

BLUE LETTER

The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Monthly Letter

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Braving sleet and snow, Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) agents attended this year's FCS Professional Development Conference, January 15-18. It was impressive seeing FCS agents, faculty, staff and district directors come together despite the inclement weather. Dr. Lindsey Shirley, the opening keynote speaker, presented "Starting a Movement: Using Your Professional Story to Move Extension Forward." FCS faculty introduced new programs, gave updates from the field, discussed revised programs and distributed materials and supplies that agents would need to successfully carry out their programs. FCS agents were also provided with the opportunity to showcase their current county programs through posters and displays throughout the conference.

As the conference neared its end, Dr. Yvonne Gentzler, capnote speaker, helped agents think about "What's Next" for Extension FCS. I gave closing comments regarding federal and state funding and reiterated the importance of impact reporting, marketing and promoting Extension programs. I addressed future challenges and opportunities. I am confident that together through continuing to share our stories and serve our clients, Extension will maintain its viability and significant statewide impact.

– Tony Windham



**DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION**

University of Arkansas System

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

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Two with Extension links to be inducted into Ag Hall of Fame



Margaret Alexander

Margaret Alexander and Lanny Ashlock, both of whom have worked for the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, are among the six to be inducted into the Arkansas Agricultural Hall of Fame on March 8.

Alexander, of Little Rock, dedicated her life to developing Home Economics and Demonstration clubs for women and 4-H girls. In

1980 she was promoted to director of the northwest district, and as such, was the first woman to serve the CES in this capacity.

Ashlock, of Conway, has been known as "Mr. Soybean" in Arkansas for more than 20 years. His field research led to the development of many innovations, including the shorter season Group IV and Group V varieties. In his current role, he coordinates between the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board and the U of A System Division of Agriculture.

In addition to 24 years as an extension agronomist in Arkansas and Texas, Ashlock also had six years as a county extension agent in Arkansas. Prior to returning to the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture in 2010, Ashlock served more than eight years as the soybean agronomist for Cullum Seeds, LLC, located in Jonesboro.



Lannie Ashlock

DR. TONY WINDHAM
Associate Vice President for
Agriculture - Extension and
Director, Cooperative Extension Service

Busy Beavers win community service award

The Pope County Busy Beavers 4-H Club was recently awarded the Community Service Award by the Dover Area Chamber of Commerce in recognition of the valuable services provided for their community. This award has only been presented four times in the Chamber's history.

Busy Beavers, the oldest 4-H club in Pope County, has been in existence without periods of inactivity since 1967. The current Busy Beavers Club has more than 30 members and, during certain points in history, has had more than 50 members at one time.



Busy Beavers 4-H Club awarded Dover Area Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award. Pictured L to R: Phil Sims, county staff chair, Pat Bocksnick, Busy Beavers 4-H Club leader, Sylvia Nupp, Busy Beavers Club president, and Lisa Smith, Busy Beavers 4-H Club leader.

Members have performed many community service projects through the years including collecting money for the Dover Chamber's school supply program, adopting a mile of highway, organizing a special needs show at the county fair, allowing them to show an animal, and providing petting zoos for community events, just to name a few.

Many former Busy Beavers 4-H'ers are now leaders in the community. Many have served as state 4-H officers, state 4-H Ambassadors and Teen Stars.

The Dover Chamber of Commerce applauded the Busy Beavers 4-H Club for "providing a valuable service to this community by working to improve our most valuable asset – our children." ■

Scott Jones joins Aquaculture/Fisheries Center staff at UAPB

Scott Jones has joined the Aquaculture/Fisheries Center of Excellence at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff as an instructor/extension specialist (small impoundments).



Scott Jones

Jones will develop an extension and research program related to managing farm ponds and reservoirs and will teach an undergraduate course in recreational fishing. He will also develop a youth fishing education program and serve as coach of the UAPB Competitive Fishing Team.

The Texarkana, Texas native has a master's degree in aquaculture and fisheries management from UAPB and is the founder of the UAPB Competitive Fishing Team.

