and fourth place. One senior team placed third and a first and fourth place individual! We are so proud of all of our 4-H'ers and 4-H leaders for working so hard for months to get ready for this event. ■



1st place junior team pictured with Becky McPeake. Left to right, Bentley S., Jude G., Chloe R.



Above: 4th place junior team pictured with Becky McPeake, left to right, Cooper S., Job R., Shelby S. and Elim G.
Left: 3rd place Senior team pictured with Becky McPeake, Niah R., Kailley W., Samantha M. and Sykes L.



Pre-School Family Night Out!

Education, Food & Fun!

The Monticello Pre-School Family Night was held on April 11 at the Pre-School Cafeteria. The event was conducted by the Drew County Extension staff and Monticello Pre-School staff. FCS agent, Hazelene McCray taught My Plate. EFNEP program assistant, Angelia Anderson, conducted the Fruits and Vegetable Jeopardy Game, 4-H program assistant, Haley Beaty, taught Yoga for Kids, and administrative specialist, Shaura Ivy, assisted in the events. There were 40 participants in attendance for the Family Night Out! ■



Hazelene McCray teaching My Plate



Shaura Ivy and Haley Beaty working the registration table



Angelia Anderson conducting the Fruit and Vegetable Jeopardy Game



Haley Beaty leads Yoga for Kids

May Showers

Continued

depend on it. In the meantime, all of us can improve our digital talents to better use the tools already here and thus be more effective and visible. As educators, most of us are using social media, Zoom and other methods today to engage our students and clientele. Remember that we have some of the best folks in the business to train or assist you in these efforts. I hope you are using them and improving your digital skill and impact.

I know that some are intimidated by the rapid development and use of these advanced technologies, but we have all seen that good tech can make life better, jobs easier and improve impact so I remain positive and interested in these developments. In many ways, this is the best time in history to be working in our field, and advanced knowledge and technology help make it so. The things we can understand and do routinely today were science fiction when I was growing up, so I hope all of you take advantage of these opportunities to improve – it is a great time to be working in the 21st century Division of Agriculture.

HAVE A GREAT MAY!

One-of-Kind Molecular Genetics Lab

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The Molecular Genetics lab at the University of Arkansas Rice Research and Extension Center (UARREC) is the only lab of its type within the state dedicated to the direct application of DNA marker analysis to help rice breeding and development.



We provide DNA marker analysis for the rice breeding programs, rice pathology, Cooperative Extension clients and UARREC clients. Each year, the lab processes over 10,000 rice tissue samples, generating 50,000 data points on average.

Most of the effort in the program is DNA marker-assisted selection, MAS, which is directed toward predicting traits of the mature rice plant. By using DNA markers that are closely linked with traits of interest, DNA MAS is a tool that can answer questions quickly when the rice is in the early seedling stage and long before flowering or harvest. We have DNA markers for rice blast resistance genes, cooking quality, plant height, bran color, leaf texture, aroma, male sterility, fertility restoration and herbicide tolerance for both the Clearfield and Provisia systems. We can also provide a DNA "fingerprint," confirm hybridity, determine seed purity and confirm outcrossing. ■

Business Retention and Expansion Workshop

In partnership with the Western Arkansas Planning and Development District, WAPDD, and Business Retention and Expansion International, members of the Community and Economic Development unit co-facilitated a Business Retention and Expansion, BRE, workshop at the Janet Huckabee Arkansas River Valley Nature Center in Fort Smith. Dr. Stacey McCullough and Julianne Dunn worked closely with Dennis Williamson from WAPDD to design the workshop, recruit attendees and promote the BRE process in Arkansas.

The day-and-a-half workshop served as an introduction to the BRE process and guided attendees in the development, implementation and evaluation of the method. Attendees included county economic developers, workforce professionals and city administrative officials from around the state.

