



Keeping you connected

# xtension cord

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

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## Tour keeps Arkansas Congressional aides in touch with current ag issues

In late October, Division of Agriculture administrators and researchers, along with several industry leaders, hosted nine Congressional aides for a tour of both research and academic facilities, as well as working farms and production facilities, in central and northwest Arkansas. Aides representing the offices of U.S. Reps. Bruce Westerman, Steve Womack, Rick Crawford and French Hill, as well as U.S. Sen. John Boozman, participated in the tour.

Chuck Culver, director of external relations for the Division of Agriculture and a former Congressional aide himself, has coordinated the tours for several years. Each tour focuses on specific aspects of the state's agriculture about which the state's Congressional delegation expresses interest, as well as critical issues the division staff feel are important to emphasize.

"We get house and senate agricultural aides," Culver said. "For this tour, the Arkansas Congressional delegation wanted to concentrate on row crop and nutrition programs."


The nine aides flew or drove to Little Rock on Friday, Oct. 25, and drove the next morning to Newport, where the owners and operators of the Hare Planting Co., Inc. farm, along with experts from the Division of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, spoke to the group about conservation practices, water management and duck habitats.

The group was given in-depth explanations of the challenges facing row crop farmers regarding water use and quality, by both Mike Hamilton, irrigation educator, Mike Daniels, professor of crop, soil and environmental sciences, both of the Division of Agriculture, and others.

At the Newport Extension Center, Jeremy Ross, extension soybean agronomist, and Tom Barber, extension weed scientist, spoke about issues facing soybean growers and other row crop farmers. Topics included dicamba volatility and soybean injury, the prevalence of Palmer amaranth – commonly known as pigweed – and the steep quality discounts facing growers in the marketplace.

Woodruff County Cooperative Extension Service Staff Chair Leigh Ann Bullington spoke on nutrition issues in her county, and Debra Head, associate department head for Family and Consumer Sciences spoke about efforts to implement nutrition programs, as well as opioid abuse prevention programs.

At Mulberry, visiting aides toured facilities at American Soybean and Edamame, Inc., meeting with Ryan Castleberry, director of manufacturing, and Nathan McKinney, assistant director for the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station. Saturday, the congressional aides joined presentations at the Arkansas Research and Extension Center in Fayetteville on turf grass research, the Rice Processing Research Program, the Arkansas Food Innovation Center and the Arkansas Procurement Assistance Center.

Sunday, tour members learned about current agricultural legal issues facing Arkansans from Harrison Pittman, director of the National Agricultural Law Center, before departing. 



Congressional aides from the offices of several members of the Arkansas Congressional delegation tour the Hare Family Farm and the Newport Extension Center on Friday, Oct. 26.

### THE INSIDE STORIES

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The place to go for information pertinent to UACES retirees.

#### Regional retiree events overview

Highlights of the seven regional meetings held around the state.

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## Retiree website unveiled at Regional Retiree Events

A website dedicated for Cooperative Extension retirees was unveiled during the Fall Retiree Events held in October. The website can be found at [www.uaex.edu/retirees](http://www.uaex.edu/retirees). The site is designed to be a central location for information pertinent to UACES retirees.

Brian Helms, director of stakeholder relations for Cooperative Extension, noted there currently are four major areas of the webpage. First, retirees can sign up to receive an electronic version of the *Extension Cord* as well as view past issues of the *Extension Cord*. Second, there are links to information about UACES retiree benefits. Contact information for insurance companies, etc., is next in line to be added.

Third, there is a link to the UACES Flickr site where you can find photos from retiree events through the years. Finally, if a retiree wishes to request emeritus status, there will be a link to an online form to request emeritus status and a list of all retirees who have received emeritus status.

At the bottom of the page is a link to the new CES online giving website where donations to the CES Retiree Scholarship Endowment and other endowment funds can be made.

This website is a work in progress. If you have suggestions for information that needs to be added, feel free to contact Brian Helms at [bhelms@uaex.edu](mailto:bhelms@uaex.edu) or 501-671-2156 to share your suggestions.

### Extension Retirees

Welcome to the UA Extension Retiree webpage. This page is devoted to providing resources for for all UA Cooperative Extension Retirees. You can sign-up for the Extension Cord, the CES retiree newsletter and find other important information for UACES Retirees.

