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No. 8

Cartwright named Extension Service Director

Rick Cartwright has been named director for the Cooperative Extension Service. Cartwright's appointment is effective Aug. 1. He has been serving as interim associate vice president for agriculture-extension since Sept. 1, 2016, just after the departure of then-director Tony Windham.

"It's a singular privilege to serve the people of the Cooperative Extension Service and the Division of Agriculture," Cartwright said.

Since joining the Division of Agriculture in 1992, Cartwright has served in a number of roles both on the Extension and Agricultural Experiment Station sides. He has international recognition as a rice pathologist. Moving into administration, Cartwright served as interim head of the entomology department, and more recently has been associate director-Agriculture and Natural Resources for extension.

Cartwright was raised on a farm in Stone County and earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and a PhD in Plant Pathology at the University of California-Davis.

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Dr. Cartwright addresses meeting of joint ag committee on May 24, 2017, during Rural Development Conference in Hot Springs.



Charlie Stenholm, former ranking member of the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture, addresses attendees as the keynote speaker for the 2017 Arkansas Rice Expo in Stuttgart.

Former Congress member Charlie Stenholm keynote speaker at 2017 Rice Expo

A deeply divided Congress and nation make passing legislation, such as the Farm Bill, an increasingly difficult task, said Charlie Stenholm, former ranking member of the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture and keynote speaker at the 2017 Arkansas Rice Expo.

The seventh annual expo and the biennial Rice College, an educational event focused on crop production held Thursday, Aug. 3, drew more than 1,000 people.

"We had a good crowd and were very pleased at the numbers who attended Rice College and took part in the tour of the research plots at the Rice Research and Extension Center," said Mark Cochran, vice president-agriculture for the University of

Arkansas System. "It was good to see such a large cross-section of people here."

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THE INSIDE STORIES

Extension at Governor's School

Four Extension faculty lectured on timely agriculture-related topics to students at this year's Arkansas Governor's School and stayed around to answer questions.

Extension happenings

Joseph P. Fulton celebrates 100th birthday, Katherine McElderry retires, and the new Extension employee class of 1965 reappears.

To Extension retirees

Dr. Cartwright talks about the retirement of Riceland's Bill Reed, the death of Winnie Parsons and Darlene Millard's acceptance of the Friend of 4-H award.

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Extension scientists invited to Governor's School

Division of Agriculture-Extension faculty went back to school this summer – to the 2017 Arkansas Governor's school that is. Dr. Jeremy Ross, Dr. Ken Korth, Dr. Gus Lorenz and Jon Zawislak presented invited lectures and responded to student questions on contemporary agricultural issues with 2017 Governor's School students in June at the Hendrix College campus in Conway.



Gus Lorenz discusses pest pressure and management options for Arkansas producers.

The invitation for agricultural lectures was made to Dr. Karen Ballard by Dr. Mary Kathryn Stein, Director of the Arkansas Department of Education's Gifted and Talented and Advanced Placement Program. Ballard serves as PI for the Extension Soybean Science Challenge, funded through the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board. Dr. Stein learned about the work of Extension at the 2017 Arkansas State Science and Engineering Fair in April 2017 when she stopped by the Soybean Science Challenge exhibit for teachers and students and stayed for a 30-minute discussion. The invitation for Extension to be a contributor to the 2017 Governor's school came 10 minutes later.



Education Rock Stars. Drs. Korth, Ross and Robinson answered student questions for 30 minutes following the invited lecture.

Lectures included Honey Bee Pollinators and Arkansas Agriculture presented by Gus Lorenz and Jon Zawislak on June 13. On June 16, Jeremy Ross and Ken Korth presented on the topic Genetically Modified Crops: The Challenge to Feed the World.

Ballard facilitated the presentations and noted that “these scientists actively engaged the students in consideration of the importance of solid science in undergirding food, fuel and fiber production. The scientists spoke about the research, some of which was their own, as well as from experience. After presentations, students and Governor's School faculty hung around late to engage in further conversations with the Extension scientists.”

