

BLUE LETTER

The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Monthly Letter

No. 3775 • November 2016

FROM THE DIRECTOR

'It needs to be done, and we are the most qualified organization to do it'

November is a month of thanks, remembrance, and getting ready for winter – assuming we have one. These days, cold weather no longer seems a certainty.

When it comes to thanks, I would simply thank all members of the Extension family for their extraordinarily hard work and dedication to our mission. An interesting observation about Cooperative Extension over the years has been stakeholder comments such as – “I had no idea you guys did that,” “How do you get all that done?” or “We had no idea Extension was involved in so many different areas,” when they learn of the breadth of our work. As Beth Phelps told us the other day, “people know extension only by their program, the one that helps them, not realizing that there are so many other things we do, days, nights and even weekends.” Humans are truly an interesting species.

If you look through this Blue Letter, you will notice some of the scope of extension work – kids working with their volunteer leader in Forestry to win for the first time ever both the National 4-H and FFA Forestry Competitions, to school gardens to award-winning stormwater education to public policy education to yoga for kids and so forth. The span of our work is rather mind-boggling. I am sometimes asked “why do you guys do all this stuff?” The short answer is that it needs to be done, and we are the most qualified organization to do it. We know from experience that stakeholders demand these programs and support them with their time and money. In addition, every organization you can think of is trying to compete for grants to do extension-type work, so this in itself shows the need. I would repeat that the Division is very qualified to do this work, and we do it right, and we do it more efficiently than anyone else. That is us; we answer the need and just as importantly, we address future needs through planned programs even before there is a problem.

For example, I want to mention a group of Division employees who have demonstrated just how important our advanced work and the Division is to our state. These colleagues are

(Continued, page 2)

Benton County stormwater educator honored with 2016 Tatom Award

Her love of Arkansas and ability to work toward long-term goals has helped earn Trish Ouei the 2016 Ginger Tatom Award from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality.

Ouei (pronounced “WAY”), Benton County extension urban stormwater educator, was presented the honor on Oct. 28 at the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality/Arkansas Natural Resources Commission Watershed Conference Awards in Eureka Springs.

The award was named for Ginger Tatom, an Arkansas Department of Health employee who was instrumental in forming and planning the former Arkansas Watershed Advisory Group, who died of cancer in 2003. This award, a memorial to her legacy, was created to honor a professional who exemplifies extraordinary dedication to work in conserving and protecting Arkansas' water.

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Trish Ouei holds a plaque for having won the 2016 Ginger Tatom Award for excellence in water quality work. (Image courtesy Michelle Viney)

UofA

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. RICK CARTWRIGHT
Interim Associate Vice President for
Agriculture - Extension and
Director, Cooperative Extension Service

4-H Fall Festival draws hundreds, helps fund scholarships, youth education

A perfect fall day turned into a perfect way to support the scholarships and programs of the Arkansas 4-H youth development program.

The Arkansas 4-H Fall Festival, held Oct. 28, drew more than 300 people, and was expected to raise more than \$5,000 for the 4-H Youth development program. The event was hosted at the C.A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center in Ferndale.

Families took part in pumpkin decorating, canoeing and fishing as well as fun with robots and 3-D printers.

“We couldn’t have asked for a better first-run than last Saturday’s event,” said Ewell Welch, executive director of the Arkansas 4-H Foundation. “The weather was great, the participation was excellent and of course, we’re pleased to have raised funds to help us continue to support 4-H scholarships and programs here at the center.”

Welch also said the event introduced the center and its programs to people who may not have known it was there and generated interest in both.

“We are very blessed to have the support of a highly professional and motivated group of employees that see the benefit that a successful Arkansas C.A. Vines 4-H Center has for 4-H members in Arkansas,” he said.

To learn more about 4-H contact your county extension office or visit <http://uaex.edu/4h-youth/default.aspx>. ■



CONCENTRATION – Extension Ag Economist Ron Rainey, right, focuses on the pumpkin his daughter is painting at the Arkansas 4-H Fall Festival on Oct. 29, 2016.

