

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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March 2010

From the Director

Group Begins Work on Five-Year Strategic Plan for Division

Spotlight:

From the Director

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The 2005-2010 University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Strategic Plan is ending this year.

As a result, a Strategic Plan Work Group was formed in November 2009, and met Jan. 20 and Feb. 17, to begin defining the scope and process that will be used in developing the 2011-2015 Strategic Plan.

Anne Sortor chairs the work group, and Karen Ballard and Rich Poling serve as the coordinators.

During its two meetings, the work group chose to focus on five overarching areas and named a chair to each of the five writing teams, which will address the five areas:

- Sustainable Food and Fiber Production – Jennie Popp
- Environment, Bio-Energy and Climate – Tom Riley
- Economic and Community Development – Mark Peterson
- Families and Youth – James Marshall
- Food Security (Including Safety, Quality and Nutrition) – Steve Ricke

The group decided to gather stakeholder input through two online surveys: one for external stakeholders across the state and one for Division employees. In addition, a listening session for state-level stakeholders will be held at the Little Rock State Office.

Additional listening sessions will be held with

identified underserved and underrepresented stakeholder audiences.

We hope each of you will take time in March to complete the survey for Division employees and assist in the strategic planning process.

– Tony Windham

Jefferson County Home and Garden Show: 'Grow It Green in 2010'

The Jefferson County Cooperative Extension Service, Master Gardeners of Jefferson County and the Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Clean and Beautiful Commission held the 22nd annual Home and Garden Seminar and Show on Feb. 13.

Hundreds of participants came to enjoy both the seminars and the exhibits, many of which were nonprofit or educational in nature. The more than 80 vendors sold a wide range of wares including plants, jewelry and gardening equipment.

The sessions included Don Plunkett on "Fire Ant Control in Two Easy Steps," Janet Carson on "How Green Is Your Garden," Debbie Tripp on "10 Great Herbs," Victoria Norton on "The Art of Transforming Your Space" and Kandy Jones on the subject of "The Art of Recycling."

The garden show was held at the Pine Bluff Convention Center.



CREAM OF THE CROP – A youngster tries her hands at milking at Jefferson County's Home and Garden Seminar and Show. (Photo by Don Plunkett)

Tony Windham
Associate Vice President
for Agriculture-Extension

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DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

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Monthly Gift Total Summary – October 2009

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

Cumulative Giving University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service

	October 1-31, 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
Delta District	2	\$1,580.00	18	\$2,891.65
Ouachita District	2	\$80.40	12	\$8,298.82
Ozark District	1	\$79.33	5	\$1,009.00
Agriculture and Natural Resources	24	\$96,170.00	74	\$541,409.00
Community and Economic Development	6	\$700.00	41	\$17,348.88
Arkansas 4-H Foundation, Inc.	35	\$46,199.59	118	\$105,606.09
TOTALS	70	\$144,809.32	268	\$676,563.44

– Merritt Royal

A few youngsters enjoyed the Arkansas Farm Bureau booth where a harvest simulator was set up. Youth could pretend to be combining rice, corn and picking cotton. They could pretend to be in the hay cutting business or harvesting timber. In addition, kids enjoyed milking the large “Holstein cow.” Some of the little ones had to work so hard to milk that they had to wring their hands and try to get some feeling back into them.

We want to thank everyone who helped advertise this special seminar and show and those who attended.

–Don Plunkett

Workshops for Arkansas Companies

Small business owners and managers are invited to take part in a series of workshops to help them prepare for the Third Annual Arkansas Procurement Opportunities Conference at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock on April 27.

The workshops are hands-on, interactive sessions in which attendees learn how to select industry codes, commodity codes and other information, and how to set up or update vendor registrations in both federal and state systems.

One of the in-class exercises involves practicing 10-minute interviews, so the business people will be able to make the best use of up to 20 appointments on the day of the conference.

Workshop attendees will also learn how to compose a line card, which is a one-page quick-reference document that informs customers about the company’s capabilities. Each seller will provide one to the buyers they meet at the conference.

The instructor is Sue Coates, director of the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Procurement Assistance Center. She developed this workshop format to prepare the small businesses for last year’s conference, and it was

so well received she is repeating it through March and into April at seven locations around the state. Many of these sessions are hosted by two-year colleges through their Workforce Training Consortium.

“Careful preparation for this conference can result in getting an order from a major buyer,” says Coates. “Knowing in advance what to expect makes it easier to get your message across quickly.”

Attendance at the workshops and the conference is free and open to the public, but registration is required in order to provide training materials. Information about both is available at <http://arkansasprocurement.org>, by calling the Center at 501-337-5355 or by e-mail at apac@uaex.edu.

Publications Ordering Now Has Single Sign-On in SPOT

Thanks to IT, we now have single sign-on for publications through SPOT. Once you sign

in to SPOT, you need to click on the Publications icon located in the upper right corner to enter the publications ordering system.

If you are using the web-based pubs.uaex.edu entry, you will see the same login screen. When you log in, you, as an employee, will be taken to the SPOT front page where you will click on the Publications icon located in the upper right corner just as you would if you had signed on to SPOT initially.

