

BLUE LETTER

The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Monthly Letter

No. 3709 • May 2011

FROM THE DIRECTOR

When the FY2011 federal budget was finalized, our Smith-Lever earmarks were less than FY2009 by only one percent, a much smaller reduction than we had anticipated.

At the same time, our state funding remained flat for FY2012, which is excellent when you consider today's economy and the budget cuts other states have suffered.

I appreciate each of you for communicating our mission and impact to constituents throughout Arkansas.

I appreciate, also, the professional associations and members who participated in hosting state legislators during Arkansas' legislative session. Because of you, we successfully communicated our mission to legislators who attended the reception. It was apparent that many legislators already knew of and appreciated Extension's impact at the local level. That reflects well on the quality of our programs and staff.

A thank you goes to Program and Staff Development for pulling data from reports many of you had logged through AIMS. The information was invaluable in communicating our impact to our federal legislators.

Though the FY2011 budget process is behind us, federal legislators have turned their attention to the FY2012 budget, and the possibility of deep cuts has emerged once again.

As Congress begins its budget discussions, we will need to tell our story in every county, town and city in Arkansas. We will roll out a communications plan in the near future to enable you to tell the Division of Agriculture story where you live and work.

We play a major role in the lives of Arkansans no matter where they live. Now is our time to tell our story and to make clear to Arkansans our impact on the quality of life in our state.

– Tony Windham

Polk County is back in permanent office space

Polk County is back in permanent office space after spending 19 months in a portable office in the Polk County Courthouse parking lot. The new office space was built back in the same location as the office that was destroyed in the April 9, 2009 tornado. Extension Homemakers hosted an open house on April 5. County Judge Brandon Ellison officially cut the ribbon for the dedication. Extension staff members Carla Vaught, Kim Hughes and Sue Oglesby as well as EHC and Chamber of Commerce members joined the celebration.



UofA UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

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

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DR. TONY WINDHAM
Associate Vice President
for Agriculture-Extension

Faulkner County 4-H members, agents aid in cleanup

Faulkner County 4-H members and extension agents worked April 26 and 27 to help storm victims begin recovery.

Faulkner County was among the hardest hit April 25, with four fatalities and the community of Vilonia heavily damaged. Leigh Helms, extension agent-4-H in Faulkner County for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, was part of two teams of adults and teens that helped storm victims remove debris – an act of recovery even with the threat of more storms Tuesday evening.

For Helms, the network of adults and youth that is 4-H was a critical part of the cleanup efforts.

“We had 4-H volunteers calling and donating supplies,” she said. “One of our supporters, who is a 4-H parent, brought us a big, huge roll of plastic sheeting.”

Local businesses also donated staple guns, staples and more plastic sheeting, she said.

“One of the neat things from my end, as a 4-H agent, is the kids are calling, concerned about each other,” Helms said. “There are calls from 4-H’ers from all over Faulkner County and all over the state.

“It’s good knowing there’s such a strong network,” she said. “We’ve gotten calls from different counties and different 4-H’ers asking ‘what can we do to help?’”

One 4-H’er taking part in the cleanup is Hannah Reed, a member of Saltillo’s volunteer fire department.

“It’s really a disaster down here,” she said. “I’ve seen damage like this on TV, but this is the first time I’ve seen this.”

She’d been working side by side with other members of the department since 8 a.m. clearing trees and other debris.



Leigh Helms took this photograph of a bed that remained standing amidst the destruction.

4-H played a role in her decision to join the fire department. “4-H has definitely pushed me outside my comfort zone to know that I could do this job,” she said.

The Faulkner County Extension Office was accepting donations to help storm victims and first responders. Helms said anyone wishing to donate work gloves, trash bags, plastic sheeting, disposable plates, knives, ice chests and luncheon meats could bring them to the Faulkner County Extension Office at 110 S. Amity in Conway. Donors can also drop off materials at the Vilonia High School office at 1164 Main Street, near the intersection of Arkansas 107 and U.S. 64.

