

# BLUE LETTER

The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Monthly Letter

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR

On Feb. 10, members of the state House and Senate will return to Little Rock and roll up their sleeves to determine how the state's budget will be shaped and how dollars will be spent. Included in the budget is the money that funds our Division of Agriculture activities.

I will be working closely with Dr. Cochran to make sure that the interests of the Division of Agriculture and the good work we do are well represented.

Our preparations for this session include finding success stories – case studies about the impact our work is having on our clients and the state as a whole. If we don't document our results, no matter how hard or how many hours we work our impact will never be acknowledged and our perceived efforts will be lessened – ironically – by our own hand.

Scores of other state agencies and interests are competing for the same dollars. It comes down to one thing: we must be able to show a return on the state's investment. Without being able to clearly say who we are and show what we do, we put ourselves at a disadvantage and stand to lose support for effective programs.

I want to thank you for preparing your end-of-year reports and impact statements to show all you do for the Cooperative Extension Service and for the citizens of Arkansas.

– Tony Windham

## 100 days, 100 tweets

As part of our Smith-Lever Centennial celebration, the national committee is encouraging Extension Services in each state to take part in its 100 days, 100 tweets initiative, which began on Jan. 27.

The goal is to have people learn more about the history and work of the Cooperative Extension Service nationally through the @Ext100years account on Twitter. To take part, be sure to use the #Ext100years hashtag. All tweets using #Ext100years will be retweeted by @Ext100years national account. If you're on Twitter, be sure to follow.

2014 Galaxy Conference  
Winthrop Rockefeller Institute on Petit Jean

## Triple "R" on the Rocks

March 19-21, 2014 *Retreat | Relax | Renew*

### Save the Date!

Please join us for Triple "R" on the Rocks – **Retreat, Relax, Renew** on March 19-21, 2014, at the **Winthrop Rockefeller Institute** on Petit Jean Mountain.



**DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE**  
**RESEARCH & EXTENSION**

University of Arkansas System

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

## Inside:

- Web site update – usability testing
- 4-H FCS Bowl Team attends national competition
- Benefits Corner
- Meet the new employee
- Grants and Contracts
- Personnel changes

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

## Web site update – usability testing

The countdown to the launch of our web site is ticking closer. Toward the end of January, we were conducting usability tests. Those taking part in the tests included clients who were new to the redesign as well as members of the focus groups that helped us shape the new site we'll see in the coming months.

Usability testers will be offering their feedback through an online survey. Among the aspects being tested are navigability, workability of links within the site and the new event calendar. The testers will also gauge how the web site works on desktops, tablets and smart phones, as well as any variations that may occur in using different browsers such as Explorer, Chrome or Safari. Usability testing doesn't mean a site is foolproof, but their feedback will help us get the site in the best shape possible for our launch.

## 4-H FCS Bowl Team attends national competition



Chala Simpson, Kierra Thompson, JoBeth Phifer and Tyra Simpson, members of the Conservative Consuming Teens 4-H Club of Crossett, were third-place winners at the Western National Round-up in Denver, Colorado. These 4-H'ers were participants in the Family and Consumer Science Quiz Bowl. They were among over 900 4-H and FFA youth from over the United States attending the conference.

## BENEFITS CORNER

### Considering retirement?

All eligible UA benefitted employees who want to retire must provide a minimum of ninety (90) days advanced written notice to the Extension Benefits Manager and are urged to retire on the last working day of the month. Why? At retirement, an employee's benefits will terminate on the last day of the month for which premiums are paid. To ensure that your retirement benefits commence in a timely manner, our vendors require ninety (90) days processing time to send you the necessary paperwork, receive your responses and set up your retirement benefits.

### What's in a name?

Are you still waiting on a response to your call? Did you leave a voicemail message but forgot to leave a return telephone number? Do you clearly identify yourself on all documents you submit for review? Did you use your nickname? In some cases, your call cannot be returned and your documents cannot be processed if your name cannot be located in BANNER. Remember, the legal name shown on your social security card is the way you must present yourself when requesting or providing information to Human Resources or Financial Services.

What's new in publications? Find out at:

[http://www.uaex.edu/depts/Administration/blue\\_letter/Monthly\\_Publications\\_Report.htm](http://www.uaex.edu/depts/Administration/blue_letter/Monthly_Publications_Report.htm)

# Meet the *new* employees!



**Russell Wilson**  
Windows Administrator  
Little Rock State Office

- **What's your background?**

Before moving into the IT industry, I had a 30-year career in broadcast television. About half of

that time was spent as engineer in charge of remote productions. The 18-wheeler TV truck you see at your favorite sporting event – I was the guy that made sure everything inside and connected to the truck was working correctly.

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

Over the years, I have been able to diagnose and prioritize problem solving to reduce or avoid

downtime. I would also consider myself to be a creative thinker with regard to problem solving.

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

I enjoy quality craftsmanship and art work. Glass blowing is my favorite. It combines the eye of the artist and the skills of a craftsman.

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

The opportunity to learn new skills and be part of a team.

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

My three main hobbies are amateur radio, working hot glass and bike riding. A large part of my free time is spent at the torch making glass beads for jewelry. ■

## Grants and contracts for Month Ending January 31, 2014

Project Title	Award Amount	Principal Investigator	Granting Agency
2014 4-H Military Partnership Grant	\$24,000	Maureen Rose	Kansas State University
UpStream Art NPS Education	9,138	Katherine Teague	Arkansas Natural Resources Commission
Services Provided to Willow Bend Farm for Monitoring, Evaluation and Nutrient Management	12,242	Michael Daniels	Willow Bend Farm
Evaluation of Different Levels of Virginiamycin for Prevention of Dermatitis in Tom Turkeys	37,363	Susan Watkins	PHIBRO Animal Health Corp (PAHC)
Demonstrating Sustainable Management of Glyphosate-Resistant Ryegrass	1,500	Bob Scott	Cotton Incorporated
Personal Finance Education at Rich Smith Development Properties	6,000	Laura Connerly	Family Service Agency, Inc.
Jefferson County Extension Homemakers Health Fair	2,000	Mary Ann Kizer	Arkansas Community Foundation
<b>TOTAL NEW AWARDS FOR JANUARY 2014</b>	<b>\$92,243</b>		

# Personnel changes

## Please welcome the following:

### **Karen Christensen**

Extension Poultry Specialist, Poultry Science, effective January 2, 2014.

### **Russell Wilson**

Windows Administrator, Office of Information Technology, effective January 6, 2014.

## Extension says goodbye to:

### **Jill R. Ellis**

Administrative Support Supervisor, Financial Services, effective December 18, 2013.

### **Janie L. Garner**

Program Assistant - Family, Union County, effective January 3, 2014.

### **Sloane D. Holzhauer**

County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences, effective January 2, 2014.

### **William L. Jacobs**

Technical Assistant, Community and Economic Development, effective December 31, 2013.

### **Alberta J. James**

District Director - Ouachita, District Office, effective January 2, 2014.

### **Nathan P. Kemper**

TAA Coordinator, Southern Regional Risk Management Educational Center, effective January 3, 2014.

### **Terilyn T. Maize**

Administrative Support Supervisor, Plant Pathology, effective January 1, 2014.

### **Rebecca L. Reynolds**

County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences, Little River County, effective January 3, 2014.