1914 Smith-Lever Act Flung Ag Improvement Door Wide Open

One-hundred years ago, America was still three years away from entering The Great War; Ty Cobb was hitting .368 and Charlie Chaplin’s first movie, “Making a Living,” was released. At the time, Arkansas was home to about 1.5 million people, most of them involved in farming.

“Like most of the United States, agriculture was a part of everyday life, whether it was subsistence farming or farming to sell commodities to a growing nation,” said Tony Windham, Associate Vice President-Extension for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture.

1914 was an important year for agriculture in the United States. That year, the Smith-Lever Act went into effect, creating an educational force that would change agriculture forever. The idea behind extension was simple. Agents would collect the latest research on farming and household issues and teach these innovations to their neighbors.

“Having the ability to transfer research discoveries to the people who could use them was a key moment in our history,” he said. “It provided the ability to raise the level of farm production from near subsistence to a level where it could support a nation that was growing in population, economy and technology.”

The result was a steady rise in the standard of living across the state.

Although Arkansas had been assigned its first extension agent nine years earlier, Smith-Lever would lead to bigger things for Arkansas. State government became involved. The University of Arkansas joined the effort and the Cooperative Extension Service as we know it was born.

Extension then, and now:

• In 1914, extension agents promoted the mechanization of farms, introduced pest control and fertilization techniques and encouraged crop diversification and farm cooperatives.
  Today, extension agents and specialists promote resource conservation, precision agricultural techniques and development of phone- and tablet-based tools for farming.

• In the decades following1914, home demonstration agents taught techniques for safe food preservation, clothing construction, mattress-making and led efforts for childhood immunizations.
  Today, Family and Consumer Science faculty teach money management, nutrition and family relations skills.

• Extension also helped build communities, selling war bonds and leading the effort for rural electrification.

Today, our Community and Economic Development faculty not only helps businesses get their start but also grow. They give communities the tools to reawaken dormant economies and help voters make the best possible decisions about their futures.

Today, with offices in all 75 counties, the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service works to help improve the quality of life for all Arkansans. To learn more, visit www.uaex.edu or contact your county extension office.

The Cooperative Extension Service is part of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture and 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.

By Mary Hightower
The Cooperative Extension Service
U of A System Division of Agriculture
The Importance of Cattle Identification & Methods for ID

The truck in the driveway has a VIN, the vaccine in the refrigerator has a lot number, but does the cow and her calf in the field have a tag? According to the most recent NAHMS survey, cow and herd identification is least common when herd size was less than 50 cows. Based on their survey, 41% of small farms do not have individual cows identified or have herd identification. Whether it’s for marketing purposes, theft prevention, or tracking productivity, individual animal and herd identification is something all cattle producers should adopt, and identification systems work best when they include a combination of permanently affixed id’s such as brands or tattoos and temporarily affixed id’s such as plastic ear tags.

With cow and calf values exceeding $1,000, Arkansas ranchers have begun to express more interest in branding as a theft deterrent which is accomplished using hot irons or cold irons. Branding is a highly visible traditional method of permanently identifying original ranch ownership as well as individual animal identification. Before designing a ranch brand and using this method of identification, contact the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission. Ranch brands must be unique to each ranch and must be registered.

The plastic ear tag is the most common form of highly visible individual animal identification used on Arkansas ranches. Tags are often a simple numerical sequence for identity and require a one-piece or two-piece tag applicator gun. Blank tags and tag markers allow for customized tagging or tags can be special ordered to meet id needs. Other common forms of identification include metal tags, electronic id tags (EID), and tattooing. Adopting a secondary form of identification such as metal tags or tattoos is a good practice. One might be surprised at how easy it is to misidentify cows that have lost tags, even in herds with less than 50 cows. For more information on beef cattle identification, visit your local county Extension agent or download the Beef Cattle Identification factsheet from the newly designed Extension website www.uaex.edu

The Hidden Cost of Poor Hay Management

As input costs (fuel, fertilizer, hay string, equipment, etc.) go up, it is only natural to attempt to contain cost by cutting corners. Cost of hay and other conserved forages is one of the major expenses in carrying a cow. It is estimated that winter feeding costs are about 30% of the total cost of running a cow. All too often this cost reduction from cutting corners comes at the expense of the management of our hay meadow.