The Business Retention and Expansion process is a three-step

community engagement process that proactively connects with local businesses to learn about their strengths, challenges and immediate needs. The objective of this process is to promote local business and to quickly resolve potential issues facing business owners. ■



Benton County Wins Arkansas State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest



Will now represent Arkansas in the national contest at the North American International Livestock Exposition.

Each year the University of Arkansas Animal Science Department hosts the state 4-H Livestock Judging Contest where youth from across the state compete for the opportunity to represent Arkansas at the national competitions. The Arkansas 4-H State Livestock Judging Contest was held in Barton Coliseum at the Arkansas State Fairgrounds in Little Rock. Both junior and senior 4-H'ers competed in the contest. There were 54 senior 4-H members from 15 counties and 66 junior 4-H members from 16 counties who competed. Participants evaluated seven classes representing cattle, swine, sheep and goats. They presented reasons on three classes and answered questions on one other class. Benton County is our 2019 state champion senior 4-H team this year and will represent Arkansas at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky, the American Royal in Kansas City and the AKSARBEN in Grand Island, Nebraska. Washington County finished as the reserve champion team and are eligible to compete at the Western National in Denver, Co. and the AKSARBEN.

Little River County finished third and is eligible to compete at the AKSARBEN 4-H Livestock Judging contest. Reid W. from White County earned high individual honors followed by Lyndon Y. from Little River County and Sara S. from Hempstead County in 2nd and 3rd respectively. Bradley County is the junior 4-H champion team this year. Hempstead County is this year's reserve champion team, and White County was 3rd high team. The junior 4-H competitors judged the same classes but only presented two sets of reasons, and Aislin E. from Bradley County finished with top individual honors, Kiersten P. from Hempstead County was 2nd and Chloe Mabry from Washington County finished 3rd. ■



The High Point Individual of the Arkansas 4-H Senior Livestock Judging Contest was Reid W. of White Co., 2nd High was Lyndon Y. of Little River Co., 3rd High was Sara S. of Hempstead County, 4th High was Grace H. of Sevier Co. (not pictured) and 5th High was Julie G. of Benton Co.



The Champion Arkansas 4-H Senior Livestock Judging Team hailed from Benton County. Team members include: Kiley W., Paige B., Ryan L., Julie G. and coach Jessica Street.



Left: The Champion Arkansas 4-H Junior Livestock Judging Team hailed from Bradley Co. Team members include: Olivia H., Caeleigh G., Gracie S., Aislin E. Coached by Joe Don Greenwood (not pictured).

Below: The High Point Individuals of the Arkansas 4-H Junior Livestock Judging Contest include: 1st Aislin E. of Bradley Co., 2nd Kiersten P. of Hempstead Co., 4th Anna S. of Hempstead County, 3rd Chloe M. of Washington Co., and 5th Tanner W. of White Co.



Students attend American Pre-Veterinary Medical Association Symposium

Recently, seven members of the Pre-Veterinary Club (pictured), along with two faculty advisors (Dr. Jeremy Powell and Dr. Lauren Thomas), traveled to Pennsylvania State University to participate in the American Pre-Veterinary Medical Association, APVMA, Symposium. Hosted by a different school each year, the annual symposium typically draws approximately 500 pre-veterinary students from all over the nation. During this year's two-day event, our students had the opportunity to attend lectures presented by veterinary professionals, participate in hands-on wet labs and meet and greet with veterinary admissions counselors from all over the nation and even international schools. As an added bonus,

our students capitalized on the long drive to Penn State by stopping in Columbia, MO to tour the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine, as well as Columbus, OH to tour the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. At both schools, students were able to visit with current first-year and fourth-year veterinary students to hear about their experiences and glean from their wisdom. On the way home, the group even made a fun stop in downtown St. Louis to explore the Gateway Arch. All students agree that while the drive to and from Pennsylvania was rather arduous, the value of the experience was well worth all the effort. ■



Razorback Classic and Cattle for a Cause Calf Shows



Famous Steak Feed Held in Animal Science

On May 1, the Block and Bridle Club and the Meats Quiz Bowl Team hosted their famous Steak Feed and dessert sale in the AFLS Atrium at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. Students, faculty and staff from across campus enjoyed the annual lunch fundraiser. About 150 people took advantage of the \$8 meal which included steak, baked potato, green beans, roll and tea or lemonade. The deserts are donated by members of the Department of Animal Science faculty and staff, while the steaks were donated by BPI of South Dakota.