2011 ACAA Communications Awards

The following awards were presented from the Arkansas County Agricultural Agent’s Association Arkansas Affiliate of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents at the annual meeting in April:

Audio Recordings

Sherri Sanders

Published Photo & Caption

Craig Allen

Program Promotional Piece

Craig Allen

Personal Column

Craig Allen

Feature Story

Sherri Sanders

Newsletter, Individual

Sherri Sanders

Newsletter, Team

Rick Thompson – Craig Allen

Video

Brian See

Fact Sheet

Robert Goodson

Publication

Terry Griffin

Web Site

Billie Majors

Bound Book

Regional Finalist

Kevin Lawson

Learning Module

Regional Finalist

Katie Teague

Search for Excellence Awards

Livestock Production

Brian Haller

Crop Production

Robert Goodson

Precision Agriculture

Ron Baker

4-H

Jesse Bocksnick

Young Professional Award

Tom Barber

Achievement Awards

Lance Kirkpatrick

Brad McGinley

Distinguished Service Awards

Jack Boles

Brian Haller

Goin' mobile: UofA Division of Agriculture offers smartphone accessible information



Row crop, fruit and turfgrass producers can find Arkansas-specific information on disease, weed and insect control via their mobile devices, thanks to the extension engineers with the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture.

Dharmendra Saraswat, assistant professor/extension engineer, for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, led the way into smartphone-based education.

“The use of smartphones empowers those who are out in the field with a network connection and even those without it through the use of smartphone applications, or ‘apps,’” Saraswat said. “However, there are an estimated 5,000 mobile devices and 300 different operating systems and versions of systems, a daunting challenge for app developers, indeed.”

Saraswat, working with research assistant Ashley Wiedower, came up with an interactive, mobile web solution that works across multiple phone operating systems. The content on the mobile web can be accessed through www.hdwap.com/uada, using “student,” lowercase, for both the login and password.

The mobile web link can be used to access the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture’s latest publications on:

- Corn and rice production
- Weed and brush control
- Plant disease control
- Insecticide recommendations
- Turfgrass weed control
- Disease control in strawberry plants.

Saraswat said that a non-password protected version of the mobile web solution is under development and will be released this year.

Smartphone apps search simplified

An extension engineer for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture has developed a tool to help users find just the right app among the thousands created across multiple smartphone operating systems.

Mobile phone usage is growing globally. At the end of 2010, 77 percent of the world’s population subscribed to a mobile phone compared with 28.7 percent having Internet access, according to the International Telecommunication Union. App use has also expanded wildly. Earlier this year, Apple marked the 10 billionth download from its apps store.

“It is safe to assume that farmers, consultants and county agents will start relying more and more on smartphones by using either a number of smartphone applications, or mobile friendly web applications, in near future,” said Dharmendra Saraswat, assistant

professor/extension engineer for Biological and Agricultural Engineering.

Saraswat said the Smartphone Apps Search Tool “mainly caters to the agricultural users who have the option to search for free or paid apps using a list of keywords that dynamically varies per user’s choice across four major operating systems such as Android, BlackBerry, iPhone and Windows 7.”

The tool is simple to use. Three pull-down menus narrow the search by operating system, by cost of app and by keyword or phrase.

Working with Saraswat on the search tool were Kandasamy Prasanna, former program associate for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, and Benjamin Hancock, a University of Arkansas graduate student.

Vegetable Research Station field day planned

The plant field day, “From the Garden to the Plate,” will be held Thursday, June 30, at the Vegetable Research Station in Alma, Arkansas. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

A farmer’s market has been added to this year’s field day where visitors may purchase fresh Arkansas produce and learn about the growth of farmer’s markets in Arkansas.

Home gardeners may visit booths on composting and earthworms, controlling fire ants, raising honeybees, and home gardeners may bring diseased plants for analysis at the plant disease clinic.

Field stops will allow home gardeners to see the latest information about growing sweet corn, tomatoes and

peppers, herbs, organic gardening, irrigation, container gardening, wildlife control and edamame soybeans.

A children’s area will include a train ride and tips on gardening with children.

After visiting the booths and field stops, visitors may enjoy a fresh food preparation demonstration and then stay for lunch. The program will end immediately after lunch.

If you and your family are looking for an enjoyable day filled with learning, be sure to attend “From the Garden to the Plate” at the Vegetable Research Station in Alma, Arkansas.

