

BLUE LETTER

The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Monthly Letter

No. 3727 • November 2012

FROM THE DIRECTOR

This month's Blue Letter includes a story about One Day of Service, a designated time when 4-H youth give back to their communities.

In one county, 4-H youth cleaned and straightened up an aging cemetery, with plans to return for a more thorough cleaning and fixing up.

In others, they held canned food drives to benefit local food banks. One group completed an "extreme makeover" at a local daycare center. A mural was repaired. Healthy snacks were donated to go into young school children's backpacks in several counties so the children will have healthy snacks after school.

Birdhouses were made and set up outside the windows of a senior nursing home. A community saw 4-H youth helping it prepare for a fall festival.

Throughout Arkansas 4-H youth grew by giving, proof of an exceptional youth program led by devoted county agents and faculty alike.

Thank you for all you do for Arkansas' youth.

– Tony Windham

U.S. chief agricultural negotiator visits UA students, producers

The nation's chief agricultural negotiator, Ambassador Islam Siddiqui, spent three days in Arkansas visiting with producers, agricultural advocates and educators as well as Gov. Mike Beebe.

His visit began in northwest Arkansas and included a question-and-answer session with U of A students.

He visited the Rice Research and Extension Center in Stuttgart before winding up his trip in Little Rock on Oct. 10 with a discussion with the governor and lunch with UA Vice President for Agriculture Mark Cochran and Butch Calhoun, head of the state's Agriculture Department.

Siddiqui said next year's level of agricultural exports is expected to be \$143 billion, noting that in the 1990s the level was at \$60 billion. He credited the approval of free trade agreements for much of the growth in the export of agricultural products. ■



From left, Mac Campbell, assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Congressional Affairs, Dr. Mark Cochran, UA Vice President for Agriculture, Ambassador Islam Siddiqui, chief agricultural negotiator, office of the U.S. Trade Representative, Arkansas Gov. Mike Beebe, and Butch Calhoun, head of Arkansas Agriculture Department.

U of A

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

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

Inside:

- 4-H members participate in One Day of Service
- Dr. Shandra Williams named UAPB Human Sciences Dept. Chair
- Horticulture Dept. honors three for achievements
- 4-H ATV safety program head is panelist at safety summit
- NIFA honors Southern Region Small Fruit Consortium
- Franklin Co. teen leaders say "thank you"
- Maginot, Pennington honored for water quality education
- Alien invaders
- American Electric Power Foundation gift helps community rebuild
- Meet the new employees
- Arkansas teen wins national 4-H engineering event
- Benefits Corner
- Grants and Contracts
- Personnel changes

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

4-H members put heads, hearts and hands into statewide 'One Day of Service'



Most kids see Saturday as a fun day, free from school and homework. For members of the Chambers 4-H Club in Crawford County, Saturday, Oct. 9, may be a day they remember for a long time.

About a dozen members and leaders raked leaves and picked up branches, spent flowers and other debris to restore dignity to an aging cemetery. With those simple actions, the Chambers 4-H Club members joined thousands of Arkansas 4-H'ers who put their heads, hearts and hands to work for their neighbors and communities during the first annual One Day of Service.



UNDER CAN-STRUCTION -- Johnson County 4-H members create "CAN-structions" as part of their drive to collect canned food for a local food pantry. The effort was part of their One Day of Service project.

"This day will have a lasting impression on some of the members," said Sheryll Gregory, Crawford County 4-H program assistant. "This is a very old cemetery and some of the graves were only marked with rocks, (and) the younger members couldn't understand why they didn't have markers like we do now.

"They made plans to return in the spring and wash headstones and do a general cleaning," she said. "It was a good day – a very good day."

Jack Boles, a 4-H state faculty member who spearheaded the One Day of Service project, said: "The efforts by our 4-H'ers exemplify the ideals of the 4-H youth development program. We're so proud of the kids, parents and the volunteers who made this day so special."

Among the projects:

- Johnson County 4-H held a canned food drive and a 4-H CANstruction contest at Harvest Foods in Clarksville. The group collected some 500 cans of food that were donated to the River Valley Church of Christ food bank.