**Extension Cord**  
Sign-up for the Extension Cord newsletter and browse past issues.

- Sign-up for the Extension Cord
- View past Extension Cord Issues

**Retiree Benefits**  
Learn about the benefits available to Extension retirees.

- UACES Retiree Benefits

**Retiree Event Photos**  
Our retirees are some of our most welcome guests. Take a look at our event photos.

- UACES Retiree Photos

**Emeritus Status**  
Non-classified employees who meet retirement eligibility requirements may request emeritus status.

Request emeritus status:  
List of retirees with emeritus status

## 2018 Regional Retiree Events overview

More than 200 retirees and Extension staff gathered at seven regional retiree events around the state to catch up on the latest news, participate in a short program and have lunch. These events allow retirees who may not be able to attend the Spring Retiree Luncheon an opportunity to interact with fellow retirees and to receive an update from Extension Administration.

Catching up with former co-workers was definitely priority number one. There were first-time attendees at each of the events. We hope that more of you will join us in 2019.

The Public Policy Center gave a timely presentation on the ballot issues



Brad Runsick, Extension Retiree Scholarship recipient (Mountain View).

voters saw on the ballot at the Nov. 4 election. State 4-H Officers Bethany B., Brent C., Sara G. and Davis S. joined the groups at Van Buren, Little Rock, Fayetteville and Jonesboro, respectively, to share the impact 4-H has had on their lives and their experience as state 4-H officers. Extension Retiree Scholarship recipients Brad Runsick, Fulton County, and Carla Due, Miller County, expressed their gratitude at the Mountain View and Hope events, respectively, for the scholarships they received.



Stacey McCullough, Assistant Director - Community and Economic Development, with Carolyn Hester (Jonesboro).



David Walker, Berni Kurz and Louise Walker (Fayetteville).



Left to right: Mitch Crow, Clara Garrett, Rick Thompson, Becky Mulholland and Andy Vangilder (Jonesboro).

We hope that you enjoy a few photos from the fall events. Maybe you will find yourself in one of them. (See more photos on page 4.)

## Scholarship donations

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

### ■ Extension Service Retiree Scholarship Fund

*In memory of Cora Dee Peachey*

James Peachey

*In memory of Charles Whitaker*

Darlene Z. Millard

The following individuals made contributions to the Extension Service Retiree Scholarship:

Diane Jones

Richard Poling

Andy Vangilder

### ■ Mildred and Elizabeth Childs CES Professional Development Fund

*In memory of Mildred Childs*

Elizabeth Childs

Honorary or memorial donations may be forwarded to Development Office, ATTN: Brian Helms, Cooperative Extension Service, 2301 South University Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72204. To ensure that proper notification is sent, please also include in whose honor or memory the gift is made and the mail address of the person to receive the notification. (e)

## Charles Whitaker dies

Charles Franklin Whitaker, 83, of Jacksonville died Oct. 23, 2018, at Conway Health Care in Conway.

Whitaker served in the U.S. Air Force for 23 years, attaining the rank of chief master sergeant. After his retirement from the Air Force, he was director of the physical plant at the Little Rock State Office for 33 years before retiring in 2007.

Survivors include his wife of 64 years, Mary Lee Whitaker; children Charles F. Whitaker, Jr., of Dover, Trisha A. Whitaker of Seattle, Washington, and Elizabeth R. Whitaker, of Little Rock; nine grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

A funeral mass was celebrated on Oct. 30, 2018, at St. Jude Catholic Church in Jacksonville, with interment at Chapel Hill Memorial Park, Jacksonville. (e)

## To our Extension retirees



November 14 in Little Rock and it has been snowing, 29 degrees, feels like 25. I guess I don't need to say more about the weather, already wishing for spring and summer – I did not last long.

As we mentioned in the retiree meetings recently, all of our folks are busy building on the foundation you created, helping the Division and Extension reach ever higher levels of service and excellence. For example, our entomologists and county agents hosted a district-wide fall armyworm workshop, well attended by cattlemen in southwest Arkansas. This pest is getting harder to deal with, but our staff is taking the fight to them, and they made videos! You can watch at <https://www.youtube.com/user/ARextension/search?query=armyworm>. The videos extend the reach, and we appreciate modern technology.

I recently visited a good while with Lee Hunter, former county Extension agent and staff chair in Lawrence County (and others). Lee and Rita live in north Arkansas near his home place, and they spend a lot of time doing the important part of life, family stuff.