The meal is cooked and served by members of both clubs. This year's feed earned about \$1,000 that will be used for student travel to competitions, conferences and other events. ■

The Block and Bridle Club's Razorback Classic and Cattle for a Cause Calf Shows were held on Saturday, April 6, at the Washington County Fairgrounds. There were 41 exhibitors participating, showing 65 head of cattle. Heifers, steers and bulls were exhibited. The Razorback Classic is a jackpot ring – this year \$1,890 was returned to the exhibitors as prize money. This year the philanthropy receiving the proceeds from the Cattle for a Cause Show is the Lane Medical Benefit Fund in Siloam Springs. Donations obtained by club members before the show and on-site donations from the cattle-showing community (including much of the prize money handed out in the Razorback Classic) have resulted in \$8,935 being contributed to this fund. The club thanks all who donated and participated in this annual event. ■

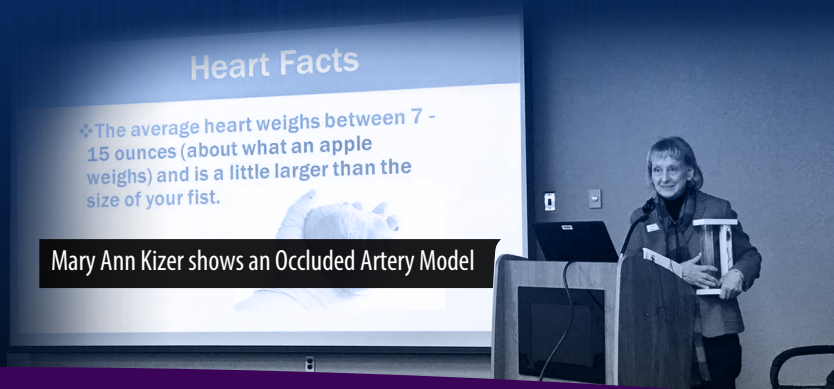
Mary Ann Kizer Makes National Newsletter

It's been an exciting year for Mary Ann Kizer, Jefferson County FCS agent, who made the national Federally Employed Womens' newsletter with her Heart Health presentation in February at the National Center for Toxicological Research. Check out the article under Chapter News at <https://www.few.org/newscenter/news-views/>.

Mary Ann was awarded a \$500 mini-grant for America Saves Week. She used funds to purchase supplies at Hobby Lobby for an exhibit in the Jefferson County Courthouse rotunda. Plans were to spend a portion of the grant on marketing, but the Pine Bluff Commercial and White Hall Journal printed Kizer's photo and article for free. The four DeltaPlex News radio stations aired free PSAs, so funds were used to purchase supplies for two additional exhibits. Kizer's patriotic themed exhibit remains in the courthouse with free money saving educational fact sheets for clients. ■



Left to right, Brandi Yates, administrative assistant for Jefferson county judge, Thad Hadley, county judge's legislative assistant, and Mary Ann Kizer, Family and Consumer Sciences agent.



Save the date: Hump Day Hacks is the fourth Wednesday of every month (excluding Dec.) at 2 p.m. HDH is an "Open Office Hours" Zoom meeting to see the latest tech tips demonstrated and to get YOUR tech questions answered.

Previous Hump Day Hacks resources:

- Check out UAEX "Box" resources.
- Check out how to use "Find Time" with Outlook and/or Microsoft 365.
- Watch how to get started with Microsoft Forms.
- Watch how to make your Word headings readable and accessible.
- Watch how to enter time for Spring Walk Across Arkansas.