- The Elkins and Goin Showin 4-H clubs gave the Tots Landing Daycare in Washington County an "extreme makeover," moving 19 tons of sand, 10 tons of dirt and 100 large stones, all to give the daycare students a playground with natural elements.
- 4-H'ers in Pike County turned their paintbrushes to restoring a mural in Delight that had deteriorated to the point where paint was peeling.
- Town & Country 4-H Club in Benton County coordinated a snack drive for The Samaritan Community Center Snack Packs. These snack packs go to children in 87 public schools in Carroll, Madison, Benton and Washington counties.
- The Spring Hill 4-H Club made and set up birdhouses to go outside the windows of residents of the Bentonville Manor nursing home.
- The Bloomfield 4-H Club helped prepare their community for the Gentry Fall Festival by picking up trash, cleaning sidewalks and windows, mowing grass, planting flowers and decorating windows.
- The Conway County 4-H clubs performed a collective service for a community-wide initiative that sends backpacks full of food home with children whose homes cannot afford groceries. County Extension Staff Chair Alicia Hugen said county 4-H members worked at the senior adult center in Morrilton, where the backpacks are assembled, and lent a hand with cleaning and other tasks.
- Pope County's 4-H members spent their day of service working for local food pantries. ■



RAKES AT THE READY -- Members of the Chambers 4-H Club in Crawford County pose for a team shot with their rakes after spending their Saturday giving new dignity to an old cemetery, part of the statewide 4-H One Day of Service.

Dr. Shandra Terrell Williams named UAPB Human Sciences Department chair



Dr. Shandra Terrell Williams has been named chair of the Department of Human Sciences at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.

Williams served as assistant professor for four years at UAPB before resigning in 2004 to become assistant dean of student affairs and director of the Teaching/Learning Center at

Tuskegee University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health.

She became president and CEO in 2008 of Ready for College, Inc., a community-based organization to help children in grades K-12 prepare for college.

Williams earned a doctorate from the University of Minnesota, a master's from Tuskegee University and a bachelor's from Wilmington College in Delaware.

Her background includes program planning, development and grant writing. Within six months of starting Ready for College, she received more than \$625,000 in grant funds, and through her work with school systems, she has secured more than \$1.5 million for their after-school programs.

"Dr. Williams will play a vital role in leading academic and research programs and managing recruitment, assessment and retention programs in the department," said Dr. James O. Garner, dean/director of the School of Agriculture, Fisheries and Human Sciences. ■

Horticulture Department honors three for achievements

The horticulture department of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture honored two emeritus faculty members and one alumnus on Oct. 18 during ceremonies at the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks in Fayetteville.

Keith Patterson received the 2012 Distinguished Alumnus Award, Lloyd Martin and Gerald Klingaman each received the 2012 Distinguished Service Award.

Patterson earned two degrees from the UA, a bachelor's degree in marketing in 1970 and a master's degree in horticulture in 1978.

He was an Extension fruit specialist and horticulture faculty member at the UA from 1988 to 1992.

He has since served as a faculty member at California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, in the horticulture and crop science department and as director of viticulture. He is president of Vitis LLC, a vineyard management and consulting company in San Luis Obispo.

Martin headed the UA horticulture and forestry department from 1992 to 1995. He provided oversight for the fruit substation in Clarksville and the vegetable substation in Kibler, coordinating the development of the headquarters facility in Kibler.

He coordinated development of a long-range plan for the horticulture department and successfully proposed the

development of a postdoctoral position to complement the department's fruit breeding program. He has been a UA emeritus professor since 1996.

Klingaman was employed by the UA horticulture department from 1974 until his retirement in 2005, dividing his time between Cooperative Extension Service responsibilities and teaching/research tasks. His duties centered on nursery and greenhouse growing.

He has written frequently for newspapers, gardening web sites and magazines. He has presented to groups around the state.

He is an emeritus professor and director of operations for the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks, which has named its planned arboretum in his honor. ■



Lloyd Martin (left) and Gerald Klingaman, each received the Distinguished Service Award from the UA horticulture department on Oct. 18. Keith Patterson, who received the Distinguished Alumnus Award, was unable to attend.

4-H ATV safety program head is panelist at safety summit

Jack Boles, director of the Arkansas 4-H ATV safety program, served as an expert panelist at the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's ATV Safety Summit Oct. 11-12 in Bethesda, Md.

The theme for the two-day summit, held at the commission's headquarters, was "Working Together to Keep Families Safe on ATVs."

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Each year, there are some 700 ATV-related deaths in the U.S. Since 1982, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has received more than 11,000 reports of ATV-related fatalities. Of that number, almost 3,000 are children.

