

BLUE LETTER

The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Monthly Letter

No. 3716 • December 2011



Season's Greetings

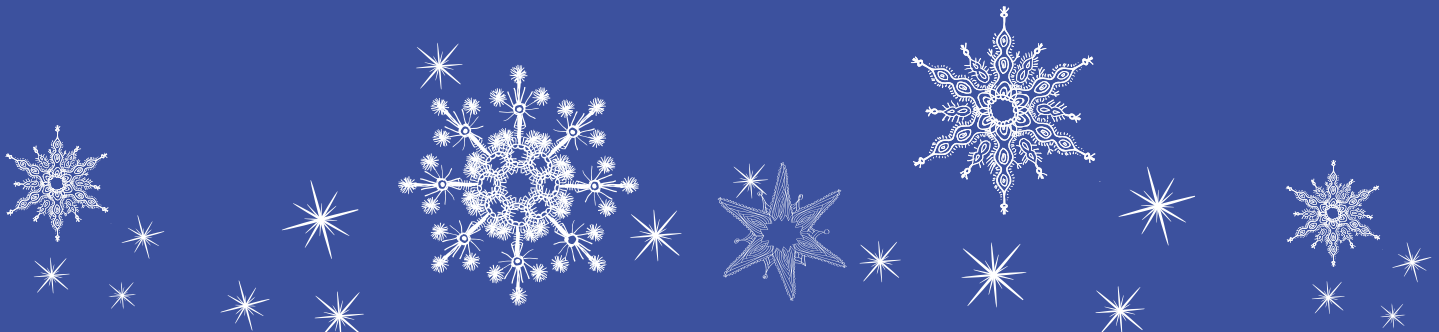
During the Holiday Season more than ever,
our thoughts turn gratefully to those who
have made our progress possible.
And in this spirit we sincerely say,

*Best Wishes
for the Holiday Season
and a Happy New Year!*

Tony Windham

*Anne Sortor
Rick Cartwright
Tom Riley
Kyleen Whitehead*

*Alberta James
Sharon Reynolds
Martha Sartor*



Contents:

- Cooperative Extension Service Recognized for Volunteer Contributions
- CES Represents Arkansas at the Sunbelt Ag Expo
- AEHC Has Record Attendance at District Rallies
- Save the Date!
- Inclement Weather Policy Revised
- Greene County 4-H'er Doubles Grand Champion Win
- Benefits Corner
- Meet the New Employees
- Information Technology Update: *Password Synchronization*
- Grants and Contracts
- Personnel Changes



Cooperative Extension Service recognized for volunteer contributions

With nearly 200,000 hours of volunteer service in 2010, the UACES has been recognized for the contributions of its employees and volunteers who are Master Gardeners, 4-H parents and mentors and Extension Homemakers Club members.

Extension's 2,991 volunteers work with youth, set up food pantries, guide school-based garden programs and create lap throws for cancer patients at Arkansas Children's Hospital.

"The work of our volunteers is vital to our mission and to the communities we serve," said Dr. Tony Windham, associate vice president for agriculture-extension. "There's no limit to the value of the many positive ways their work touches the lives of our neighbors in Arkansas."

Windham accepted the award from Gov. Mike Beebe during a ceremony at the Governor's Mansion on Sept. 7. The recognition is from the Spirit of 110 Council, the volunteer council for state agencies. The Spirit of 110 was created in 1989 with representatives from 110 Arkansas agencies, boards and commissions.

The ceremony coincided with the release of the annual report, "The Economic Impact of Arkansas Volunteers." The report is issued by the Division of Community Service and Nonprofit Support (DCSNS), part of the state's Division of Volunteerism.

"Volunteers in this state do a tremendous amount of work, and this report gives us an opportunity to quantify and recognize their efforts," said Sherry Middleton, director of the DCSNS. "Arkansas would not be the same without them." ■

CES represents Arkansas at the Sunbelt Ag Expo

The Sunbelt Ag Expo, held Oct. 18-20 in Moultrie, Ga., featured exhibits meant to inform the public of the latest practices, products and services in the world of agriculture.



Members from UACES attended the expo, representing several agricultural entities throughout Arkansas.

Rick Cartwright, associate director for agriculture and natural resources and a member of the Spotlight Planning Committee for Arkansas, was at the expo to represent the UofA Division of Agriculture and to engage visitors at Arkansas' display.

Committee members hoped to "increase visibility for Arkansas and the positive things about our state, including its dynamic and diverse agricultural production," said Cartwright.