I also caught up with Bernie Daniels and Jeannie in Fayetteville the other day, and they say hi to all their friends in Extension and the Division. As you recall, Bernie served as professor in dairy science for many years, followed by a stint in Division administration as associate director of the Experiment Station. He, Kenneth Harrison and Art Spooner were my first research bosses after I received my Bachelor's in the mid-70s. It took three of them to keep me on track. While life has taken a challenging turn, Dr. Daniels remains one of the most positive and inspiring people I have ever known.

Speaking of positive people, Judy and Tom Riley continue to amaze, staying busy on their farm near El Paso, Arkansas – working with Oklahoma State to re-establish the Extension Service there, training folks on advocacy and volunteering on boards and good causes. I cannot keep up.

I hope all of you stay warm, keep positive, do the important stuff, and find your cell phone. Recently, I hunted a good while for my cell phone while using it as a flashlight in my right hand. I hope this does not happen to you.

Cheers, and have a great November!

– Rick Cartwright (e)



4-H, FFA sisters supply the star for Governor's Arkansas Turkey Week proclamation



Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson reads the Arkansas Turkey Week Proclamation on the steps of the Arkansas State Capitol on Nov. 19. The turkey in attendance was raised by sisters Kristin Lehman, a member of Future Farmers of America, and Victoria Lehman, a member of Arkansas 4-H.

Extension Cord Editorial Board

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Yes, I will subscribe to the *Extension Cord*.

|                       | Cost    | Amount Enclosed |
|-----------------------|---------|-----------------|
| <i>Extension Cord</i> | \$18.00 | <div></div>     |

Please make check payable to **UA CES** and mail to Martha Thorpe, Communications Department, 2301 South University Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72204-4940.

**NOTE:** Please do not combine payment for an Extension Cord subscription and a scholarship donation in one check. Payment for the **Extension Cord** should be made to **UA CES**. Payment for **scholarship donations** should be made to the **UA FOUNDATION**. If you include payment for an Extension Cord subscription in a check made payable to the UA Foundation, the entire amount will go to the UA Foundation.

Yes, I want to support the fundraising initiative in support of the Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship.

Enclosed is my gift of \$. My gift is in honor/in memory of .

Name/Address for notification of honorary and memorial gifts:

Please make check payable to the **UA Foundation** and mail to Brian Helms, Development Office, 2301 South University Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72204-4940.

More photos from Fall Retiree Meetings



Karla Van Brunt, Merle Gross and Betty Swope (Fayetteville).



Jim Bowling receives door prize from a 4-H officer as Ruben Johnson looks on (Little Rock).



Left: Shirlye Hopkins, Alberta James, Terrie Treadway and Carla Due (Hope).

Below: Retirees at the Jonesboro meeting.



December Birthdays

- Becky Mulhollen, Dec. 1

Dena Malone, Dec. 2

George Morris, Dec. 2

Linda C. Thompson, Dec. 6

Barbara Bennett King, Dec. 8

Toy Helen Ginn Siler, Dec. 8

Richard DeSpain, Dec. 9

Albert Squires, Dec. 9

Susan Watkins, Dec. 9

Margaret Alexander, Dec. 10

Joyce Pugh Bowlin, Dec. 10

Darlene Horne, Dec. 10

Shirley Lewis, Dec. 11

Ann Behnke, Dec. 12

Claude Clement, Jr., Dec. 12

Millie Ann Henson, Dec. 13

Donna Graham, Dec. 14

Jerry Markham, Dec. 14

Charles Hodges, Dec. 15

Dennis Holzhauser, Dec. 16

Brenda Yusko, Dec. 18
- Mary Askew, Dec. 19

Suzanne Smith Hirrel, Dec. 21

Maureen Rose, Dec. 21

Gayla Brewer Taylor, Dec. 22

Dennis Gardisser, Dec. 24

Merle Gross, Dec. 24

Audrey Hairston, Dec. 24

Cheryl Maxwell, Dec. 24

Avonne Petty, Dec. 24

Mitch Crow, Dec. 26

Margaret Goodson, Dec. 26

Elizabeth McKay, Dec. 26

Judy Bloesch, Dec. 27

Sandra Smith, Dec. 27

Denise Roulhac, Dec. 28

Jeff Welch, Dec. 28

Saundria Ash, Dec. 29

Betty Jean Brannan, Dec. 29

Thomas Leslie, Dec. 29

Judy Robison, Dec. 29

Gordon Barnes, Dec. 31