Boles, who has worked with the Arkansas 4-H ATV safety program for five years, said the summit would “give everyone involved in recreational and all-terrain vehicles a chance to actually see what the current status of the issue of ATV safety is in the USA.”

Mike Klumpp, University of Arkansas associate professor emeritus and founder of the 4-H ATV safety program in Arkansas, will also be a summit panelist. Klumpp is currently the Oklahoma 4-H ATV safety coordinator with Oklahoma State’s extension service. ■

Southern Region Small Fruit Consortium honored by NIFA

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Agriculture Department, presented a NIFA Partnership Award on Oct. 11, 2012, to the Southern Region Small Fruit Consortium for the effectiveness of its multi-state teamwork.

The multi-state consortium based at North Carolina State includes researchers and educators from the University of Arkansas, University of Georgia, University of Tennessee, Virginia Polytechnic and Clemson.

David Hensley, head of the University of Arkansas’ horticulture department; Elena Garcia, Extension fruit specialist; Arkansas blueberry grower Marlin Wallace, and John Clark, horticulture professor and fruit breeder, all serve on the consortium steering committee.

“NIFA recognizes there are many outstanding contributions that our partners in the land-grant universities and other cooperating institutions and organizations achieve, and NIFA wants to recognize them through this awards program,” Sonny Ramaswamy, director of NIFA, said in a letter to Thomas Monaco, coordinator of the Southern Region Small Fruit Consortium.

The awards ceremony is part of the NIFA Day of Appreciation. ■

Franklin County 4-H teen leaders say “thank you”

Franklin County 4-H Teen Leaders thanked the Arkansas Valley Electric Cooperative on Oct. 4 for supporting Arkansas 4-H.

Officials of the distribution electric cooperative received a framed “thank you” card that was signed during 4-H O-Rama by members and volunteers who live in Crawford, Franklin and Scott counties.

Teen leader Harlee Ray said, “State 4-H O-Rama helped me build lifelong skills to use throughout my life.”

The teen leaders also presented a “Proud Partner of Arkansas 4-H” display.

“The Franklin County 4-H Teen Leaders gained valuable experience which will serve them well as future leaders,” remarked Cindy Ham, CEA - staff chair, Franklin County.



From left to right: Hailey Hennigan, Scottie Stobaugh, Rebecca Wheeless, Gabrielle Sisk, Tony Wilson, Aaron Mantooth, Jessica Mefford, Kailey Hula, Tylo Gardener and Cindy Ham.

“They learned that cultivating relationships with business leaders is critical to 4-H for continued funding and for communicating the impact of 4-H as a positive youth development program of the UA System.”

“Arkansas Valley Electric Cooperative is known for its community involvement. We are pleased to promote our partnership.”

Arkansas Valley Electric Cooperative is one of seventeen distribution cooperatives of the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas, which was the lead sponsor for the Awards of Excellence banquet held during 4-H O-Rama. ■

What’s new in publications? Find out at:

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

Extension's Maginot, Pennington honored for water quality education

Saving a home, adding artistic touches to northwest Arkansas storm drains and removing thousands of pounds of trash from Lee Creek have earned two Washington County extension service employees awards from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality.

The two were honored by the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality at the Oct. 11-12 watershed conference held in Fort Smith.

Jane Maginot, program associate for urban stormwater education, won the best in show award for community poster, while John Pennington, county Extension agent for agriculture and water quality, won the Ginger Tatom Award.

Maginot's winning poster exhibited the UpStream Art Project that allowed local artists to paint water-quality related murals on stormdrains to bring attention to the fact that what goes down the stormdrain goes unfiltered into the creek.

Pennington won an award established in honor of Ginger Tatom, an Arkansas Department of Health employee who was instrumental in forming and planning the former Arkansas Watershed Advisory Group. Ginger lost her battle with cancer in 2003. The award is meant to exemplify the extraordinary dedication of a professional working in the field of water conservation and resources. ■



The low water bridge on Hamestring Creek in Fayetteville, Ark., the cause of erosion that threatened Gardie Dalton's house, is removed, thanks to donated equipment and service from the Rogers Quarry Group and Riggs Caterpillar of Springdale.

Alien invaders: Site addresses invasive pests



Invasive pests cost the U.S. an estimated \$130 billion in damage and preventative measures every year.