The importance and contemporary relevance of agriculture was elevated for all participants. The question of trust was raised during the discussions. It is a key factor for future public policy. The invitation to the Arkansas Governor's School provided a great step in bridging the gap in public understanding about the role of Extension in the development and use of research-based science to guide citizen practices and public policy. 

Joseph P. Fulton celebrates 100th birthday

Joseph P. Fulton, retired professor and former head of the department of plant pathology for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, celebrated his 100th birthday July 14 with family, colleagues and friends.

Fulton joined the University of Arkansas faculty in 1947 and retired in 1987. He served as plant pathology department head for the division and Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences from 1959 to 1964. 

New retiree

Kathryn McElderry, Program Technician - Family Life, Little Rock State Office, is retiring after four years with Extension. 

To our Extension retirees

I have high hopes that this issue continues to find you in good health and with a great attitude, ready for August, the beginning of crop harvest and the return of school.

I attended the retirement reception for Bill Reed of Riceland Foods the other day in Stuttgart and saw Portia Short and John Philpot there. They behaved well. It was a really nice and tasteful event, and Bill was genuinely touched by the attention and attendance. Most of you know that he was an Extension communications specialist in the late 1970s before going to Riceland Foods for a 37-year career. He and the wife will be living in Little Rock.



I am distressed to report the passing of Winnie Parsons, wife of Charlie Parsons and lifelong friend of the Division, Cooperative Extension and 4-H. Charlie and I worked together for many years in all types of crop research and extension work, and he is known to many in research and extension in Arkansas and surrounding states. Winnie was about the best person I ever knew and never had an unpleasant word or thought about anybody – she will be deeply missed by all of us (<http://www.rollerfuneralhomes.com/services.asp?page=odetail&id=45929&locid=14>).

On a different note, I am pleased to share that Darlene Millard was awarded the Friend of 4-H award by the Cooperative Extension Service recently at the State O-Rama in Fayetteville. Darlene continues to support and serve Extension and 4-H all the time and always shares her positive spirit with all. She remains an inspiration to me.

Finally, I report, as you have read, that I was appointed Director of the Cooperative Extension Service on August 1, after several months as Interim Director. I really don't know that anything is very different in my head from this development, other than I am even more determined to work harder to make sure that your legacy – our work – continues to grow in impact and excellence. There has never been a time when Extension work was more badly needed by the public, and we are going to give it to them over the next few years. We know that we can count on you to help us become the “best known” service, not the “best kept” secret.

– Rick Cartwright 

September Birthdays

Kay Dickens, Sept. 1	Joe Stuart, Sept. 16
Alberta James, Sept. 1	Charles Albritton, Sept. 17
Diana Baker, Sept. 4	Irene Carlock, Sept. 18
Jim Denton, Sept. 4	Steven Simpson, Sept. 18
Johnnie Younger, Sept. 5	Bill Jones, Sept. 21
Bob Blake, Sept. 6	Belinda Weaver, Sept. 21
Carol Sanders, Sept. 8	June Williams, Sept. 21
Barbara Singleton, Sept. 8	Tom Mertens, Sept. 23
Venetta Rice, Sept. 9	Willie Booker, Sept. 25
Jerry Wooley, Sept. 9	Stephen Vann, Sept. 27
Catherine Grills, Sept. 12	William Dodgen, Sept. 28
Lee Hunter, Sept. 12	Don Plunkett, Sept. 28
Bill Wallace, Sept. 12	Henry Rice, Sept. 28
Raymond Benz, Sept. 16	Bettie Wilson, Sept. 30

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Yes, I want to support the fundraising initiative in support of the Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship.

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Name/Address for notification of honorary and memorial gifts: _____

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Stenholm speaks at Rice Expo (cont.)