We can customize a session for YOU! Submit your topic ideas: <http://bit.ly/hump-day-hacks-request>.

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or go to www.uaex.edu/daycamp

CREATE BRIDGES

Retail Academies Held

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Two CREATE BRIDGES Retail Academies were held in Salem (Fulton County) and Lockesburg (Sevier County) as part of the pilot program being run through the Community and Economic Development, CED, unit.

Dr. Stacey McCullough and Julianne Dunn facilitated the conversation and shared an economic snapshot of the retail, entertainment, accommodations and tourism sectors. Data was gathered from a variety of sources, including the CED's *Rural Profile of Arkansas*. Attendees included community leaders, business owners and representatives from regional financial and academic institutions.

Now that the forums and retail academies are completed, each region will hold listening roundtables for business owners, followed by individual interviews with those business owners who could not attend and then distribute a survey for employees to share their workforce experiences and career aspirations.

Two regions are participating in the CREATE BRIDGES pilot. The Ozark Foothills region includes Sharp, Fulton and Izard counties, while the 3Cs (Cossatot Community Connection) region consists of Little River, Sevier and Howard counties.

UAEX CED, the University of Kentucky and Oklahoma State University are developing, refining and piloting the program.

If you are interested in learning more, reach out to Julianne Dunn at jbdunn@uaex.edu or check out the website at www.uaex.edu/createbridges. ■

Attendees at the 3Cs Retail Academy at the UA Cossatot Lockesburg gym listen as Dr. Stacey McCullough shares some of the economic data from their region.



Association Leaders Head to the Hill

Representatives from ESP, AAE4HA, ACAAAA, AACES and NAEFCS-AR traveled to Washington D.C. for the annual Public Issues Leadership Development Conference. Delegates attended a variety of sessions focusing on updates from national program leaders and NIFA. Association representatives also had the opportunity to travel to Capitol Hill to meet with legislative aides to discuss the positive impact Extension is having on Arkansans as well as concerns about changes affecting Extension. ■



John McMinn, Joy West, Cindy Ham, Creenna Bocksnick, Laura Hendrix

Agriculture Agents Recognized

at the ACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference

The Arkansas County Agricultural Agents Association held its annual meeting and professional improvement conference March 27 – 29 in Pocahontas. Professional development tours included Delta Peanut Company, Ag Air Aircraft Inc., Peco Foods Feed Mill, BRTC Law Enforcement Training Center and Buck Hol-low Ranch. Extension updates were provided by Dr. Victor Ford, Clyde Fenton and Hank Chaney. Several agents were recognized for their achievements and excellent programs conducted over the previous year.

More pictures can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/Arkansas-County-Agriculture-Agents-Association-181565048577561/photos/>.

The state-level winners will compete for regional and national honors. The national meeting will be held Sept. 8-12 in Fort Wayne, In. ■

STATE LEVEL AWARD WINNERS WERE:

- **Computer Generated Graphics** – “Blackberry Control in Pastures,” Jesse Taylor
- **Feature Story** – “Arkansas Guidelines for Crop Residue Burning,” Jan Yingling
- **Newsletter, Individual** – “Pike Co. Farm and Garden,” Terrell Davis
- **Newsletter, Team** – “Arkansas Rice Update,” Jarrod Hardke
- **Video Presentation** – “How to Properly Take a Soil Sample,” Tyler Caston
- **Publication** – “2018 Rice Farming for Profit,” Jarrod Hardke
- **Web Site** – “Using Twitter to Highlight River Valley Agriculture,” Kevin Lawson
- **Published Photo and Caption** – “Young Cattlemen Blue Letter,” Rachael Bearden
- **Program Promotional Piece** – “Forestry Meeting,” Rachel Bearden
- **Bound Book** – Arkansas Rice Production Handbook, Jarrod Hardke
- **SFE in Livestock Production** – Winter Annual Forage Species Planting Date Trial, Jennifer Caraway
- **SFE in Young, Beginning or Small Farmers/Ranchers** – South West Arkansas Cattlemen’s College, Sherry Beaty-Sullivan, Rex Herring, Amy Simpson, Jennifer Caraway, Terrell Davis, Darren Neal, Stacey Stone
- **SFE in Sustainable Agriculture** – Clay County IPM Program, Allison Howell
- **SFE in Crop Production** – Row Crop Irrigation Efficiency, Amy Tallent
- **SFE in Horticulture** – Tomato Demonstration and Education, Allison Howell
- **SFE in Farm Financial Management** – Farm Management Seminar Series, Stewart Runsick, Dave Freeze
- **SFE in Farm Health and Safety** – Youth Farm Safety Day, Grant Beckwith, Phil Horton
- **SFE in Environmental Quality, Forestry and Natural Resources** – Hot Spring County Forestry Production Meeting, Rachel Bearden
- **Excellence in 4-H and Youth Programs** – White County 4-H Citizenship/Leadership Program, Amy Heck
- **Agricultural Awareness and Appreciation** – Youth Leadership and Ag Awareness in Clay County, Stewart Runsick
- **Young Professionals Award** – Jennifer Caraway, Miller County



Top left: Stewart Runsick, presented by Victor Ford
Top right: Jennifer Caraway, presented by Victor Ford
Top middle: Grant Beckwith and Phil Horton, presented by Victor Ford
Bottom left: Achievement Award winners: Terrell Davis, Brett Gordon, Matt Fryer
Bottom right: Distinguished Service Award winners: Bill Robertson, Amy Simpson, Brad McGinley

Irrigation Schools Help Teach IWM Principles

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15

According to the Mid-South irrigation survey, only 9.1 percent of irrigators in Arkansas use soil moisture sensors. Mid-south irrigators who use sensors have been found to improve their corn yield by 8.2 bushels per acre, soybeans by 2.3 bushels per acre and improve cotton results by 102 pounds per acre. Irrigation water management, IWM, schools were held in Arkansas, Lonoke, Monroe, Cross, Woodruff, Lawrence, Greene and Clay counties. Through small group instruction and hands-on practical exercises, the schools help growers and land owners become more profitable, sustainable and conserve water resources. The irrigation water management team conducting the schools is led by Associate Professor Dr. Chris Henry, and includes Program Associates Dustin Pickelmann and Greg Simpson and IWM Program Technician Jacob Rix.

The focus is on using sensors to assess plant water needs for irrigation scheduling. If scheduling is done based on directly measuring the crop water demand, growers can become more efficient. The Division of Agriculture irrigation apps make irrigation initiation decisions simpler and scientific to implement. Sensor readings require interpretation to account for growth stage, available water by soil type and allowable depletion in order to understand when the next irrigation needs to occur. Through use of the mobile app, this calculation can be done in seconds. The schools train participants on in-season decision making and termination. All types of sensors are discussed in the training, but Watermark sensors are built and used in the hands-on sessions. Attendees are taught proper placement and installation of sensors for maximum benefit

and minimum time and labor required. Advanced topics are also included including trend analysis, retention curves and mixed soils. The training is free,

but there is an optional fee of \$500 for the cost of the materials used to install, interpret, build and use Watermark sensors.

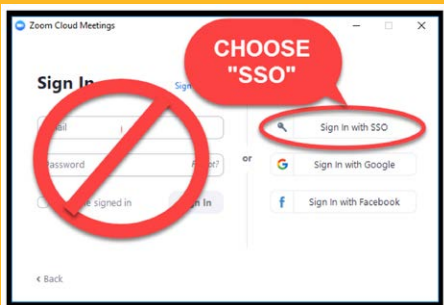
All of eastern Arkansas will be impacted by irrigation water management schools in spring 2019. Over 125 people from 16 counties have attended the surge and sensor schools. Agents interested in hosting an IWM school for irrigators in their county should contact Greg Simpson at gregorys@uark.edu. ■



Ronnie and Donnie Jacobs with Dr. Chris Henry about to install watermark soil moisture sensors in soybeans for irrigation scheduling



Dr. Henry, Herb Ginn and Bryce Baldrige teaching Lawrence County farmers how to build watermark soil moisture sensors.