Holiday foods celebrated in Union County

The Union County Extension Homemakers Council and Club hosted their annual “Holiday Foods” celebration on Oct. 22 in El Dorado at the College Avenue Church of Christ Activity Building from 11 am -1 pm. The event was dedicated to Frances Owens, an Extension Homemaker Club member for 50 plus years. She was instrumental in the success of Holiday Foods for the last 26 years. She will truly be missed.

The featured speaker was Janet Carson, state horticulture specialist with the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Research and Extension. She spoke on “Holiday Beauties,” plants that bloom during the holidays.

The theme for this year’s event was “Harvest of Crockpot Cookery.” Crockpot cooking is great for convenience and spontaneous family get togethers. Eight featured recipes were prepared in crockpots for a food tasting by those in attendance. Each featured recipe was prepared and presented by an Extension Homemaker Club member, with tips on how they prepared the dish.

Everyone attending received a prepared cookbook of crockpot recipes including the featured recipes. Union County 4-H members assisted with serving at the food tasting and presenting door prizes. More than \$2,500 in door prizes, donated by local businesses, were presented to guests. When surveyed, those in attendance rated the event very informative, entertaining and a great social outing. The participating homemaker members declared it a great outreach to the community, although it was a lot of work. ■



Pictured is Brooke McCoy serving crock pot recipes at Holiday Foods.

From the Director (cont.)

weed scientists, Tom Barber, Bob Scott and Jason Norsworthy. They have put in untold hours battling the development of herbicide-resistant weeds, including resistant pigweed, finding answers and providing information for our row crop producers and staying in front of the problem. They have also provided technical advice and data to the State Plant Board on the science of new herbicide-resistant crops and “over the top” herbicide systems for soybeans and cotton – all based on Division applied research under Arkansas field conditions. These new systems are very complex and while offering new management potential for weeds, also pose some off-target crop injury risk. Division data allowed our regulatory agency and industry to make science-based decisions about these systems as they came through the registration process that hopefully will prevent some problems and the need for additional regulation and litigation. This process has been very intense and frustrating, and is certainly not over, but these scientists have been true and professional throughout. It has been most heartening to hear over and over, from so many during this process, that our objective work is so badly needed and that the Division has “the best weed science team in the country, bar none.” I would only add that I think they mean “the world.”

Have a great Thanksgiving.

– Rick Cartwright

Arkansas 4-H forestry team wins national championship, a first for state

A quartet of Arkansans from Bradley County has won the National 4-H Forestry Championship, bringing home the state's first national title.

Taylor Gwin, a Hermitage High School teacher, Bradley County 4-H leader and former 4-H member, coached the four-person team. The team was comprised of Hunter Saunders, Ethan Boykin, Cade Wilkerson and his brother Connor Wilkerson. All four members are from Hermitage.

On top of the national title, the Arkansas team chalked up high individual placements with Cade Wilkerson placing second overall and Connor Wilkerson earning fourth-place overall.

"It's like anything else – you mix a lot of hard work and dedication, to get the kids prepared and get to the point where they're competent enough to win," Gwin said. "It takes a lot of long hours of looking at trees and reading maps to get them to that level."

Arkansas placed first among 17 states that competed in the 37th annual competition, which was held July 31 through August 4 at West Virginia University Jackson's Mill State 4-H Camp and Conference Center near Weston, West Virginia.

Gwin said that after attending and competing at several 4-H and Future Farmers of America forestry contests, his team studied intensely for four days prior to the national competition, concentrating on weaknesses they had each recognized during previous competitions.

Gwin said that although the team didn't necessarily place first in each category of competition, it was their ability to consistently place among the top three or four teams in each competition that ultimately won them first place overall.

