

BLUE LETTER

The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Monthly Letter

No. 3749 • September 2014

FROM THE DIRECTOR

October will be a big month for 4-H. It's National 4-H Month – and more. For the last two years, it has been the time for Arkansas 4-H members to take part in an annual Day of Service. More than 730 4-H'ers from 34 counties took part in our One Day of Service in 2013. They put more than 3,200 hours of effort into projects that included collecting nearly 1.5 tons of food, assembling and distributing more than 2,100 care packets and cleaning nearly 1,500 pounds of trash from 18 miles of roadside. If our 4-H'ers can do that much in a single day, imagine what they can do as we expand our efforts this year to a Month of Service.

October also hosts 4-H National Youth Science Day, whose theme this year is Rockets to the Rescue. The 2014 challenge was developed as a result of natural disasters such as 2013's Typhoon Haiyan, which killed thousands and affected millions more. This year, youth will be tasked with this mission: designing and building an aerodynamic food transportation device that can deliver a payload of nutritious food to disaster victims. Youth will learn engineering concepts, develop math skills, learn about nutrition and help solve a relevant, global issue.

4-H means so much to members, parents and the community. Research shows 4-H members are two times more likely to go to college; two to three times more likely to study science, engineering or computer-related topics and four times more likely to contribute to their communities. All of these outcomes have roots in the activities they'll be doing next month and all year.

We hope that next month you'll make an extra effort to support and encourage our 4-H members.

– Tony Windham

Biggest Loser finalist shares health tips with 4-H'ers

Biggest Loser Season 14 finalist Joe Ostazewski visited 4-H members in Little Rock on Aug. 21 during his national Riding It Forward fitness campaign, bringing awareness to childhood obesity and encouraging youth to live healthy and active lifestyles. Joe shared his experiences as a contestant on the Biggest Loser show and how he and his twin brother committed to losing weight after watching their father undergo emergency open heart surgery.

4-H members in attendance participated in a Yoga for Kids session led by Erica Harris Williams,

(Continued on page 3)



**DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION**

University of Arkansas System

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

Inside:

- Jeremy Ross receives NACAA award
- Centennial celebration/field day set for Sept. 25
- Cooperative Extension Service holiday schedule, 2015
- Nonpoint Source Pollution Stakeholder and Project Review Meeting
- Division of Agriculture and Bumpers College awards
- Register your Extension social media!
- Benefits Corner
- Save the Date
- Meet the New Employees
- Grants and Contracts
- Personnel Changes

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



Jeremy Ross receives NACAA Award

Dr. Jeremy Ross, soybean agronomist, received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents at their Annual Meeting/Professional Improvement Conference in Mobile, Alabama, on July 23. The purpose of the Distinguished Service Award Program is to encourage and recognize excellence in the field of professional Extension for members of the NACAA with more than ten years of service. Recipients of this award have conducted outstanding programs, are held in high esteem by their fellow workers and are approved by their State Director of Extension. Each state is entitled to DSAs based on 2 percent of its membership. Ross currently serves as the alternate specialists' board member and scholarship chairman for the Arkansas County Agricultural Agents Association. He also serves as fundraising/sponsorship chairman for the 2016 NACAA Annual Meeting to be held in Arkansas. ■

Centennial celebration/field day set for Sept. 25

The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff will celebrate the 100th anniversary of Cooperative Extension in conjunction with its Lonoke Farm Field Day Sept. 25 at the Pearlie S. Reed/Robert L. Cole Outreach Wetlands and Water Management Center in Lonoke.

The Smith-Lever Act of 1914 created Cooperative Extension and provided funding for outreach programs at land-grant universities founded by the Morrill Act of 1862. In 1890, Congress passed the Second Morrill Act of 1890 which provided for the establishment of Negro land-grant colleges in southern states. The 1890 Cooperative Extension Program at UAPB partners with the 1862 UofA Cooperative Extension Service in extending university research to Arkansans.

Field day registration begins at 7:30 a.m. Centennial activities, an antique tractor display and educational tours begin at 8:45 a.m.

Using the Phaucet computer program, designed for Best Management Practices to improve furrow irrigation, will be showcased. Other tour stops and topics include native tall prairie grasses, alternative crops, weed science studies, Arkansas Forestry Commission progeny testing and the U.S. Geological Survey long-range study on groundwater reduction.