Zoom Tips and Resources

Use "SSO" to sign into your UAEX Zoom account. [Check out the step-by-step directions](#) for using "SSO" to sign into your UAEX Zoom account.

Use "[Zoom Safe Driving Mode](#)" to safely "listen" to a Zoom meeting or webinar while driving. Prior to shifting into "drive," connect your mobile device to your vehicle's Bluetooth then join the Zoom session on your device, swipe right and then begin driving. ■

The Soybean Science Challenge Presents Student and Mentor Awards

FFA Agriscience Fair

The Soybean Science Challenge presented the student research and mentor awards for the FFA Agriscience Fair at the 92nd annual FFA State Convention Award Ceremony, April 24, at the Hot Springs Convention Center in Hot Springs.

Assistant professor, Dr. Julie Robinson, and Soybean Science Challenge coordinator, Diedre Young, presented the \$300 student research award on behalf of the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board to Clayton McEntire, a senior at Waldron High School. Clayton also placed fourth in Animal Sciences at the FFA agriscience fair. His FFA advisor, Jim Wilcox, and 4-H agent, Debbie Miller, won the \$200 FFA Advisor-Mentor Award.

The Soybean Science Challenge is a farmer-funded, statewide high school education program that seeks to increase student

knowledge about the value of Arkansas soybeans to the Arkansas economy, to the labor force and ultimately to feed and fuel the world.

The Soybean Science Challenge is a partnership between the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board and the UofA Cooperative Extension Service.

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



Agriscience Winner Clayton McEntire, with Coordinator Diedre Young (left) and Assistant Professor, Dr. Julie Robinson (right).

Southwest Research and Extension Center

Let's give a "hats off" to our Southwest Research and Extension Center for their assistance with practices to launch the inspection phase of the Food Safety Modernization Act, FSMA. Extension was tasked with the education and outreach on FSMA for our state. That process has progressed very effectively under the leadership of Dr. Amanda Phillyaw Perez. 2019 is the year that farms whose food sales

are greater than \$500,000 and grow produce are subject to an FDA-mandated produce food safety inspection. These inspections will be performed by the Arkansas Agriculture Department beginning in early May. To help these farms be prepared, Extension offers a service called an On Farm Readiness Review. Our Southwest Research and Extension Center went above and beyond the call of duty to help both the Extension produce food safety team and the Agriculture Departments produce food safety inspectors practice for the roles they will play in implementing the Food Safety Modernization Act in Arkansas. Clay Wingfield did an outstanding job role playing a farmer for both teams on different days. Both the center and Clay were great help in moving this program into this new phase. ■



