



Keeping you connected

# extension cord

June 2022

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

**No. 6**

## New vice president for agriculture begins July 1

Deacue Fields, currently dean of the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences, will begin his new duties July 1 as vice president of agriculture for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture.

The University of Arkansas System Board of Trustees confirmed Fields as vice president for agriculture on May 25 based on a recommendation by System President Donald R. Bobbitt. Bobbitt recommended Fields to lead the system's Division of Agriculture in April following a national search.

"I want to congratulate Dean Fields on being confirmed as the new vice president of agriculture for the U of A System," said Chuck Culver, who has been serving as interim vice president since Mark Cochran retired in September 2021. "The Division of Agriculture will be in very good hands."

"I am grateful for the vote of confidence from both the Board of Trustees and Dr. Bobbitt, and I am excited about this opportunity and look forward to the challenge ahead," Fields said.

Fields was appointed Bumpers College dean in 2017. He came to Arkansas after serving as professor and chair of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology at Auburn University since

August 2013. He joined the faculty at Auburn in 2002 and was promoted to associate professor in 2007, an appointment that also included extension duties. He has also worked as an assistant professor and director of small farm outreach at Florida A&M University and as a graduate research fellow in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness at Louisiana State University.

He earned his bachelor's degree from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in 1993, his master's degree from the University of Missouri in 1995 and his doctorate from LSU in 2002, all in agricultural economics. ■



Dr. Deacue Fields, Dean of Bumpers College of Agriculture since 2017, was confirmed as the U of A's new Vice President of Agriculture by the U of A System Board of Trustees on May 25, 2022.

### THE INSIDE STORIES

Ross photo contest  
4-H room renovation  
July garden checklist

Summer intern program  
Message from the director  
Scholarship donations



## Arkansas animals, nature captured by 4-H photographers in photo contest

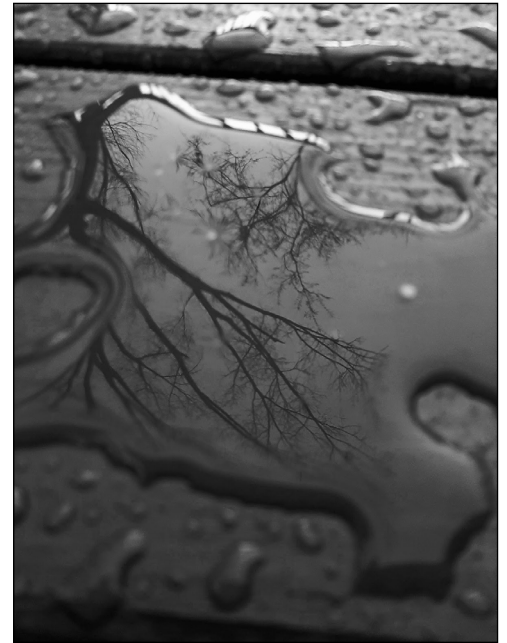
At first glance, 10-year-old Arabella Edrington's photo appears as a splash of water on a wood plank. A closer look reveals contrasting textures and tones that draw the viewer into a landscape within the water, where light and shadow showcase towering bare tree branches against the sky.

For her efforts, the Benton County 4-H member's black and white photo earned Best in Show in the 2022 Ross Photography Contest, a competition that drew more than 300 photographers. Sponsored by Arkansas 4-H, the contest asked 4-H members to submit black and white or color photos of living or non-living subjects in Arkansas. Forty counties participated this year, and of the 316 photographers who entered, 156 were new participants.

Other category winners entered close-ups of pets and farm animals, and non-living subjects included flowers, fungi and vistas of wide-open spaces. (For the purpose of the contest, "living subjects" were limited

to people and animals.)

At the state level, prizes were awarded in four categories to the first-, second- and third-place winners. The Best in Show winner was selected among the category winners. Winning photographs can be viewed in the [UADA Flickr album](#). ■



Best In Show - Arabella Edrington of Benton County.