Information is the best defense, according to the Arkansas Forest Resources Center, which launched a web site Oct. 1, www.ARInvasives.org, dedicated to managing these destructive pests of our forests.

Two examples of an invasive pest in Arkansas are red imported fire ants and kudzu.

"We have two primary goals with this web site," said Jon Barry, an Extension forester for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture.

"We want people more aware of the problems caused by invasive pests. The financial loss each year grows as old pests spread and new pests arrive."

Management starts with identifying the pests and damage and knowing how to halt the pests' spread.

The web site should "train qualified people who can serve as an early warning system for invasive pests in Arkansas," Barry said. ■

American Electric Power Foundation gift completes community rebuilding effort

A tornado ripped through Mena in Polk County three years ago claiming lives and destroying landscape, homes and buildings.

A \$38,000 gift from the American Electric Power Foundation presented to the Polk County Cooperative Extension Service in August will complete the construction of the Polk County 4-H Education Center.

American Electric Power Foundation is funded by American Electric Power and its utility operating units, including Southwestern Electric Power Company

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Left to right: Carla Vaught, Polk County staff chair; Tony Windham; Rebecca Lehmann, president of 4-H Lead for Life Teen Club; Henry Sunderman, former mayor of Mena and SWEPCO retiree; Louise Buchanan, SWEPCO; Representative Nate Bell; Jeff Milford, SWEPCO; and Brian Bond, vice president of External Affairs, SWEPCO.

(SWEPCO), which has a service territory including western Arkansas.

“We are pleased to support youth and adult education and enrichment in Polk County,” said Brian Bond, SWEPCO vice president of External Affairs. “The building will provide a versatile space to meet many needs in the community.”

“The AEP Foundation gift is the critical boost we needed to complete the building project that started two

years ago when the New York Says Thank You Foundation came to Mena to help us rebuild,” added Carla Vaught, staff chair.

“I am very proud that this building is a community effort. In addition to the volunteer labor which we value at \$300,000 to date, all the funds used to construct this building are gifts we received from individuals, banks, companies and foundations.” ■

Meet the *new* employees!



Lauren Edgmon
County Extension Agent - 4-H
Pope County

- **What’s your background?**

I grew up on a small farm in Newton County, Arkansas. I earned my high school diploma at Jasper High School where I was

very involved in FFA. I received my B.S. degree in agriculture business from Arkansas Tech University, and I am working on my masters in Agricultural and Extension Education.

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

Growing up on a farm has always been a huge part of my life. I was somewhat involved with 4-H but was very active in FFA in high school and college.

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

I have a strong passion for agriculture, and I am so excited to get to share my passion with the younger generations in Pope County.

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

I would like to see more of the older 4-H’ers staying involved and to have more opportunities for children to practice their public speaking and leadership skills.

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

I knew when I started college that I wanted to go into agriculture and eventually work for Extension. Extension is such a wonderful organization because it provides education to all generations.

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

I love spending time with my family and fiance. I enjoy going to church, gardening, hunting, fishing, and almost anything else that allows me to get outdoors. ■

Kathryn McElderry
Best Care Program Technician
Family and Consumer Sciences



- **What’s your background?**

I received a bachelor of science degree in home economics education.

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

I have five years’ experience teaching family and consumer science for the Little Rock School District, and I worked 1.5 years for Extension’s EFNEP program.

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

I like working with people, and I love being here at Extension.

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

I would like to “learn the ropes” then help the Best Care Program step forward.

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

I love the home and family support that Extension offers.

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

I enjoy quilting, reading, crossword puzzles, getting outdoors and walking for exercise, and volleyball. ■

Arkansas teen wins national 4-H engineering event

Zane Pitman's knowledge of bicycles earned the Arkansan first place in the National 4-H Engineering Challenge Bicycle Event held at Purdue University.

The engineering challenge, held Sept. 23-25, pitted state champions from around the country in a variety of areas. The bicycle challenge included a written test, five riding skills tests, parts identification and the "sabotaged bike recognition," that required competitors to identify problems.

The three-day 4-H Engineering Challenge included competitions in robotics, aerospace, tractor, lawn-tractor, welding, bicycle, electricity, computer and small engines.

The top honor was the result of "practice, practice, practice and study," Zane Pitman said.

Zane, who is a member of the Salem Superstars in Saline County, brought home prizes including a plaque and a ribbon.

Pitman was also part of an engineering quiz bowl team that joined contestants from Arkansas, Delaware and Kentucky. Teams were paired in a direct elimination bracket, and contestants fielded questions posted by a panel.