"In this position, he will serve as coach and continue to work to build UAPB's Fishing Team," said Dr. Carole Engle, director/chair of the UAPB Aquaculture/Fisheries Center. "He will also work with high schools to build competitive high school fishing teams. His passion for fishing will be put to good use in his work with farm pond owners to assist them to improve management of their ponds." ■

Jesse Clark cited for volunteer work

Jesse D. Clark, county extension agent - staff chair, Hot Spring County, received the Community Service Award at the Malvern/Hot Spring County Chamber of Commerce awards banquet Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2013.

The award, sponsored by the *Malvern Daily Record*, is annually presented to a Hot Spring County resident who freely donates his or her time, talent and service to a worthy cause benefitting the community.

Jesse was cited for his work with the Hot Spring County 4-H Program, Hot Spring County United Way, Malvern/Hot Spring County Planning Commission, R.O.S.E. Food Bank board, Salvation Army board and Salvation Army's Angel Tree Christmas project, conducting fund drives for individuals with cancer, work with youth at the Hot Spring County Fair and Livestock Show, and his work with other worthy causes. He is always willing to be of service to others within the community. ■

What's new in publications? Find out at:

http://www.uaex.edu/depts/Administration/blue_letter/Monthly_Publications_Report.htm

Content Management Migration Begins

We are making great progress in our move to a new content management web site! Now we need to begin identifying content for the new site. This includes migrating material from our current web site and identifying or creating new content. Many of you will play a key role in this process.

Migration team leaders have been identified and have met to discuss the migration process and to practice the intuitive and simple steps necessary to place content in the new pages. If you know how to create a document or copy and paste material from one page to another in Microsoft Word, you are close to knowing how to use the content management software we have selected for our web site.

If you have been identified as a member of a migration team, you have had several opportunities to learn about the process and become familiar with the software during training sessions held in the

auditorium of the state office in Little Rock on Feb. 12 (1:00-3:30 p.m.), Feb. 19 (9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.) and Feb. 25 (1:00-3:30 p.m.).

Since our goal is to complete the migration by late April, now is a good time to begin identifying the material you wish to migrate or thinking about the new material you would like to present on our new site. We will eventually archive the full content of our current site; so if you decide later that you need some of that content, you will be able to access that information.

It has been years since Extension undertook the monumental task of overhauling its web site. I ask for your full cooperation and patience as we transform our site into a place where Arkansans look for, and find, information to improve their lives and livelihoods! Thanks in advance for making this project a success.

- Kyleen Prewett

Public Policy Notes

Stay up to date on potential ballot issues

Arkansas legislators are knee-deep in the legislative session, and the Public Policy Center is keeping watch for potential ballot issues.

The legislature can refer up to three issues to the public to vote on in 2014. So far, three ballot issues have been proposed in the Senate and two in the House. The proposals range from requiring identification when voting to electing Highway and Game and Fish commissioners. Plus, there has been media mention of at least four other issues gathering steam among the public.

You can stay up to date on potential ballot issues by signing up for the Public Policy Center's newsletter. Send your e-mail address to publicpolicycenter@uaex.edu to be added to the list. (FYI, county agents automatically receive this newsletter.) Updates are also posted on the Center's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/uappc.

Watershed Prioritization for Managing Nonpoint Source Pollution in Arkansas fact sheet

A fact sheet describing how the Arkansas' 2011-2016 Nonpoint Source Pollution Plan was put together was published by the Public Policy Center in January.

- What is Nonpoint Source Pollution? The United States Environmental Protection Agency describes it as pollution resulting from "land runoff, precipitation, atmospheric deposition, drainage, seepage or hydrologic modification." This type of water pollution comes from many sources.
- Authored by Dharmendra Saraswat, Naresh Pai and Mike Daniels, the fact sheet, *Watershed Prioritization for Managing Nonpoint Source Pollution in Arkansas*, helps explain the scientific and stakeholder process behind the plan's formation and why certain watersheds are given priority status for project funding.
- The plan, produced as a result of a grant from the Arkansas Natural Resource Commission, was published in August after two years of stakeholder meetings and input from University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture faculty.
- The statewide plan can be found online at www.arkansaswater.org. The plan focuses on priority watersheds in the state where pollution has severely impacted the use of the waterbody.
- A copy of the fact sheet FSPPC116 has been distributed to every county.



Edamame a big hit at Cross County Agri Expo

An extension edamame cooking team comprised of Leigh Ann Bullington, Cross County FCS agent, and Keith Cleek, Phillips County FCS agent, brought their wares to the Cross County Agri Expo held Feb. 1 at Wynne.