Please note that the approval process for publications will remain the same for now.

IT is now focused on providing employees single sign-on to the In-Service Training site and to AIMS. The target date for completing single sign-on for In-Service Training is two weeks. The single sign-on for AIMS is scheduled for launch after the current reporting period is behind us, so as to cause no interference with data entry.

– Bob Reynolds

Honorary and Memorial Gifts

The following honorary and memorial gifts were recently received in support of programs and funds within the Cooperative Extension Service. This list covers gifts deposited Oct. 1, 2009 – Jan. 31, 2010.

- **CES Retiree Scholarship Fund**

In memory of Catherine Maples

Fann Woodward

- **Lynn R. Russell Endowed Award for Professional Excellence**

In memory of Lynn Russell Bill Russell

- **Mildred and Liz Childs CES Professional Development Fund**

In memory of Mildred Childs

Elizabeth Childs

- **Pulaski County Horticulture Fund**
In honor of Beth Phelps
Pulaski County Master Gardener Association

Honorary or memorial donations may be forwarded to the Development Office, Cooperative Extension Service, P.O. Box 391, Little Rock, AR 72203. To ensure that 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.

– Merritt Royal

Personnel Changes

Please help me welcome the following:

Robin Dale Bridges, County Extension Agent - Staff Chair, Union County, effective Feb. 16, 2010

Tammy Jo Keeler, Program Assistant, St. Francis County, effective Feb. 16, 2010

Nathan P. Kemper, TAA Coordinator, Southern Regional Risk Management Education, effective Feb. 1, 2010

Shalanda Lane Lucas, Grant Analyst, Southern Regional Risk Management Education, effective Feb. 8, 2010

Mary A. Tallent, Administrative Specialist, Prairie County - Des Arc, effective Feb. 1, 2010

Kristin Brooke Whittmore, County Extension Agent - Agriculture, Montgomery County, effective Feb. 8, 2010

Lisa M. Wynne, Program Assistant - EFNEP, St. Francis County, effective Feb. 16, 2010

Extension says goodbye to:

Melinda Ann Albanese, Administrative Specialist, Franklin County - Charleston, effective Jan. 22, 2010

Robyn Ann Bourton, County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences, Benton County, effective Feb. 12, 2010

Sonia Rebecca Munoz, County Extension Agent - 4-H - Agriculture, Pope County, effective Jan. 27, 2010

Anthony L. Richards, County Extension Agent - Agriculture, Prairie County - Des Arc, effective Feb. 19, 2010

Julie Davis Speight, County Extension Agent - Staff Chair, Ouachita District, effective Feb. 15, 2010

Grants and Contracts

Project Title	Award Amount	Principal Investigator	Granting Agency
Implement Plan of Work for the Southern Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Professional Development Program	\$10,000.00	Dr. Elena Garcia	University of Georgia
4-H Afterschool Targeted Trainings	\$42,060.00	Dr. James Marshall	Arkansas State University
Plant and Animal Systems - Field Assessments of Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Plans	\$30,600.00	Dr. Deborah Tootle	Mississippi State University
4-H/Navy Youth Development Project	\$30,000.00	Maureen Rose	Kansas State University
Advanced Lighting Technologies for Poultry Houses	\$62,880.00	Dr. Susan Watkins	Arkansas Energy Office
Achieving Profitable Cotton Production: Irrigation Initiation and Termination	\$23,780.00	Dr. Tom Barber	Cotton Incorporated
Determining the Optimum Time to Defoliate Cotton Cultivars	\$14,600.00	Dr. Tom Barber	Cotton Incorporated
Achieving Profitable Cotton Production: Defining Optimal Seeding Rates Over Varying Soil Textures	\$28,500.00	Dr. Tony Windham	Cotton Incorporated
Achieving Profitable Cotton Production: Plant Bug Management	\$5,512.67	Dr. Gus Lorenz	Cotton Incorporated
Achieving Profitable Cotton Production: Plant Bug Management	\$5,512.67	Dr. Scott Akin	Cotton Incorporated
Achieving Profitable Cotton Production: Plant Bug Management	\$5,512.66	Dr. Glenn Studebaker	Cotton Incorporated
Nitrogen Requirements of Contemporary Cotton Cultivars	\$7,000.00	Dr. Tom Barber	University of Tennessee
Nitrogen Requirements of Contemporary Cotton Cultivars	\$7,500.00	Dr. Tom Barber	Cotton Incorporated
Cotton Research Verification/Applied Research	\$58,000.00	Dr. Tom Barber	Cotton Incorporated
Current Economic Status of Conservation and No-Till Cotton Production in the Southeastern United States Working Group, Arkansas	\$4,000.00	Dr. Kelly Bryant	Cotton Incorporated
Breakthrough Solutions Pilot Program for Harrison C.O.R.E.	\$4,000.00	Dr. Mark Peterson	Harrison C.O.R.E.
TOTAL	\$339,458.00		