Grants and Contracts

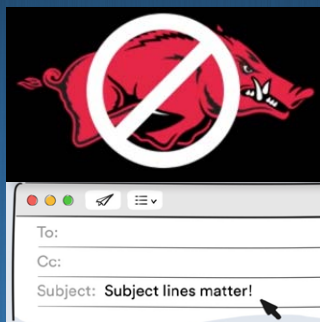
PROJECT TITLE	AWARD AMOUNT	PI	GRANTING AGENCY
Comparison of a Rotating Cross Arm (RCA) and T-Trellis for Impacts on Southeastern Blackberry Production	5,000	Amanda McWhirt	Southern Region Small Fruit Consortium
Improving Soil Health Utilizing Cover Crops in the Arkansas Cotton Research Verification/Sustainability Program	20,000	Bill Robertson	Cotton Incorporated
South Shore Marion County Youth Leadership 2019	3,000	Emilee Moody	South Shore Foundation
Attachment A-7 Project/Testing Protocol	9,600	Gus Lorenz	BASF Corporation
Attachment A-8 Project/Testing Protocol	26,200	Gus Lorenz	BASF Corporation
Cotton LYG-B3XF Regulated PCM4	9,975	Gus Lorenz	Cotton Incorporated
Efficacy and Agronomic Impact of MON 88702 under Light, Moderate, and Heavy Tarnished Plant Bug Pressure	10,640	Gus Lorenz	Monsanto Company
Efficacy of Insecticides in a MON 88702 Management System for Lygus	9,310	Gus Lorenz	Monsanto Company
Cotton BG4 Open Field Efficacy Trial	30,000	Gus Lorenz	Monsanto Company
MON 88702 System Evaluation in Large Blocks	15,960	Gus Lorenz	Monsanto Company
Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. Evaluation Agreement Statement of Work #2019-01	14,400	Gus Lorenz	E.I. du Pont Nemours and Company
Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. Evaluation Agreement Statement of Work #2019-02	12,000	Gus Lorenz	Dow AgroSciences LLC
Rice Insect Control	55,060	Gus Lorenz	Rice Research Promotion Board
Expanding BQA Initiatives	1,500	Heidi Ward	National Cattlemen's Beef Association
Agronomic Production Practices	115,000	Jarrold Hardke	Rice Research Promotion Board
Agronomics of Alternative Irrigation	95,000	Jarrold Hardke	Rice Research Promotion Board
Arkansas Rice Performance Trials	99,000	Jarrold Hardke	Rice Research Promotion Board
DD50 Planting Date Studies	70,000	Jarrold Hardke	Rice Research Promotion Board
Determining Optimum Seed Spacing of Rice	30,000	Jarrold Hardke	Rice Research Promotion Board
Nitrogen Recommendations for New Rice Cultivars	66,000	Jarrold Hardke	Rice Research Promotion Board
Rice Research Verification Program	189,851	Jarrold Hardke	Rice Research Promotion Board
2019 NRA Foundation Multi-County 4-H Shooting Sports Desha County	310	John David Farabough	NRA Foundation
2019 NRA Foundation Multi-County 4-H Shooting Sports Poinsett County	3,500	Craig Allen	NRA Foundation
Greening Arkansas Grant for West Fork Gardens	2,500	Katherine Teague	Arkansas Flower and Garden Show, Inc.
Cabot Library	990	Keith Perkins	Arkansas Flower and Garden Show, Inc.
Rice Insect Control	79,941	Nick Bateman	Rice Research Promotion Board
Renewable Resources Extension Act	66,700	Philip Tappe	National Institute of Food and Agriculture
Nonpoint Source Management Planning and Project Review Meeting	9,212	Stacey McCullough	AR Natural Resources Commission
A Team Approach to Weed Management in Rice	87,887	Tom Barber	Rice Research Promotion Board
Competitive Soybean Systems Comparison-South	8,085	Tom Barber	Monsanto Company
Competitive Trait Glyphosate Tolerance-Cotton	6,650	Tom Barber	Monsanto Company
Integrated Corn Herbicide Programs	7,315	Tom Barber	Monsanto Company
A Team Approach to Weed Management in Rice	95,776	Tommy Butts	Rice Research Promotion Board
Competitive Soybean Systems Comparison South	10,290	Tommy Butts	Monsanto Company
Attachment A-9 Project/Testing Protocol	67,100	Travis Faske	BASF Corporation
BAS 753F/Cotton/Target Spot and Other Diseases	6,000	Travis Faske	BASF Corporation
Rice Enterprise Budgets and Production Economic Analysis	10,000	Vic Ford	Rice Research Promotion Board
Evaluation of Rice to Straighthead a Physiological Disorder of Unknown Cause	10,000	Yeshe Wamishe	Rice Research Promotion Board
Evaluation of Fungicide Application Timing and Coverage to Suppress False Smut and Sheath Blight of Rice	30,000	Yeshe Wamishe	Rice Research Promotion Board
Rice Breeding Program Pathology Tech Support	56,995	Yeshe Wamishe	Rice Research Promotion Board
Scale up of Technology for Applications of Patent Pending Trichoderma, Strain TM17 as Based Preparations of Biocontrol Agents	45,000	Yeshe Wamishe	Rice Research Promotion Board
TOTAL AWARDS FOR APRIL 2019: \$1,491,747			



Signatures:

Include the following details in your signature:

- Name
- Title/Position
- University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture
- Phone number
- County/location
- Social media (if applicable)
- No Razorbacks!