Upcoming field days

Thursday, June 16	Southwest Research & Extension Center	Hope, AR (Horticulture Field Day)
Thursday, June 23	Fruit Research Station	Clarksville, AR (Blackberry Workshop – 3:00 p.m.)
Thursday, June 30	Vegetable Research Station	Alma, AR (Plant Field Day)
Tuesday, July 19	Northeast Research & Extension Center	Keiser, AR (Weeds Field Day)
Wednesday, August 3	Turfgrass Field Day	Fayetteville, AR http://turf.uark.edu/education/field.html
Thursday, August 4	Rice Research and Extension Center	Stuttgart, AR (Field Day)
Thursday, August 18	Pine Tree Branch Station	Colt, AR (Field Crops Field Day)
Thursday, August 25	Judd Hill Field Day	Trumann, AR
Thursday, September 29	Savoy Research Unit	Fayetteville, AR (Forestry/Wildlife Field Day)
Thursday, October 6	Rohwer Research Station	Rohwer, AR (Bio-Energy Field Day)
Tuesday, October 11 (Very tentative)	Southwest Research & Extension Center	Hope, AR (Forestry Field Day)

Meet the *new* employees!

Allison Stevens

Administrative Specialist II
Cleburne County



What's your background?

I grew up and graduated in Forrest City, Arkansas. After graduation, I moved to Little Rock to attend UALR, where I completed about 50 hours towards my accounting degree. I began a full-time career in banking which put my college courses on hold, and after my first child I was unable to finish. I've worked in banking, various office environments and retail.

What knowledge, skills and/or experience are you bringing to Extension?

I have over 15 years of office experience. I have worked in various office settings, such as doctor's offices, retail shop offices and insurance offices. I have years of computer and accounting experience, working with various databases and programs.

What are 1 or 2 things you would like your colleagues to know about you?

I have two children who mean the world to me! My family and friends are a very important part of my life.

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

During my first year at Extension, I hope to learn all the databases and programs to be able to perform my job efficiently. I also hope to get to know our volunteers and participants in our county.

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

Holly Berry, from Stone County Extension, brought me to Extension! She told me about a job opportunity, so I applied! The thing I value about Extension is the opportunity to have affordable health insurance and other benefits.

What are your interests or hobbies outside work?

I love the water! In the summer I love being on the lake waterskiing or kneeboarding, or just hanging out in the boat! Recently, I got my scuba certification and had my first dive in Cozumel and absolutely loved it. I'm sure I will take any opportunities I have to scuba dive! I love traveling and visiting the ocean! I also enjoy walking, running, swimming and exercise.

Rusty Bautista

Program Associate
Bio and Agricultural Engineering



What's your background?

I grew up on a farm in the Philippines, received my B.S. and M.S. degrees in Agriculture Engineering from the University of the Philippines and Ph.D. from the Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences, Iwate University, Japan. I worked in the College of Engineering at University of the Philippines, the International Rice Research Institute and the Rice Processing Program, Food Science Department, University of Arkansas.

What knowledge, skills and/or experience are you bringing to Extension?

I will bring 26 years of research and extension experience in agricultural engineering.

What are 1 or 2 things you would like your colleagues to know about you?

I have a loving wife, Mila, and three wonderful children: Rumil, a junior in college; Jeric, who is starting college this fall; and Mia, a high school sophomore who loves softball. I enjoy coaching my son's Odyssey of the Mind team, which I've been doing for seven years.

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

I would like to learn and be effective in farm energy audits and be able to help poultry producers in Arkansas improve their production practices and economic well-being.

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

My desire to practice my profession and help poultry farmers save on energy usage and, as a result, earn more profits in their business brought me to Extension.

I value Extension's application of knowledge in farming and direct interaction with farm producers. Seeing myself contribute to the success of Arkansas farmers is so important to me.

What are your interests or hobbies outside work?

My outside interests and hobbies are playing tennis and gardening.

Kristen Dickson

Accounts Receivable Accountant



What's your background?

I grew up in Jessierville, Arkansas, where I graduated from Jessierville High School. I attended National Park Community College in Hot Springs, where I earned an associate degree in Accounting. I earned my bachelor's in Accounting and Master of Business Administration at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia. I have worked at JC Penney and Alco.

What knowledge, skills and/or experience are you bringing to Extension?

I will be bringing the accounting knowledge I have received over the years in college to Extension.

What are 1 or 2 things you would like your colleagues to know about you?

I am a shy person, but a hard worker.

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

I want to be a very productive and effective accounts receivable accountant and to be able to learn as much information as I can about Financial Services.

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

I was looking on the Internet for an accounting position and happened to find the position on the Internet. I read the qualifications, duties and other information about Extension, and thought it would be a place I would enjoy working at. I value the people I work with because they are very helpful and fun to work with.

What are your interests or hobbies outside work?

I like to play basketball, enjoy being outside and reading.