Keith Cleek, left, and Leigh Ann Bullington, right, extension nutrition educators with the U of A System Division of Agriculture, demonstrate featured rice-based dishes at the Arkansas Rice Expo.

“Today’s political system is absolutely broken,” Stenholm said, adding that too many in Congress believe compromise is a “four-letter word,” and that compromise is the only way to pass a bill.

The former congressional representative spoke about his 26-year run in politics as a time when members from across the aisle came together to pass important legislation. In his years since leaving Congress, Stenholm has been teaching at Tarleton State University and lobbying.

Harrison Pittman, director of the National Agricultural Law Center, discussed current legal and legislative issues in agriculture, among them, the Farm Bill.

“There’s still a lot of alligators in the water on the 2018 Farm Bill,” he said. “There are active efforts to split the two parts of the Farm Bill – agricultural from the SNAP programs, and that’s traditionally the coalition

that gets the bill over the line.”

Among those working to promote rice at the 2017 Arkansas Rice Expo were the 10 Miss Arkansas Rice Contestants.

Alexa Lawson May, St. Francis County Rice Queen, was handing out samples of her grandmother’s chicken and rice dish. She said the Rice Expo was, for her, a chance to connect.

While many of the expo events take place at the Grand Prairie Center each year, the expo also hosts field tours at the Rice Research and Extension Center.

Several growers in attendance said they came to “up their growing game.” Joe Christian, Arkansas Rice Promotion Board member and a rice farmer himself, said he was eager to learn anything to help him with his rice.

The Arkansas Rice Expo began in 2011, growing out of an annual field day for rice producers. The event expanded from the Rice Research and Extension Center to include the Grand Prairie Center, which hosts more than 100 booths with family activities, seminars and demonstrations that showcase the broad range of expertise within the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. 



Miss St. Francis County Rice Queen shared recipe cards and samples of her grandmother’s chicken and rice.

Recognize anyone? This photo was taken at orientation for new Extension workers in December 1965. (Notice the fallout shelter designation on the window of the building.) The orientees are identified below.



NEW EXTENSION WORKERS OF 1965:

Row 1, left to right: Mary Frances Harrison (Arnold), Rebecca O’Neal (Mulholland), Pat Cole (Hayden), Jeanie Goodman, Charlie Granberry, Jo Evelyn Elston, Mary Stephens, Ann Ellis (Gray), Virginia Ford, Carole Sue Martin, Marva Jo Shupe, Valsie Baudry, Jane Bigger.

Row 2, left to right: Callie B. Perry, Maxine Embry, Carol Erich, Louise S. Farmer (Walker), Rutha Dean Callaway, Nelle Albrecht, Glenda Bostick, Jim Wimberly, Lea Smiley, Theo Kirkland, John E. Patton, Earl W. Wilson.

Row 3, left to right: Joseph C. Urbon, David Ibsen, Jerry Moss, James J. Miner, Archie Clayton, Jerry Rodgers, Luther H. Roberts, Lantis Ratcliff, Alva Ray Siler, Jim Barrentine, Roger Eason, Richard French.

Row 4, left to right: Earl H. Bowerman, James Long, James E. Roberts, Richey Lee Hunter, Marvin Wall, Doyne Potts, Freddy Smith, Dewey Jones, Jim Philpot, Harold Watson, Jim Wallace, Larry Lewis.

Others from the Extension class of ‘65 not pictured were Ed Harms and Justin Morris.

Cartwright named Director (cont.)

“He was willing and able to step in following Tony’s departure and has done an exemplary job,” said Mark Cochran, vice president-agriculture for the U of A System, and head of the system’s Division of Agriculture. “With his deep knowledge of Arkansas agriculture and dedication to the land grant mission, there is no better person to head up the Cooperative Extension Service than Rick Cartwright.

“His leadership and his strong team are, and will be, tremendous assets to both the Division of Agriculture and the people we serve,” he said. 