Invitational events included tree identification, tree measurement, compass and pacing, insect and disease identification, topographic map use, forest evaluation, the forestry quiz bowl and a written forestry exam. ■



Members of the Arkansas 4-H Forestry Team took first place in the 37th annual National 4-H Forestry Invitational. Left to right: Taylor Gwin (coach), Cade Wilkerson, Hunter Saunders, Ethan Boykin and Connor Wilkerson.

What's happening in Community and Economic Development?

Like everyone in Extension, CED faculty and staff are busy providing education to strengthen businesses and communities even as the holidays approach.

The Arkansas Procurement Assistance Center (APAC) is partnering with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to offer Industry Days on Dec. 6-7 at the Little Rock State Office. This is an excellent opportunity for Arkansas companies to network with federal agencies and other industry corporations to sell their products and services. To learn more about APAC and see other upcoming events, visit www.uaex.edu/apac.

Income tax schools started on Nov. 14 in Van Buren. Other locations include Fayetteville, Jonesboro, Little Rock and Hot Springs. Schools are open to professional tax preparers, farmers, business owners and anyone else interested in tax preparation. Get details at <http://www.uaex.edu/business-communities/business-entrepreneurship/tax-school.aspx>.

LeadAR is gearing up for our final in-state seminar Dec. 8-10 in Forrest City. The focus is cultural diversity and orientation for next spring's international study tour to Argentina. Class participants are currently working on homework assignments to learn more about the country in preparation for the trip.

To learn more about the programs and resources we offer, visit our website at <http://www.uaex.edu/business-communities> and follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/UACommunityDevelopment>. ■

Technical terms

Big Data – Many have heard the term "big data" but are not familiar with the meaning or its use. Big data refers to large sets of data that often require different methods to analyze. The volume of data may be large, the rate the data is streaming may be high and the variety of data may include different types and formats. One common example of how this data can be useful is the ability of Google Maps to show live traffic conditions on their maps. Google uses big data in the form of GPS data coming from smart phones to determine how fast vehicles are moving relative to locations on their maps and displays that information live. Agricultural data science and the use of big data is an active area of research as well as vendors selling big data-related services to producers and consultants. Combining producer data with information on weather, soils, laboratories, remote sensing data, climate and GIS data can optimize production in ways that were not possible before there were methods to analyze Big Data. ■



Yoga for Kids at Perryville Elementary School

Yoga for kids is like yoga for adults, but sillier. Practicing yoga with kids may be different from yoga practice with adults in that, instead of quiet and calm, it can be noisy and fun. Yoga is a great way to engage kids in physical activity. It can improve flexibility, balance and strength in a noncompetitive environment. Some studies have suggested that practicing yoga can also improve a child's attention, relationships, self-esteem and listening skills.

On Sept. 26 and 27, Perryville Elementary School students participated in a Yoga for Kids obstacle course designed by program specialists with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service. Kindergarten through sixth-grade students participated, with Perryville High School BETA and 4-H Club members and their sponsors volunteering their time to assist.

Healthy Living programs offered through the Arkansas 4-H Program engage youth and families to achieve optimal physical, social and emotional well-being. Programs offered in each of Arkansas' counties are tailored to meet the needs of local youth. Contact Lauren Copeland, program associate - health in the Little Rock State Office, if you would like to learn more about Healthy Living programs for youth in Arkansas. ■

Craighead County 4-H and the city of Bono receive grant for 4-H Learning Station

Whether Craighead County 4-H members are getting ready for the Annual Fishing Derby, perfecting their prize-winning barbecue broiler sauce or putting the final polish on projects and demonstrations for State O-Rama, they are always busy! Things are getting even busier in Craighead County 4-H thanks to Bono Mayor Dan Shaw, Bono City Council and Governor Asa Hutchison.