Margaret Yancey

4-H Program Assistant
Izard County



What's your background?

I grew up at Star City in Lincoln County. I worked summers on my uncles' farms in the cotton and soybean fields. My father was a truck farmer, and my siblings and I would work on the weekends in the truck patch.

What knowledge, skills and/or experience are you bringing to Extension?

I have worked in the newspaper industry for 18 years. I have won awards in journalism, photography and composition through the Arkansas Press Association.

The two things I would like colleagues to know about me

I am a team player and enjoy working hard to get done what needs to be accomplished. I am willing to listen and learn from everyone's ideas.

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

My first year, I would like the 4-H membership to grow by 30%. We currently have 102 active members. My first and foremost goal as a 4-H program assistant is to make sure each member has the opportunity to reach their full potential in their projects.

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

I have spent years as a corporate account executive, where dollars was the most important thing to the company. Now I can work where children and people are held the most valuable asset to my work.

What are your interests or hobbies outside work?

My husband, Jack, and I have three children: twins, Matthew and Anjuli, 26, and Johnaton, 23. My hobbies include gardening, photography, hiking, cooking with my husband and hanging out with our children.

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 in March 1 - 31, 2011.

CES Retiree Scholarship

In memory of Novelle Bond Clark

Portia Short

In memory of Clinton Hockett

Portia Short

White County Master Gardeners

Linda Houston Memorial Fund

In memory of Linda Houston

Signa Shoffner Bankston

Marion Biddy

Shelagh Boothe

County 76 Master Gardeners

Sue Ekdahl

Deborah Falcone

Alice Fletcher

Jeanne Holt

Robbie Lee Keathley

LuLynn Keathley Richards

Deborah Zimmer

To honor or remember the life of another, send donations to the Development Office, Cooperative Extension Service, 2301 South University Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72204. Please include in whose honor or memory the gift is made and the mailing address of the person to receive the notification.

— Merritt Royal

Information Technology update

■ Zimbra update news

Some users have noted slower performance with the update to Zimbra version 7. Consider using one of the desktop clients to see if that improves your experience. The Zimbra Desktop Client and Microsoft Outlook are available to users and may improve your performance. We can now install the MS Outlook client without having to wipe your computer. The Call Center can assist in setting up the desktop clients if you have any questions.

■ IT Department move

The IT Department will begin the process of relocating to the renovated warehouse at the end of April. Due to the various building contractor schedules, the move will be staged in segments, completing in early June. The department has devised an approach that will minimize any disruption in service. Should any outage be required over the course of the move, we will provide you with advanced notice to allow you to plan accordingly.

■ Be aware of what you share

The advent of GPS (Global Positioning System) in smart phones is an indispensable tool for mapping, routing and location. Many users aren't aware that this same information is often attached to pictures taken with their smart phones and may be included when pictures are posted to web or social media sites. Products such as the iPhone allow you to control which applications use your location services. You can prevent this by removing or disabling location service access if you wish to avoid having your pictures tagged with the coordinates of where it was taken.

Personnel changes

Please welcome the following:

Sarah M. Shaw

Program Assistant - 4-H, Desha County, effective March 16, 2011.

Deborah G. Monfort

Program Technician - Soybean, Crop, Soil & Environmental Science, effective April 1, 2011.

NaShanda N. Brown

Program Assistant-EFNEP, Jefferson County, effective April 1, 2011.

Kristen A. Dickson

Accountant I, Financial Services, effective March 28, 2011.

Margaret L. Yancey

4-H Program Assistant, Izard County, effective April 1, 2011.

Extension says goodbye to:

Mitzy M. Allen

Program Assistant, Jefferson County, effective March 10, 2011.

Sandra L. Allen

Administrative Support Supervisor, Animal Science, effective April 11, 2011.

Lorrie A. Barr

Program Associate-Public Policy Issues Education, effective April 25, 2011.

Leslie B. Crismon

Administrative Specialist, Development Office, effective March 23, 2011.

Melvin L. Daniel

County Extension Agent - Agriculture, Garland County, effective March 31, 2011.

Ramona C. DeLaCerde-Ilg

Family Program Assistant, Pulaski County, effective April 1, 2011.

William M. Drake

Program Technician, Bio and Agricultural Engineering, effective March 31, 2011.

Subodh S. Kulkarni

Program Assistant - Bio and Agricultural Engineering, effective April 29, 2011.

Debbie J. Miranda

Fiscal Support Specialist, Financial Services, effective April 4, 2011.