Tony Windham, associate vice president for agriculture-extension, spoke at the expo's opening luncheon. Windham thanked the sponsors "for educating the general public in agriculture and for recognizing our farmers."

"While most of the visitors were from rural areas of the Southwest, their lack of knowledge about agriculture, especially the younger visitors, was daunting," said Cartwright.

Cartwright was responsible for the row crop booth, which featured information on the major field crops Arkansas has to offer including rice, soybeans, corn, grain sorghum, wheat and cotton. ■

AEHC has record attendance at district rallies

The three districts of the Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council held district rallies in October. The total attendance was 644, breaking previous records.

Detailed plans to celebrate EHC's 100-year anniversary will be provided at the June 2012 state meeting. Each county is developing an oral history of its club for the centennial celebration.

All districts reported plans for membership expansion, and many districts reported having already organized new clubs. Many new county FCS agents were present.

Dr. Tony Windham, associate vice president for agriculture-extension, was the speaker at the Delta and Ouachita rallies. David Jacobs, district director of Ouachita District EHC, presented Dr. Windham with a homemade apple pie baked by Phyllis Pipkin, AEHC president. ■



Dr. Windham is presented with an apple pie by Ouachita District Director David Jacobs. ■

Save the Date!

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

Division Awards Luncheon

**January 6, 2012
11:30 a.m.
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Little Rock, AR**



Inclement weather policy revised

C.E.S.P. 4-16: Inclement Weather and Office Closing has been revised to outline procedures to be followed in the event that business operations are interrupted by inclement weather. The policy can be found at: <http://intranet.uaex.edu/policy/SystemManagement/OfficeManagement/weather.asp>. ■

Greene County 4-H'er doubles grand champion win

The Grand Champion Market Hog at the Arkansas State Fair went on to be named the Grand Champion Market Hog at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky.

Congratulations to Katie Davis of Greene County 4-H on this outstanding achievement. Her proud father is Allen Davis, staff chair in Greene County. ■

– Arkansas State Fair November E-Newsletter

BENEFITS CORNER

Catastrophic Leave Bank annual *open enrollment* runs through December 31.

If the donation of leave would reduce your combined annual and sick leave balance to less than 80 hours, you are not allowed to donate. During open enrollment, employees must make donations in one-hour increments. You may also donate leave at any time for any amount upon resignation or retirement. If you wish to donate, please complete form EBEN-103.

Plan Contribution Annual Limits for 2012 have increased from \$16,500 to \$17,000. The "Catch-Up" Contribution Limit remains the same at \$5,500. Remember, you may change your deduction percentages and/or amounts at any time.

Meet the *new* employees

Allen Bates

County Extension Agent - Horticulture
Garland County



• **What's your background?**

I was born in Hot Springs, and when I was one, we moved to the Mt. Valley area 10 miles north of Hot Springs. I have lived there the past 56 years, except when I was in college at Arkansas State. When I graduated from ASU, I taught agriculture education at Lake Hamilton School for four years. I left teaching to go into the family forestry business and have worked for Anthony Timberlands for the past 25 years.

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

I have four years of teaching agriculture education at Lake Hamilton School and 25 years experience in forestry where I have harvested and managed timber for Anthony Timberlands.

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

I look forward to meeting and working with the citizens of Garland County and the Extension staff.

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

I hope to build the Master Gardeners program, and I hope to establish many new relationships with the Master Gardeners.

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

I think it's the diversity of Garland County from working one day with Master Gardeners to the next with a local farmer or landowner. There is always something new from season to season.

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

I enjoy golfing in the summer and being in the woods hunting in the fall and winter. ■

Holly Valentine

County Extension Agent -
Family and Consumer Sciences
St. Francis County



• **What's your background?**

I grew up on a grain and livestock farming operation in northeast Nebraska. Our family grew corn, wheat, oats, alfalfa and raised beef cattle. I obtained a B.S. family consumer science degree and M.S. human resources and family and consumer sciences degree from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. I also had a teaching degree which I have used to substitute teach in several school systems in Nebraska and Kansas.

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

I have worked extensively with many volunteer organizations as well as being a Christian education director for a 2,500-member church, program assistant for USDA – FSA, USDA Livestock and Grain Market News clerk and working for a fertilizer company. As a volunteer, I have been involved through church, school and most recently with American Red Cross attending national disaster events and helping in North Dakota, Nebraska-Iowa and Pennsylvania after flooding occurred in 2011. The heart of my volunteer experience has been through the 4-H program at the local county level. During the last two years, I have helped young 4-H'ers develop their sewing and quilting skills.