The farm is located on West O'Cain Road, off Highway 31 in Lonoke. ■



Cooperative Extension Service holiday schedule, 2015

| Date | Holiday |
|---------------------------|---|
| Thursday, January 1, 2015 | New Year's Day |
| Friday, January 2 | Annual Leave |
| Monday, January 19 | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day |
| Monday, May 25 | Memorial Day |
| Friday, July 3 | Independence Day |
| Monday, September 7 | Labor Day |
| Thursday, November 26 | Thanksgiving Day |
| Friday, November 27 | Day after Thanksgiving (If the Governor declares) |
| Thursday, December 24 | Christmas Eve |
| Friday, December 25 | Christmas Day |
| Monday, December 28 | In lieu of Presidents Day/Daisy Gatson Bates Day |
| Tuesday, December 29 | In lieu of Veterans Day |
| Wednesday, December 30 | In lieu of employee's birthday |
| Thursday, December 31 | Annual Leave |
| Friday, January 1, 2016 | New Year's Day |

What's new in publications? Find out at:

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

Nonpoint Source Pollution Stakeholder and Project Review Meeting

The Cooperative Extension Service is hosting the annual Nonpoint Source Pollution Stakeholder and Project Review Meeting on Sept. 17-18 at the Little Rock State Office. Registration is ongoing at www.arkansaswater.org.

The first day of the program is when policy discussions take place for the state's Nonpoint Source Management Plan. The plan is updated every five years and provides the public with information about the state's 10 priority watersheds that are impaired from nonpoint source pollution. The plan also discusses best management practices and goals for each of the priority watersheds.

On the second day, project leaders from across the state discuss their efforts at reducing nonpoint source pollution or preventing it from occurring. The program is hosted by the Cooperative Extension Service's Public Policy Center and the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission.

The two-day meeting is free, is open to county agents as well as the general public and includes lunch. ■

Division of Agriculture and Bumpers College awards

Employees are encouraged to submit nominations for Division of Agriculture and Bumpers College awards. Nomination packets are due by close of business on October 3, 2014.

| Award | Submit Packet to: |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Alumni Society Outstanding Advising Award | Carmen Alessi (calessi@uark.edu) |
| Jack G. Justus Endowment for Teaching Excellence | Carmen Alessi |
| John W. White Extension State Faculty Award | Amy Hedges (ahedges@uaex.edu) |
| John W. White Outstanding County Extension Educator Award | Amy Hedges |
| John W. White Outstanding Research Award | Karen Love (kmllove@uark.edu) |
| John W. White Outstanding Teaching Award | Carmen Alessi |
| John W. White Outstanding Team Award | Karen Love |
| Division of Agriculture Classified Support Personnel Award - Extension | Amy Hedges |
| Division of Agriculture Classified Support Personnel Award - Research | Karen Love |
| Division of Agriculture Non-Classified Support Personnel Award | Amy Hedges |

Current guidelines can be found at the following sites:

- Alumni Society Outstanding Advising Award, John W. White Awards for Outstanding Performance in Teaching, Research and Extension, and Outstanding Team, <http://www.uaex.edu/division/docs/policies/pmgm-97-1.pdf>
- Jack G. Justus Endowment for Teaching Excellence, <http://bumperscollege.uark.edu/justus.pdf>
- Division of Agriculture Non-Classified Support Personnel Award, <http://www.uaex.edu/division/docs/policies/pmgs-98-1.pdf>
- Division of Agriculture Classified Support Personnel Award, <http://www.uaex.edu/division/docs/policies/pmgs-99-2.pdf>

Award recipients will be recognized at the Division of Agriculture Awards Luncheon on Friday, January 9, 2015, at the Embassy Suites in Rogers. ■

BIGGEST LOSER FINALIST SHARES TIPS (cont. from page 1)

4-H agent in Pulaski County. Members also pledged to live healthier lives and to be healthy living ambassadors in their communities. They solidified their commitment by signing Joe's Riding It Forward bus used during his cross-country fitness campaign.

Riding It Forward is a collaboration between Joe's Wear Your Soul Project and National 4-H Council. Joe will bike 3,000 miles across the country stopping at seven major cities and many smaller towns to raise awareness for healthy living and inspire youth to be change agents in the fight against childhood obesity. Everyone is invited to match Joe's miles by committing to walk, bike or run. Visit www.4-h.org to pledge your miles. ■

Register your Extension social media!

Did you know that we are collecting all of our Extension social media accounts into one list? It's true, and we need YOUR help.

If you currently manage a social media account for Extension business (Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, etc.), please fill out this form, <http://forms.uaex.edu/IT/social-media/social-media.asp>, located on our website help page, www.uaex.edu/websitehelp.