This spring Agent Maleigha Cook, county 4-H officers and Bono City officials met to discuss a potential project involving the older but still useful Bono City Park. With the addition of the new state-of-the-art park the city is building, the older park had begun to fall into disrepair and was receiving little use from the community. Bono council members voted unanimously to allow Craighead County 4-H to renovate the park into a 4-H Learning Station. On Oct. 13 Governor Hutchison awarded the city of Bono a \$15,000 matching grant to be used specifically for the renovation of the park into the 4-H facility to include a mentoring program site, full livestock facility, learning/demonstration garden, renovated basketball court and track, club house and pavilion, equine practice arena and a commercial kitchen. ■

Tatom Award (cont.)

"I am honored to receive this award," Ouei said. "Working on water quality issues is a long-term process. The immediate benefits of your actions are not necessarily noticeable, so you have to be dedicated.

"Knowing that the work I am doing now will have lasting benefits for the different watersheds in Northwest Arkansas really helps keep me going," she said. "I am a native Arkansan and I love the Natural State. My love for the environment and my background in community health really makes working on water quality a perfect fit."

In his nomination, John Pennington, executive director of the Beaver Watershed Alliance, said "Trish Ouei goes above and beyond what is required of her professional duties. She works long hours to provide excellent service to the public."

From October 2015 through March 2016 alone, the stormwater outreach program provided more than 40 programs to more than 2,000 Benton County youth. During her time as an extension agent, she has conducted more than 340 presentations and programs.

Ouei isn't the first Cooperative Extension Service employee to be so honored for water quality work. Pennington, a former Washington County agent, earned the Ginger Tatom Award in 2012. The same year, Jane Maginot, also a Washington County extension agent, received the Best of Show Community Poster Award for outreach efforts to communicate the importance of local storm drains to our streams through the Upstream Art mural program. ■

Grant County school garden a huge success

It was harvest time last week for students at Sheridan Intermediate School in Grant County. It was the first harvest from the new school garden and outdoor classroom created by a partnership between the Grant County Extension Office, Grant County Master Gardeners, the Grant County Conservation District and the Sheridan School District.

The garden was planned and constructed by the Grant County Extension Office and Master Gardeners, and financial support was provided by the Conservation District. The garden has eight 4x8 vegetable beds and two 4x8 butterfly garden beds.

Each class of fifth-grade students planted sweet potatoes in May and were able to harvest them last week as sixth graders. Six hundred sixty pounds of sweet potatoes were harvested from the garden and will be prepared by the cafeteria staff for the entire intermediate school campus later this month. Sixth-grade students will receive education from the Extension Office on the benefits of fruits and vegetables with a focus on sweet potatoes.

Extension staff will now work with fifth-grade teachers to conduct monthly gardening educational sessions based on what they are learning in the classroom. Students will plant a salad garden this spring, followed by sweet potatoes in May. ■



Sheridan superintendent Jarrod Williams, Intermediate School principal Annette Neely, Grant County Extension agent Brad McGinley and fifth-grade teacher Serena McGinley (pictured left to right holding sign) are surrounded by fifth- and sixth-grade students before the first harvest from the school garden.

Columbia County Master Gardeners celebrate birthday

Columbia County Master Gardeners, whose group includes several Master Gardeners who live in Lafayette County, celebrated the 2016 birthday of Master Gardeners at their October meeting. Members enjoyed cake and coffee in honor of the program.

In addition, Lafayette County members partnered with county officials and declared an official Lafayette County Master Gardener Day.

Columbia County Master Gardeners originated in 1999. Retired Extension agent Danny Walker is one of three remaining original members of that 1999 class. ■



County officials celebrated Lafayette County Master Gardener Day in honor of the 2016 Master Gardener birthday.



Pictured left to right: Columbia County Master Gardeners Joyce Dailey, Dianne Norment, Dana Harris, Bettye Gunnels and Teresa Hatch serve birthday cake at the October monthly meeting.

