

BLUE LETTER

The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Monthly Letter

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

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From the Director

U of A Division of Agriculture Hosts Southern Risk Management Education Center

Helping producers make the best decisions to achieve their business and family goals is the mission of the Southern Risk Management Education Center (SRMEC), operated by the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture.

The center will be directed by Dr. Ronald L. Rainey and Dr. Harold L. Goodwin, associate professor and professor of the department of agricultural economics and agribusiness. It is one of four regional centers nationwide that collaborate to educate growers. The center will be focused on the five areas of risk: production, marketing, financial, legal and human resources risks.

SRMEC will coordinate risk management education programs for 13 states from North Carolina to Texas, as well as Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Center activities will be guided by a highly diverse advisory committee.

Hosting the center will mean new advantages for Arkansans too, providing:

- Access to new or enhanced risk management education programs.
- Access to risk management expertise.
- In-state experts available for training.
- New or enhanced online risk management resources.

A collaboration between extension faculty in Little Rock and Fayetteville, the center is funded by an annual \$1.2 million from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, part of USDA. The funds support operations, program development and programming. Information about the grants program is available on the center web site at <http://srmec.uark.edu>. There also is funding for the center to provide technical assistance to producers adversely affected by import competition.

The other centers are The Northeast Center for Risk Management Education, Delaware Extension; Western Center for Risk Management Education, Washington State Extension; and The North Central Risk Management Education Center, University of Nebraska - Lincoln Extension. There is a national center for risk management that houses the digital library and coordinates the Trade Adjustment Assistance activities. The Digital Center for Risk Management Education is operated by the University of Minnesota Extension Ag Risk Education Library.

Congratulations to the U of A Division of Agriculture staff for winning this important contract.

— Tony Windham

National 4-H Agents Association Honors Poling with Distinguished Service Award

Rich Poling, associate professor for Extension program development for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, has been honored with the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents (NAE4-HA).

Poling received the award during the association's 63rd annual conference Oct. 25-29.

Membership in NAE4-HA has been very rewarding for Poling, in more ways than one.

"Some of the most enjoyable and rewarding times I've had in my extension career have been my involvement with the 4-H program, both as a county agent and as a state specialist," Poling said. "I even met my wife at a conference when we were both working as county 4-H agents in different states!"

The Distinguished Service Award is presented to a member of NAE4-HA based on work with professional associations, extension committees, professional improvement, personal accomplishments, personal interests and community contributions.

Poling has 33 years in extension work, including time as a county extension agent in Ohio from 1976-87 and as a state specialist in program

Spotlight:

From the Director

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Tony Windham
Interim Associate
Vice President
for Agriculture-Extension

U of A

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

Monthly Gift Total Summary – September 2009

The following chart summarizes gifts and noncash gifts deposited in September 2009 to advance the programs of the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service. – Merritt Royal

Cumulative Giving				
University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service				
	September 1 – 30, 2009		Fiscal Year 2010 July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010	
	Monthly Gift Count	Monthly Gift Total	Fiscal Year-to-Date Gift Count	Fiscal Year-to-Date Cumulative Giving
CES Administration	3	\$ 125.00	9	\$ 257.00
Delta District	4	440.07	16	1,311.65
Ouachita District	7	4,330.32	10	8,218.42
Ozark District	3	908.67	4	929.67
4-H Youth Development	0	0.00	2	5,596.35
Agriculture and Natural Resources	24	271,464.00	50	445,239.00
Community and Economic Development	13	4,123.88	35	16,648.88
Family and Consumer Sciences	0	0.00	0	0.00
Arkansas 4-H Foundation, Inc.	20	14,232.50	83	59,406.50
TOTALS	74	\$ 295,624.44	209	\$ 537,607.47

evaluation and program development at Clemson University, the University of Tennessee and the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture.

He is a member and state officer of the Arkansas Association of Extension 4-H Agents.

– Mary Hightower

Understanding Policies on Computer, Network Use

Please take a few minutes to review CESP 4-19, Computer and Network Use, and CESP 4-25, Management of E-mail. If you are a supervisor, please schedule a review of the contents of these policies with your staff and note, in particular, the following:

- Incidental and occasional personal use of computers and network resources, excluding use for personal commercial gain or profit, is permitted by Cooperative Extension. However, company electronic resources exist for business purposes, and all content therein belongs to the organization and is accessible at any time by the organization. In the event of termination, an employee's access to computer, network and e-mail accounts and any personal material contained within these accounts is immediately terminated.
- Violation of these policies is treated seriously and addressed through disciplinary action up to and including termination.
- If you are storing addresses, photographs and other items of a personal nature on your computer or e-mail at work, please transfer them to a non-work location and maintain them there for your personal use.