Lindley Pettie

Administrative Specialist, Office of Vice President for Agriculture, effective April 14, 2011.

Kandasamy Prasanna

Program Associate, Bio and Agricultural Engineering, effective April 21, 2011.

Judith M. Shipps

Computer Specialist, Office of Information Technology, effective April 8, 2011.

Mary A. Tallent

Administrative Specialist, Prairie County-Des Arc, effective April 8, 2011.

Rick L. Thompson

County Extension Agent - Staff Chair, Delta District, effective March 31, 2011.

Shamia E. Wilson

Accountant I, Office of Sponsored Programs, effective April 1, 2011.

Monthly gift total summary – February 2011

The following chart summarizes gifts and noncash gifts received in February 2011 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				
	February 1 – 28, 2011		Fiscal Year 2011 July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011	
	Monthly Gift Count	Monthly Gift Total	Fiscal Year-to-Date Gift Count	Fiscal Year-to-Date Cumulative Giving
CES Administration	1	\$ 112.00	21	\$ 739.00
Delta District	23	5,315.17	60	21,208.99
Ouachita District	10	4,580.17	36	13,762.83
Ozark District	3	600.00	16	4,522.82
4-H Youth Development	0	0.00	3	4,070.00
Agriculture and Natural Resources	19	115,062.88	132	838,188.88
Community and Economic Development	5	200.00	48	6,385.00
Family and Consumer Sciences	0	0.00	1	50.00
Information Technology	0	0.00	1	3,000.00
Arkansas 4-H Foundation, Inc.	25	4,794.30	221	512,731.67
TOTALS	86	\$ 130,664.52	539	\$ 1,404,659.19

Grants and contracts

for Month Ending March 31, 2011

Project Title	Award Amount	Principal Investigator	Granting Agency
AgrAbility Arkansas State Project	\$ 180,000.00	Dr. LaVona Traywick	National Institute of Food and Agriculture
Heathy Homes Project	4,500.00	Dr. Margaret Harris	Auburn University
Clear Creek Riparian Management Education and Demonstration Project	240,980.00	Katherine Teague	AR Natural Resources Commission
United States Navy/4-H Youth Development Partnership Project	19,437.00	Maureen Rose	Kansas State University
Evaluation of Big A as a Water Sanitizer	48,179.00	Dr. Susan Watkins	Chore-Time Poultry Production Systems
Last Effective Date for Application of N and K Fertilizer in Cotton	10,000.00	Dr. Leo Espinoza	Cotton Incorporated
Achieving Profitable Cotton Production: Plant Bug Management-AR I	5,513.00	Dr. Gus Lorenz	Cotton Incorporated
Storm Water Education Program/EPA	139,649.00	Katherine Teague	Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission
Corn Verification	102,800.00	Dr. Jason Kelley	Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Promotion Board
Soil Fertility Requirements for Corn	25,500.00	Dr. Leo Espinoza	Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Promotion Board
Practicality Evaluation of Grain Storage Techniques	30,500.00	Dr. Lalit Verma	Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Promotion Board
Developing Planting Date Guidelines for Arkansas Corn	38,900.00	Dr. Jason Kelley	Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Promotion Board
Evaluation of White Grain Sorghum Hybrids in Arkansas	5,200.00	Dr. Scott Monfort	Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Promotion Board
Evaluation of Bt Corn Hybrids for Protection of Ears Against Ear Feeders	10,350.00	Dr. Scott Akin	Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Promotion Board
Corn and Grain Sorghum Production Economics for Optimal Farm Management	9,000.00	Dr. Archie Flanders	Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Promotion Board
Assessment of the Importance of Root-Knot Nematodes and Northern Corn Leaf Blight in Corn in Arkansas	11,800.00	Dr. Scott Monfort	Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Promotion Board
Bio-Control Option for Control of Aflatoxin Production in Corn and Assessment of <i>Aspergillus Flavus</i> Populations and Distribution	20,410.00	Dr. Scott Monfort	Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Promotion Board
Management of Grain Sorghum Disease in Arkansas	20,300.00	Dr. Scott Monfort	Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Promotion Board
Field Scale Evaluation of Precision Agriculture Sensors for Corn Production	35,900.00	Dr. Dharmendra Saraswat	Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Promotion Board
Monitoring for Resistance in Southwestern Corn Borers	12,350.00	Dr. Glenn Studebaker	Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Promotion Board
TOTAL	\$ 971,268.00		

The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.