---

## 4-H Center room renovation in honor of Martha Ray Sartor

Dr. Martha Ray Sartor is retiring on July 5 after serving 15 years at extension. She has had a very positive impact in her time at extension, and we want to recognize that by sponsoring a room renovation at the 4-H Center named in her honor as a going away gift.

Our goal is to raise \$10,000 and present this to her at her retirement recognition on June 30. We are currently about half-way there!

If you would like to give toward this effort, there is a link on our Foundation donation form where you can do it online, or you can send a check to Arkansas 4-H Foundation, 1 Four-H Way, Little Rock, AR 72223.

Here's the online link to contribute, MRS room renovation is 3rd option down:

<https://uada.formstack.com/forms/donate4h>

Thank you all very much!

John Thomas

[Arkansas 4-H Foundation](#)

Managing Director



## July Garden Checklist

- ☐ Pumpkins are planted this time of year for harvest this fall just in time for the holiday season. Keep plants well watered and free of insect pests. Spray every 7 days, or as needed, with bifenthrin.
- ☐ Start planning for a fall garden. Make plantings of squash, tomato, beans, cucumbers, southern peas, and any other vegetables that will mature before late October.
- ☐ If your tomato leaves are turning yellow with dark spots from the bottom up and defoliating, this is early blight. This disease needs to be prevented before it starts. This fungus can survive in the soil for several years. If you have early blight on your tomato plants, spray with chlorothalonil (Daconil) every 7-10 days.
- ☐ Keep pinching back your flowering herbs like basil, oregano and mint to prevent them from flowering and going to seed. You can use or store your trimmings.
- ☐ Spider mites can be a severe problem at this time of year. Most ornamentals and vegetable crops are subject to attack. Bifenthrin, Malathion or insecticidal soap are good choices to use on ornamentals and Malathion or insecticidal soap on vegetable crops.
- ☐ Summer is the time to dig and divide irises. Irises do best in full sun, but they will tolerate some shade. High fertility encourages rhizomes to rot and fewer blooms. Fertilize lightly this fall for beds that you dig and divide this summer.
- ☐ If your summer annuals look like they are tired, fertilize them with a half-pound (one cup) of 34-0-0 per 100 sq. ft. Also, keep them well watered.
- ☐ If you haven't already done so, put your leftover garden seeds in a ziplock bag and drop them in the freezer. You can keep many garden seeds this way for several years including seeds you collect from flowers or vegetables.



## Message from the director

One of the things I am most excited about since becoming the director of Extension is our new intern program. This program is fully underway. Our interns have been trained and sent to their respective counties. I am thoroughly enjoying the reports that are coming in about their exploits! I have seen them in fields, at 4-H O-Ramas and doing many other Extension activities. I owe much of my success to a company internship that I had many years ago. My hope is that our intern program will be just as beneficial to these young adults as it was to me.



Dr. Bob Scott

What a pleasure it has been to attend the District 4-H O-Ramas this summer. Everyone is so happy to be meeting together again for some friendly competition and to witness the growth of Arkansas youth as we fulfill this part of our Extension mission. There are some things that we just cannot do over Zoom. My hat is off to all the folks who put these on — both our employees and our great volunteers.

I want to highlight other folks including Brian Helms, Diana Morian and Dr. Julie Robinson. Brian, along with his campus counterparts, hosted the National Agricultural Alumni and Development Association (NAADA) meeting in Fayetteville this month. This meeting was a success and took a lot of work and effort on the part of a few individuals. I also want to recognize Diana Morian and our entire Information Technology group for hosting the National Extension Technology Community Conference in Little Rock. These types of professional meetings do not just happen; I speak from experience. Usually, someone goes above and beyond. These make us look very good at a national level amongst our peer organizations and hopefully lead to some fruitful collaborations.