The combined team finished second – by one question and in overtime.

There were no official coaches, but Samy Sadaka, Extension engineer, Keith Gresham, Dallas County Extension staff chair, and J. J. Pitman, Arkansas 4-H Center program director, who is also Zane's dad, played a role in training.



WINNING TEAM -- From left, Dallas County Extension Staff Chair Keith Gresham; Clay Gresham; national winner Zane Pitman of the Salem Superstars 4-H Club; Dr. Samy Sadaka, Extension engineer; and J. J. Pitman, director of Arkansas 4-H Center programs.

BENEFITS CORNER

November is Open Enrollment Month!

There's a new name in Open Enrollment this year.

Beginning January 2013, the UA System, including UACES, will move third-party administration of our health plan to United Medical Resources (UMR), a United HealthCare company.

The change from QualChoice to UMR does not require you to complete a new enrollment form. Your medical insurance benefits will not change and your premiums, coverage, deductible and co-pays will remain the same.

Open Enrollment materials will be mailed to your home address. Enrollment runs from November 1-30. Unless you wish to change your current enrollment or enroll as a new participant, you do not need to take any action.

Your current information will transfer to UMR. However, changes and new enrollment forms must be received in Human Resources by Nov. 30.

Got health goals? Ready to take steps toward a healthier life? The UA System has introduced its **new wellness program** through Onlife Health for employees and spouses covered by the UA health plan.

Biometric screenings are scheduled for Nov. 13 in the LRSO to support this effort. Visit www.onlifehealth.com for additional information.

Grants and contracts

for Month Ending September 30, 2012

Project Title	Award Amount	Principal Investigator	Granting Agency
Southern Risk Management Education Center at U of A Cooperative Extension Service	1,168,912.00	Ron Rainey	National Institute of Food and Agriculture
2010 Arkansas Extension IPM Coordination Program	25,920.00	Gus Lorenz	National Institute of Food and Agriculture
2010 Arkansas Extension IPM Coordination Program	104,656.00	Gus Lorenz	National Institute of Food and Agriculture
2010 Arkansas Extension IPM Coordination Program	30,542.00	Gus Lorenz	National Institute of Food and Agriculture
2010 Arkansas Extension IPM Coordination Program	12,853.00	Gus Lorenz	National Institute of Food and Agriculture
2010 Arkansas Extension IPM Coordination Program	24,396.00	Gus Lorenz	National Institute of Food and Agriculture
2010 Arkansas Extension IPM Coordination Program	5,400.00	Gus Lorenz	National Institute of Food and Agriculture
2010 Arkansas Extension IPM Coordination Program	15,048.00	Gus Lorenz	National Institute of Food and Agriculture
SARE Professional Dev Program (PDP)-Model State Program-Training	10,000.00	Elena Garcia	University of Georgia
Wildlife Enterprises Partnership with Mississippi State University Extension Service	6,000.00	Becky McPeake	Mississippi State University Extension Service
Monsanto Agricultural Group	2,000.00	Bob Scott	Monsanto Company
Personal Finance Education at Rich Smith Development Properties	2,625.00	Laura Connerly	Family Service Agency, Inc
TOTAL SEPTEMBER 2012 AWARDS	\$1,408,352.00		

Personnel changes

Please welcome the following:

Mary J. Cody

County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences, Perry County, effective October 22, 2012.

Lauren N. Copeland

Program Technician - Health, Family and Consumer Sciences, effective October 15, 2012.

Lauren D. Edgmon

County Extension Agent - 4-H, Pope County, effective October 1, 2012.

Dawn M. Fortner

Program Assistant - 4-H, Sevier County, effective October 8, 2012.

Edna M. Golden

Program Assistant, Van Buren County, effective October 16, 2012.

Kimberly M. Sanders

Program Assistant - 4-H, Crittenden County, effective October 15, 2012.

Extension says goodbye to:

Joseph K. Ginn

Facilities System/Maintenance Supervisor, Facility Maintenance, effective October 23, 2012.

Alisha D. Green

Clerical Assistant, Logan County - Booneville, effective October 19, 2012.

Beverly J. Roy

Program Assistant - EFNEP, Pulaski County, effective September 28, 2012.

Jan A. Yingling

County Extension Agent - 4-H - Agriculture, Lonoke County, effective October 15, 2012.