We encourage you to fill out the form and let us know of your social media activities so we can list your social media links here on our website, <http://www.uaex.edu/social-media/default.aspx>, and also so we can know who is managing what marketing outlets for your department. We also ask that you have a backup person or second person who knows how to log into the account in case you are unable to continue posting and maintaining your department's social media presence.

Remember: Having NO social media account is better than an **unmonitored** social media account! ■

BENEFITS CORNER

See yourself healthy!

The vision plan is a fully insured group plan through Superior Vision. Claims are processed by Superior Vision.

Vision insurance helps lower out-of-pocket costs when purchasing frames, lenses or contacts, or when getting a routine eye examination. While the vision plan is open to benefit-eligible employees, it is really intended for those who wear glasses or contacts. It does not cover medical problems associated with your eyes. Since you will likely only use the benefit once a year (the plan year is the calendar year), utilize a provider in Superior Vision's network for the best benefit.

Call Superior Vision (1-800-507-3800) or visit www.superiorvision.com for plan information, to print an ID card or to locate a provider.

UALR Affiliate Membership

Extension provides (free of cost to employees) an affiliate membership with the University of Arkansas at Little Rock that includes:

- Access to the Ottenheimer Library and the Donaghey Student Center*
- 10% discount at the bookstore (excludes software, calculators or sundries)

*Note: ID card required from the Donaghey Student Center.

Is your home address updated in Banner Self Service?

Human Resources and various vendors will be mailing 2015 group benefits material to your home address in the coming months.

 **DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION**
University of Arkansas System

Save the Date

Division of Agriculture Awards Luncheon

Friday, January 9, 2015

Embassy Suites • Rogers, Arkansas

Meet the *new* employees!



Mary Barrentine
Administrative Specialist
Garland County

- **What's your background?**

I grew up in Hot Spring County, lived various places in the South and recently returned to the area.

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

I have varied experience in several areas, including the medical field, water recycling industry, employee staffing, Arkansas Farm Bureau and, previously, Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service.

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

I value my relationship with Jesus Christ and time with my family and friends.

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

I would like to become knowledgeable of all Extension has to offer the community and assist in making it readily available.

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

(1) The expertise and attitude of the Extension staff and (2) the Extension reputation for interaction with and outreach to the community

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

I enjoy spending time with my grandchildren, sewing, traveling and decorating ■



Creenna Bocksnick
4-H Camping Coordinator
Arkansas 4-H Center

- **What's your background?**

I was born and raised in Arkansas. I joined 4-H when I was 9 and was very active until I aged out. My main project was equine. I continued my 4-H involvement as a collegiate 4-H member and then

became a volunteer leader.

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

I received my B.S. and M.S. from the University of Arkansas. My master's thesis evaluated the High Adventure Horsepacking Program. I taught agriculture for the last three years.

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

I met my husband, Jesse, in 4-H.

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

I hope to get a feel for 4-H camps from a coordinator standpoint so I can start looking at adding new ones. Requests/ideas are welcome.

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

As a former 4-H'er and 4-H leader, Extension has been a part of my life for a long time. I value the need to help people and provide education at all levels.

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

Riding horses and reading are my main two, but I have many and enjoy learning new ones.



Tejaswini (TJ) Mirji
SNAP-Ed Program Technician
Family and Consumer Sciences
Little Rock State Office

- **What's your background?**

Originally from Mumbai, India, I have a bachelor's degree in mass media from Sophia College, Mumbai. I graduated with a master's in FCS - food, nutrition and dietetics from Illinois State University and recently completed my dietetic internship from University of Central Arkansas.

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

I have worked with all age groups to provide nutrition education and created nutrition education materials and newsletters. I also have experience with recipe modifications and recipe analysis.

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

I am a person who is approachable, friendly and helpful. Feel free to stop by my desk anytime!

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

I would like to learn more about the counties, FCS agents and other FCS programs. I would also like to reach about 15,000 to 20,000 children with USDA's Serving Up MyPlate curriculum through SNAP-Ed.

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

I came to Extension as a dietetic intern from UCA and learned about some of the FCS programs during my week here. I truly value how Extension works at the grassroots level to improve Arkansans' quality of life.

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

I enjoy cooking, traveling, yoga, long walks, tennis, badminton and dancing.



Phalon Montgomery
Administrative Support Supervisor
Animal Science
Little Rock State Office

- **What's your background?**

I was raised in Las Vegas, Nevada. I have been living in Arkansas for seven years, and I graduated from University of Phoenix with a degree in science of

business management.

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

I am bringing the knowledge of exceptional customer services to all whom I help, innovation skills and organization.

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

I am here to learn and be a team player.