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

I have two children, Levi, a senior at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, and Sara, a sophomore at Chadron State College. I am an avid sewer and quilter and as a youth was very involved in the horse project area and high school rodeo.

• **What would you like to accomplish your first year at Extension?**

I would like to become more knowledgeable about Arkansas Extension programs and 4-H. I believe there is great potential in St. Francis County for continued knowledge in the areas offered through county Extension programs, and I would like to explore areas that may need more emphasis in the future.

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

I have been a 4-H leader for 16 years and thoroughly enjoy watching youth learn and seeing their lightbulbs turn on. There is joy in seeing young people be successful. I hope to be able to give the youth of St. Francis County opportunities for learning through citizenship, leadership and community service and develop life skills to enable them to become productive members of society.

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

I enjoy sewing and quilting. I also enjoy reading and baking, and I am planning on re-learning my fishing and hunting skills. But right now, I look forward to serving St. Francis County as your county Extension agent in FCS and working with other county agents for the University of Arkansas Extension Service. ■

Information Technology update

Password Synchronization

Keeping your computer (Windows and/or Novell), Spot and Banner passwords synchronized can be accomplished following these three steps in order. Fayetteville campus users can skip to step 2.

Every 90 days, the password must be changed (according to Arkansas state policy):

- password must be previously unused,
- capital letter to start, contains only letters and numbers and,
- 8-20 characters in total.
- Windows and Novell Password - Non LRSO users typically reset their Windows passwords while LRSO users login and reset through Novell.

(Novell users: Once you change your Novell password, Windows will ask you to login with your previous password. Place a checkmark in the box to allow it to synchronize your Windows password with your Novell.)

- **Spot** - Next open Spot. The upper left link to 'My Account' will open the screen to allow you to reset your Spot password. Set it to match your newly changed Windows or Novell. Then, click on the 'Save Changes' button (lower right).
- **Banner** - While still in Spot, click on the 'Benefits' tab and click on the 'Internet Native Banner' (Webforms) link. A message confirming the password has been changed to match Spot will appear.

This also allows you go directly into AIMS or Publications through Spot without reentering your login credentials.

If you encounter problems or would prefer assistance, contact the Call Center, and they will guide you through the synchronization process.

Local Call: 501-671-2255

Toll Free: 866-779-3375

Grants and contracts

for Month Ending October 31, 2011

Project Title	Award Amount	Principal Investigator	Granting Agency
Beaver Lake Smart Program	\$ 25,000.00	Katherine Teague	Beaver Water District
Delta Technology Center Breakthrough Solutions Project	25,244.00	Mark Peterson	Arkansas Science & Tech Authority
4-H Military Partnerships: 4-H Army Youth Development Project	85,746.00	Maureen Rose	Kansas State University
Southern Region Plant Diagnostic Network	29,250.00	Rick Cartwright	University of Florida
Family Nutrition Education	1,503,401.00	Rosemary Rodibaugh	Arkansas Department of Human Services
HOPE2 Program	28,320.00	Rosemary Rodibaugh	Mississippi Food Network
Advanced Lighting Technologies for Poultry Houses	43,796.00	Susan Watkins	Arkansas Energy Office
PTA for Small Business Firms	22,314.00	Willie Price	Department of Defense
TOTAL	\$ 1,763,071.00		

Personnel changes

Please welcome the following:

Stanley W. Baker

County Extension Agent - Agriculture, Arkansas County - DeWitt, effective October 3, 2011.

Allen D. Bates

County Extension Agent - Agriculture, Garland County, effective November 7, 2011.

Kenneth C. Dunn

Economist, Ag. Economics and Ag. Business, effective November 16, 2011.

Karla N. Emerson

County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences, Izard County, effective October 3, 2011.

Ashley A. Giles

Administrative Specialist II, Marion County, effective November 1, 2011.

Holly A. Valentine

County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences, St. Francis County, effective November 1, 2011.

Extension says goodbye to:

Allison D. Stevens

Administrative Specialist II, Cleburne County, effective October 28, 2011.

Donelda J. Summers

Administrative Specialist, Cross County, effective October 31, 2011.

Lydia E. Hughes

4-H Program Assistant, Sebastian County, effective November 9, 2011.

Jason D. Traywick

Program Technician - GeoSpatial, Bio and Agricultural Engineering, effective November 11, 2011.

Nihal Nazmy Sobhy Erian

Administrative Support Supervisor, 4-H Foundation, effective November 15, 2011.