What's new in publications? Find out at:
<http://www.uaex.edu/publications/new.aspx>

Post-election is a good time to evaluate Public Policy Center efforts

Fall is a busy time for the Public Policy Center with the rollout of the 2016 ballot issue education program and renewed efforts to update Arkansas' plan for addressing water pollution.

By now, the election is over, and voters have passed or rejected the four constitutional amendments. This is the perfect time to enter data into AIMS. How many people did you reach? How many voter guides did you distribute? How many people reported knowledge gain?

We are also evaluating the program from the county agents' perspective. Be on the lookout for an email from us with a link to a survey asking for your feedback.

We will also keep agents in the loop on our efforts to update the Arkansas Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Plan on behalf of the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission for 2017-2022. The plan focuses on 11 watersheds crossing 47 counties and requires input from many people, including some from your communities. ■

Lonoke County Dairy Judging Team competes at World Dairy Expo

The Lonoke County 4-H Dairy Judging Team represented Arkansas 4-H at the 2016 World Dairy Expo. They competed in the National 4-H Dairy Judging Contest where they judged five classes of dairy cows and five classes of dairy heifers and gave five sets of reasons. ■



Lonoke County Dairy Judging Team, left to right: Keith Perkins, Caleb Swears, Hunter Sellers, Emily Davis, Joey Summerford and Sara Beth Johnson, coach.

BENEFITS CORNER

Benefit Quick Links

Retirement Programs

TIAA
730 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017
800-842-2776
<https://www.tiaa.org/public/tcm/uasys/home>

Fidelity Investments
P.O. Box 770002
Cincinnati, OH 45277
800-343-0860
www.fidelity.com

APERS
124 West Capital
Suite 400
Little Rock, AR 72201
800-682-7377
www.apers.org

Onlife Health is a free health and wellness program for employees and their spouses who are insured under the UA health insurance plan. Please log onto the website for additional information. If you are a returning user, enter your username and password. If you are a new user, click **GET STARTED** and type in "UAS" as the key code. Follow the online instructions to create your username and password.

Onlife Health
9020 Overlook Blvd., Suite 300
Brentwood, TN 37027
877-369-0285
www.onlifehealth.com

Arkansas Employee Assistance Program

AEAP provides counseling, information and referral (if indicated) for employees and their immediate family members.

Freeway Medical Building
5800 W. 10th Street, Suite 601
Little Rock, AR 72204
Phone: 501-686-2588
Fax: 501-686-2576
Toll Free: 800-542-6021

Open Enrollment

During November, employees may participate in open enrollment for the health, dental, vision, disability, and critical illness benefits programs. Information regarding open enrollment has been mailed to your home address.

Make sure your address is up to date in Banner!

Arkansas 4-H and Lockheed Martin-Camden host National Youth Science Day event

The 4-H National Youth Science Day (NYSD) engineering challenge is the world's largest youth-led science experiment. Every year, thousands of youth take part in the event focusing on important STEM topics and issues. The 2016 NYSD engineering challenge, Drone Discovery, engages youth with fun and educational activities related to aerospace, flight and unmanned vehicles. The Drone Discovery curriculum simulates the experience of working with a real

drone by providing a hands-on educational challenge that teaches youth about the basics of flight, remote sensing and real-world uses of drones.

On Oct. 5, Arkansas 4-H partnered with Lockheed Martin (Camden, Arkansas facility) to host an engineering challenge for youth from Camden Fairview Middle School with assistance from Camden Fairview High School's Project Lead the Way (PLTW) program. Rick Fields, Arkansas 4-H science coordinator, who coordinated the event, stated "The (NYSD) activities demonstrate how drones and remote sensing can be used to solve real-world problems. The events are always enjoyable, but having engineers from Lockheed Martin and both of our Ouachita County extension agents (Addie Wilson, FCS agent, and Kerri Welch, agriculture agent) on hand to support this event culminated in an exceptional experience for these youth." ■



A PLT youth mentor demonstrates SHPERO robot for some of Camden Fairview Middle School's GT students.