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

I would like to learn all I can about Extension's history and goals..

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

What brought me to Extension was the history of many years of assisting people by way of education. I value the relationships that Extension employees have with each other and with those we help.

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

My hobbies are jewelry making, family and exercising. ■



Holley L. Tucker
Program Technician, EFNEP
Family and Consumer Sciences
Little Rock State Office

- **What's your background?**

I was born and raised in Little Rock. I participated in 4-H for over 10 years in the food and nutrition area.

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

I graduated from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock with a bachelor's degree in psychology. I have worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in statewide health and nutrition intervention research projects.

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

I love meeting new people and I never meet a stranger! I can't wait to connect with my Extension and EFNEP colleagues across the state.

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

I have been charged with coordinating a move to a centralized data entry/storage system for EFNEP. I hope to get that up and running within this year. I also plan to expand my knowledge of the 24 Hour Food Recall and create a training video.

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

I have grown up in Extension. I have pictures of me as a baby napping on a 4-H'er's shoulder as I tagged along with my mother! I have always loved the mission and the purpose of the Cooperative Extension Service. I was so excited to be offered this position because it has given me a chance to pursue my area of interest with an organization I respect.

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

I enjoy spending time with friends and family, reading and trying new and exciting things. ■

Grants and contracts

for Month Ending August 31, 2014

| Project Title | Award Amount | Principal Investigator | Granting Agency |
|---|--------------------|------------------------|--|
| Expanded Food Nutrition Education Program | \$1,299,556 | Serena Fuller | National Institute of Food and Agriculture |
| 2015 SNAP-ED Food and Nutrition Program | 1,700,000 | Sarah David | Arkansas Department of Human Services |
| Contract for Mississippi State University to Obtain Services | 6,000 | Becky McPeake | Mississippi State University |
| Evaluation of Different Levels of Virginiamycin for Prevention of Dermatitis in Tom Turkeys | 48,421 | Susan Watkins | PHIBRO Animal Health Corp (PAHC) |
| HT Rice/Rate and Timing Tolerance and Efficacy | 19,600 | Tom Barber | BASF Corporation |
| HT Rice/Rate and Timing Tolerance and Efficiency | 28,000 | Bob Scott | BASF Corporation |
| Evaluation of MON 63479 Preemergence in Soybeans | 12,052 | Tom Barber | Monsanto Company |
| Evaluation of MON 63479 POST on Roundup Ready Soybeans | 6,878 | Bob Scott | Monsanto Company |
| Nozzle Performance Impacts on Roundup Plus Co-Herbicides | 11,528 | Bob Scott | Monsanto Company |
| US 2014 Field Efficacy Trials | 28,000 | Gus Lorenz | Monsanto Company |
| Development of NAWF Monitor App for Enhanced Cotton Crop Management | 21,482 | Dharmendra Saraswat | Cotton Incorporated |
| TOTAL AUGUST 2014 AWARDS | \$3,181,517 | | |

Personnel changes

Please welcome the following:

Mary R. Barrentine

Administrative Specialist, Garland County, effective July 28, 2014.

Creenna Bocksnick

4-H Camping Coordinator, 4-H and Youth Development, effective August 4, 2014.

Karen Collins

Administrative Specialist, Drew County, effective August 1, 2014.

Sarah Housley

Administrative Specialist, Searcy County, effective July 28, 2014.

TJ Mirji

SNAP-Ed Program Technician, Family and Consumer Sciences, effective August 11, 2014.

Phalon Montgomery

Administrative Support Supervisor, Animal Science, effective July 24, 2014.

Robyn Ratliff

Administrative Specialist, Sharp County, effective August 11, 2014.

Holley Tucker

EFNEP Program Technician, Family and Consumer Sciences, effective August 4, 2014.

Extension says goodbye to:

David B. Carwell

County Extension Agent - Agriculture, St. Francis County, effective August 1, 2014.

Ida A. Collier

Program Associate - 4-H Afterschool, 4-H and Youth Development, effective August 8, 2014.

Krystal C. Johnson

4-H Program Assistant, Phillips County, effective August 6, 2014.

Shalanda L. Lucas

Financial Program Manager - CARS, Center for Agricultural and Rural Sustainability, effective August 8, 2014.

Casey S. Scarborough

County Extension Agent - Staff Chair, Yell County, effective August 15, 2014.

D. Michael Sullivan

County Extension Agent - Agriculture, Franklin County - Charleston, effective August 1, 2014.

Joshua J. Yates

County Extension Agent - Agriculture, Lafayette County, effective August 25, 2014.