Dr. Robinson wrapped up this year's iLEAD class with their final meeting in Fayetteville. What a great program that focuses on developing leadership skills in our own employees. I plan on continuing to support this program as I believe it strengthens our ties as one Division and builds future and current leaders of our organization. I know many others deserve a shout-out, but they tell me I only get so many words in these things.

We are blessed by folks in our organization that work hard to make us look good both externally and internally! ■

## July Birthdays

Jim Lee Wallace - July 1  
 Michael Hedges - July 1  
 Wanda Pemberton - July 3  
 John Gunter - July 3  
 Sheryll Gregory - July 3  
 Brent Milligan - July 3  
 Randy Chlapecka - July 3  
 Shirley Hesselschwerdt - July 4  
 Veda Thompson - July 4  
 Mike Klumpp - July 4  
 Louise Williams - July 4  
 Jane Mowry - July 5  
 Joe Moore - July 5  
 Mike Vowell - July 5  
 Debbie Still - July 6  
 Millie Collins - July 7  
 Andy Vangilder - July 7  
 Betty Archer - July 8  
 Carolyn Lewis - July 8  
 Quinton Hornsby - July 8

Jim Bemis - July 10  
 Liz Childs - July 10  
 Linda Tanner - July 10  
 Thomas Vaughns - July 12  
 Carolyn Burns - July 12  
 Sung Lim - July 13  
 Dolores McBride - July 14  
 Gloria Taylor - July 15  
 Wally Goddard - July 15  
 Candace Carrie - July 15  
 Patsy Stephens - July 16  
 Nora Terry - July 16  
 Bobby Johnson - July 16  
 James Aikman - July 17  
 Susan Pickle - July 17  
 Debbie Archer - July 17  
 Ora Lee Yates - July 19  
 Joyce Whittington - July 19  
 Marvin Ferguson - July 20  
 LeAnna Hicks - July 20

J. B. Williams - July 21  
 John Boyd - July 21  
 Helen Glass - July 22  
 Gail Kizer - July 22  
 Dianna Bowen - July 23  
 Relda Washburn - July 24  
 Virginia Cottrell - July 24  
 David Foster - July 25  
 Earl Vories - July 25  
 Tony Windham - July 26  
 Debra Schneider - July 27  
 Mark Keaton - July 27  
 Ruben Johnson - July 28  
 Wanda Shelby - July 28  
 Tommy Thompson - July 29  
 Madlyn Mason - July 30  
 Edwin Colburn - July 31  
 Hank Chaney - July 31

## Scholarship donations

The following gifts were recently received to support professional development opportunities for faculty and staff of the Cooperative Extension Service.

### CES Retiree Scholarship

Andy Vangilder  
*In memory of Mary Shaver*

James Aikman  
*In memory of Pat Hayden*  
*In memory of Billy Moore*

Honorary or memorial donations should be forwarded to the Development Office, ATTN: Brian Helms, Cooperative Extension Service, 2301 South University Ave., Little Rock, AR 72204. If joint recognition is desired, please indicate. To ensure proper notification is sent, please also include in whose honor or memory the gift is made and the mailing address of the person to receive the notification. ■

## Cooperative Extension Service 2022 summer intern program is underway

Eleven interns from universities in Arkansas and Mississippi have begun a 10-week paid summer intern program. The program gives interns the experience of working as an extension agent in multiple fields.

### 2022 Cooperative Extension Service summer interns:

**Atalanta Baker**, Arkansas Tech University  
**Rayvin Callaway**, University of Arkansas Monticello  
**Brent Clark**, Arkansas State University Beebe  
**Rae Dawson**, Mississippi State University  
**Lensey Ford**, Southern Arkansas University  
**Sarah Gaskin**, Arkansas State University Jonesboro  
**Colton Hewitt**, Southern Arkansas University  
**Belle Richardson**, Southern Arkansas University  
**Caitlyn Simon**, University of Arkansas  
**Stephanie Ward**, Arkansas State University Jonesboro  
**Anna White**, Southern Arkansas University

Stay tuned to learn more about the interns and their experiences with the program! ■