Youth from Camden Fairview Middle School's GT program launch a foam drone at NYSD.

Meet the *new* employee!



Lisa Cook
4-H Curriculum Coordinator
4-H and Youth Development
Little Rock State Office

• What's your background?

I grew up in Yell County on a farm where we had row crops, cattle and a dirt excavation business. My mom was a teacher and my dad managed our farm. My parents raised me to be a hard worker and to work long hours. I've used that throughout my life, whether it was coaching basketball or coaching teachers on the methods of facilitation with the EAST initiative. I have had a passion for growing kids and teachers. Now, I'm excited about the chance to continue growing kids through 4-H and also supporting agents and club leaders.

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

Areas of focus: training teachers, training facilitation, coaching and coaching teachers.

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

I'm open to new ideas, I'll email you back quickly,

and I would love to visit and hear all about what you do for extension.

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

Develop a good working model on how to incorporate our 4-H In School program with school districts across the state, as well as build a strong bond with the agents around the state and work to support them with resources.

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

This is an opportunity to apply what I've been doing for the last 15 years but in a different capacity. I enjoy helping people and taking on new tasks, so I'm excited about this opportunity! I feel I'm getting to apply life skills I developed as a child as well as in my professional career.

• What are your interests or hobbies outside of work?

I love to camp and kayak. I love fall, so being outdoors during the fall is my favorite hobby, along with decorating my whole house. My friends believe that I have bought out all the stores of their fall decorations. My husband and I also love to travel. We have a two-year-old yellow lab named Fiona and a three-year-old lynx point Siamese cat named Sinatra. They keep us busy and loved. ■

Personnel changes

Please welcome the following:

Joey Cody

Maintenance Specialist, C.A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center, effective October 3, 2016.

Matthew Davis

County Extension Agent - Agriculture, Jackson County, effective October 3, 2016.

John McMinn

Program Associate - CARS, Center for Agriculture and Rural Sustainability, effective October 3, 2016.

Dovey Tweedy

Administrative Specialist, Facilities Management, effective September 16, 2016.

Extension says goodbye to:

Carly Bokker

Program Associate - Soybeans, Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences, effective October 21, 2016.

Lauren Frost

County Extension Agent - 4-H - Family and Consumer Sciences, Polk County, effective October 7, 2016.

Allison Munn

EFNEP Program Assistant, Miller County, effective October 14, 2016.

Estela Saenz-Rodriguez

Program Assistant - EFNEP, Washington County, effective October 14, 2016.

Susan Tucker

Administrative Specialist, Polk County, effective October 14, 2016.

Grants and contracts for Month Ending October 31, 2016

Project Title	Award Amount	Principal Investigator	Granting Agency
Evaluate Crop Tolerance and Efficacy of Weed Control	\$ 10,000	Bob Scott	Agriculture Experiment Station
Polk County 4-H GIF Grant	2,200	Carla Vaught	Western Arkansas Planning and Development District, Inc.
NEREC Pest Management	12,000	Glenn Studebaker	North Carolina State University
Determining the Impact of Common Pesticide Applications When Applied to Southern Row Crops on Managed Honey Bee Health	23,238	Gus Lorenz	USDA, ARS MSA
Sharp County 4-H Poultry Chain GIF	1,000	Joe Moore	White River Planning and Development District
Fordyce Area United Way Campaign Funding for 2016	1,500	Keith Gresham	Fordyce Area United Way
Development of a User-Friendly, Rapid Scouting Procedure for the Invasive Sugarcane Aphid, <i>Melanaphis sacchari</i> , in Sorghum	8,953	Nick Seiter	Oklahoma State University
Grow for the Green Yield Inspection	28,000	Jerry Clemons	Arkansas Soybean Association
Southern Risk Management Education Center at the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service	1,087,536	Ron Rainey	National Institute of Food and Agriculture
Total Awards for October 2016	\$1,174,427		