Subject Lines:

The reader wants to know
“What am I about to read?”
So tell them!

Subject lines should reflect the email content.

Change of thread topic? Change the subject line.

Sending and Receiving



If you loop someone into an email thread using a CC, tell everyone you did it and tell the person why you're including them.

BCC – Why you should be careful. If you BCC someone and the recipient “replies all” it reduces trust in the sender and raises unnecessary questions.

“Reply All” – use it sparingly!

Content:

Emails should be one or two topics max.

Sending a long email with three or more topics increases the chances of your reader deleting or not responding at all.

Keep email messages between 20-200 words.

Attachments can bog down inboxes.

Use Box or OneDrive to share files and send a link to the file instead of an attachment.

Government email – special considerations.

If you squirm at the idea your emails might appear in public, rethink what you send.

If you receive an FOI request for your email or any information, contact Barbara Batiste, bbatiste@uaex.edu. ■



UPCOMING TECH TUESDAY WEBINARS

Tuesday, June 11: Video Series – Social Posting and Promoting Your Video
(Kim Rowe and Nick Kordsmeier)

Tuesday, July 9: Texting Your Clientele
(Amy Cole and Kevin Lawson)

Second Tuesday of every month, starting at 9:00 a.m. To view the recordings, visit <https://uaex.edu/techtuesdays>

Benefits Corner

It may be challenging to find some of the benefits-related information you need online. From the University of Arkansas System site to the individual campus sites, there's a lot of benefits-related information out there. Both sites are helpful resources for benefits-related information.

Log onto www.uasys.edu/benefits, and then in the top righthand, corner choose your campus (Cooperative Extension Service). You can choose different benefits topics, and the site will provide information on that topic or direct you to our campus Human Resources site at www.uaex.edu/support-units/human-resources.

As part of your spring cleaning, consider healthier choices in place of less healthy habits – that'll certainly help your well-being. Schedule a qualified wellness visit and earn your 2020 wellness incentives. Visit a licensed health care provider from **Nov. 1, 2018, to Oct. 31, 2019**, for a qualified wellness program office visit. A qualified wellness program office visit includes a visit you have with an in-network primary care physician, advanced practice registered nurse or other licensed health care provider. **The visit must be coded by your provider as a "wellness visit" to qualify.** If you are enrolled in a University medical plan, **you pay \$0** for your in-network, qualified wellness office visit. ■

Personnel Changes

Welcome aboard:

John Fournier - Fiscal Support Analyst – Credit Union, State Office

Heather Jackson - County Extension Agent – Family and Consumer Science, Murfreesboro

Rita Watson - Program Associate, Virtual Education – Program and Staff Development, State Office

Farewell to:

Michelle Baskin - County Extension Agent – Family and Consumer Science, Columbia County, Magnolia

Josh Bergstrom - County Extension Agent – Agriculture, Washington County, Fayetteville

Cheyenne Manuel - Research Field Technician, Crop, Soil and Environmental Science, Newport

Casey Marshall - Program Tech, 4-H Center, Little Rock

Tyler Richmond - Program Technician, Crop, Soil and Environmental Science, Lonoke

Jeri Vangilder - County Extension Agent – Family and Consumer Science, Pope County, Russellville

Julie Workman - Program Assistant, 4-H, Pope County, Russellville

Joshua Yates - County Extension Agent – Agriculture/4-H, Polk County, Mena



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 Communications will add you to the distribution list. ■