Goddard Earns APEN Educator of the Year Award

Dr. Wally Goddard, professor - family life, has been honored as the Arkansas Parent Educator of the Year by the Arkansas Parenting Education Network. The award was presented Nov. 16 at the 11th annual APEN conference.

The APEN Parent Educator of the Year Award is presented to an outstanding practitioner of family support or parental

engagement through the delivery of parent education. The recipient of this award demonstrates exceptional commitment to serving families and children through work as well as through personal action.

The winner is selected by voting members of the Arkansas Parenting Education Network.

– James Marshall

Espinoza an Invited Speaker at International Conference

Dr. Leo Espinoza, Extension soil scientist, was an invited speaker at the International Conference on the Use of Gypsum in Agriculture, organized by the Soil Science Society of America.

The conference took place in Pittsburgh, Nov. 1-5.

Espinoza has also been invited to speak about Water and Fertilizer Use Efficiency in Cotton at a National Fertilizer Dealers Workshop in California in January.

He will also be speaking at an International Fertilizer Traders meeting to be held in Costa Rica, organized by British Sulfur. The meeting is set for Jan. 19-22. Espinoza is the only invited academic and will be talking about current efforts to increase nitrogen use efficiency in agronomic crops.

Arkansas Hort Student Wins Regional Competition

Celina Gomez, master's degree student in the University of Arkansas Horticulture Department, won first place in the student competition at the Southern Region International Plant Producers Society meeting in Biloxi, Miss., on Oct. 26.

The title of her paper was "Rooting of three ornamental plants in eight propagation substrates."

Her paper will be published in the IPPS Proceedings. Eight

students submitted papers and two, including Gomez, were then selected to give an oral presentation at the conference.

To recognize her efforts, the society gave her a \$500 travel grant and awarded her \$1,000 for her first prize selection. Her major professor is Dr. James Robbins.

E-Mail Changes Coming in 2010

We will be making the transition from GroupWise to an outsourced e-mail service called Zimbra in the coming year.

This project has been postponed from last summer, but we will be proceeding after the holidays.

In preparation for this change, we would like to encourage GroupWise users to take advantage of the quiet period during the holidays to begin cleaning up their mailboxes.

If you need some assistance or advice with the task, please contact the IT Call Center at 671-2255 or 1-866-779-3375.

Be on the lookout for more news on the e-mail transition at the first of the year.

— Ed Erwin

Mark Your Calendars!

The **Annual Division of Agriculture Awards Luncheon** will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Jan. 8, 2010, at the Little Rock Embassy Suites.

Personnel Changes

Please help me welcome the following:

Karen Rosendale Clark, Administrative Specialist, Family and Consumer Sciences, effective November 16, 2009.

Ida A. Collier, Program Associate - 4-H Afterschool, 4-H Youth Development, effective November 2, 2009.

Melody Ann Curtis, Administrative Specialist, Family and Consumer Sciences, effective November 2, 2009.

Annie Elizabeth Lester, Program Assistant - Youth, Sharp County, effective October 16, 2009.

Sara Beth Waller, County Extension Agent - 4-H, Garland County, effective November 2, 2009.

Extension says goodbye to:

Lynn Michell Baxter, Bio and Agricultural Engineering Program Tech, Bio and Agricultural Engineering, effective October 30, 2009.

John Wesley Boyd, Extension Weed Scientist, Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences, effective November 2, 2009.

Lisa S. Collins, Family Program Assistant, Jefferson County, effective October 19, 2009.

Jenny K. Stacks, County Extension Agent - Agriculture, Mississippi County, effective October 30, 2009.

Grants and Contracts

Project Title	Award Amount	Principal Investigator	Granting Agency
PTA for Business Firms	\$ 613,044.00	Sue Coates	Department of Defense
Southern Region Plant Diagnostic Network	39,000.00	Dr. Richard Cartwright	University of Florida
Ongoing Planning Support, Data Management and Continuing Review of the Arkansas Non-Point Source Adaptive Management Plan and Completion of the 2012-2015 Adaptive Management Plan	486,775.00	Tom Riley	Arkansas Natural Resources Commission
Arkansas Association of Conservation District Study	10,000.00	Dr. Wayne Miller	Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts
Beef Quality Assurance	950.00	Dr. Tom Troxel	Arkansas Beef Council
TOTAL =	\$1,149,769.00		