“Many were eager to sample edamame, saying they had never tasted it before,” Bullington said. The edamame was supplied by American Vegetable Soybean and Edamame Inc.



Roasted edamame



Leigh Ann Bullington and Keith Cleek dish up edamame at the 2013 Agri Expo in Wynne.

Meet the *new* employees!



Shay Morgan
County Extension Agent - Family
and Consumer Sciences
Johnson County

- **What's your background?**

I grew up in Arkadelphia but recently moved to Clarksville after marrying my husband Mark. I attended Ouachita Baptist University where I received a Bachelor of Science in 2009 and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences where I received a Master of Science in 2012. For the past three years, I worked as a clinical and registered dietitian at UAMS.

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

I am bringing my knowledge of health and nutrition to Extension. My skills and experience in educating others will enable me to be successful as a county agent.

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

I value the importance of teamwork and will help out in any way that I can.

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

I want to gain an understanding of Extension and its programs and learn how to apply them so I may make an impact in my community.

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

What attracted me to Extension was its community involvement. I believe that Extension improves Arkansans' quality of life, and I want to help to make an impact in our state.

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

I enjoy spending time with my family, being active and learning new things. ■

BENEFITS CORNER

Deferral Limits and Insurance Plan

IRS Maximum Deferral Limits 2013

The annual contribution limit for employees participating in UA retirement 403(b) and/or 457(b) accounts for 2013 increased from \$17,000 to **\$17,500**. The "catch-up" contribution limit for those ages 50 and older remains the same at \$5,500.

Because the UA retirement plan is a combo 403(b) and 457(b) plan, you enjoy double the tax-deferred limit. If you are under age 50, you can contribute up to \$35,000. If you are 50 or older in 2013, you can contribute up to \$46,000.

You may change your deduction percentages at any time by completing the Salary Deferral Agreement Form, EBEN 228, and submitting it to Human Resources.

UA Voluntary Insurance Plan

To receive a free, no-obligation rate quote for individual home, renter or auto insurance through Liberty Mutual, call 1-800-524-9400 or visit online at www.libertymutual.com/uarcoopext.

Grants and contracts for Month Ending December 31, 2012

Project Title	Award Amount	Principal Investigator	Granting Agency
1890 Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program	32,261.00	Anne Sortor	University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
Bee Project: Assessing the Impact of Neonicotinoid Seed Treatments on Pollinators	50,000.00	Gus Lorenz	Soybean Promotion Board
Testing and Evaluating of RiceTec Hybrids	3,750 .00	Jarrod Hardke	RiceTec
2013 NWA Regional Urban Stormwater Education Program	183,422.00	Katherine Teague	Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission
Current Economic Status of Conservation and No-Till Cotton Production in the Southeastern United States Working Group: Arkansas	4,000.00	Kelly Bryant	Cotton Incorporated
Seed Treatment Nematode Management in Cotton	4,880.00	Leo Espinoza	Monsanto Company
4-H Military Partnerships: 4-H Army Youth Development Project	39,575.00	Maureen Rose	Kansas State University
Monsanto 4-H Volunteer Initiative Program	2,000.00	Noah Washburn	National 4-H Council
Development and Demonstration of Sustainable Management of Glyphosate-Resistant Palmer Amaranth in Arkansas	17,000.00	Tom Barber	Cotton Incorporated
Southern Plant Diagnostic Network	22,000.00	Travis Faske	University of Florida
Healthy Relationship and Marriage Education Training Project	7,674.00	Wally Goddard	University of Missouri
TOTAL DECEMBER 2012 AWARDS	\$366,562.00		

Personnel changes

Please welcome the following:

Shay Garner Morgan

County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences, Johnson County, effective January 14, 2013.

Susan Beth Tucker

Secretary, Pope County, effective January 2, 2013.

Extension says goodbye to:

Lameria S. Colclough

County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences, Pulaski County, effective January 31, 2013.

Shalanda Lane Lucas

Financial Analyst, Southern Regional Risk Management Education, effective January 16, 2013.

Amoree McGowan

Administrative Specialist, Animal Science, effective January 18, 2013.

Deborah M. Tootle

Associate Professor - Community and Economic Development, Community and Economic Development, effective January 31, 2013.