Fertilization is estimated to be 70% of the total cost of producing hay and with fertilizer costing around $385/ton for ammonium nitrate, $460/ton for potash, $523/ton for diammonium phosphate and $38/ton for lime, it is easy to see why a producer would cut out fertilization. But what are the consequences for this decision? Research we conducted on producer farms in Lafayette, Hempstead, and Nevada counties in bermudagrass hay meadows indicate that hay yield is increased from 650 pounds per acre to over 2,000 pounds per acre each cutting when 150 pounds of ammonium nitrate (50 units of actual N/acre) is applied after every harvest (28-day harvest interval) even though phosphorus and potassium were applied to all plots. Enterprise budgeting with this indicates that cost per pound of hay (including all overhead and fixed costs) for the unfertilized hay is $0.13/pound compared with $0.05/pound for the fertilized hay, because equipment costs incurred were the same if the cutting interval is maintained at the recommended 28-days. But, nobody I know would cut their hay at 28-day intervals for only 650 pounds of hay! In order to maintain economic equipment use and to spread the cost of equipment operation over more pounds of hay, the cutting interval for unfertilized hay would be extended. Fertilized bermudagrass harvested at 4-week intervals normally is about 12% crude protein and 60% total digestible nutrients (which would meet the requirements of a cow in any stage of production), while bermudagrass harvested twice per season will be 10% crude protein and 50% total digestible nutrients (adequate for only a dry pregnant cow). The cost of supplementation (figured on a least cost basis) would make the cost of ‘cheap’ unfertilized hay 25 to 30% more expensive than the well managed ‘expensive’ hay! It is commonly thought that we really only see a yield response when we put out nitrogen fertilizer and we can forgo the use of phosphorus, potassium, and lime (mining these nutrients from the soil). Research conducted by Rocky Lemus at Mississippi State University found that application of nitrogen only (seasonal yield of 9,200 pounds/acre) to bermudagrass resulted in 75% of the yield obtained with application of nitrogen, lime, and potassium (seasonal yield of 12,000 pounds/acre). But yield reduction is only part of the story, in only 3 years the weed population of plots that did not receive potassium or lime increased to over 50%, increasing the need for herbicide use and creating other problems! As we let our hay crop mature, we know there will be a reduction in digestibility and thus an increase in supplementation costs. Mature hay is also not as palatable which leads to increased waste in hay feeding. Considering the high price of cattle, the best option is to produce well-managed, high-quality hay to avoid these problems.

Paul Beck, Professor – Animal Science
AGRICULTURE

Mower Safety Guidelines

It is yard mowing season once again and we just want to remind you to be safe when mowing your yard and to use best practices for your safety and others.

Before Starting Mower . . .
- Put on close-fitting clothes and sturdy, non-slip shoes.
- If the lawn is wet – wait!
- Go over the lawn carefully to pick up stones, wire, toys and dog bones – anything the mower blade might pick up and throw.
- If your electric mower is not labeled “double insulated,” never plug it into anything but a grounded (three-prong) outlet.
- Adjust cutting height before starting mower.

While You Mow . . .
- Never run mower over gravel, stones or hard, immovable objects like pipes, rocks or sidewalk edges.
- Mow advancing forward whenever possible so you can see where you are going.
- Keep electric mower cord out of the cutting path.
- Stay clear of the blade housing and the discharge chute.
- Never point discharge chute at others.
- Turn off the mower before you leave it – even for a moment.

Be Sure To . . .
- Disconnect spark plug or power cord before working on your mower.
- Treat gasoline like the volatile fuel that it is.

7 Important Points to Fertilizing Your Lawn

(For more info download Fact Sheet 2114 at www.uaex.edu or call the Van Buren County Extension office for a copy.
1) Before you fertilize your lawn, have your soil tested.
2) It is important to accurately determine the size of your lawn and to calibrate your spreader prior to fertilization.
3) Proper nitrogen application timing and quantity are important and vary by turf species.
4) Never apply more than 1.0 lb N per 1,000 square feet in any one application unless 50 percent or more of the nitrogen is slow-release.
5) Use a mixture of quick- and slow-release nitrogen sources to allow for a quick green-up and an extended feed.
6) Do not apply fertilizer to lawns immediately following or preceding a heavy rainfall.
7) Sweep or blow any fertilizer off your driveways, sidewalks and streets back into the lawn after applying.

City and County leaders met last week with Mural Artists Pat and Tracee Matthews from the Little Rock area. The Matthews presented some ideas of possible murals and ideas for the We Love VBC committee to assist with revitalization of the Clinton Downtown area to aid in attraction of tourists and businesses to stimulate the local economy.

Pictured is a fairy garden on display at Ed Leamon Park during the Annual Master Gardener Plant Sale and Blooming in the Bay Festivities. The Plant Sale was a huge success and hosted a great turnout of buyers with excellent weather. The Van Buren County Master Gardeners care for all the gardens in Ed Leamon Park, have other projects at Fairfield Bay, and also have projects in Clinton including the ones at the VBC Annex building. For more information on the Master Gardener program call the VBC Extension office at (501)745-7117.
7 Tips for Your Extension-Get-Fit Group: Taken from Harvard Health Publications

1. Warm up and cool down for five to 10 minutes. Walking is a good warm up; stretching is an excellent cool down.

2. Focus on form, not weight. Align your body correctly and move smoothly through each exercise. Poor form can prompt injuries and slow gains. When beginning a new routine, start with no weight, or very light weight. Concentrate on slow, smooth lifts and equally controlled descents while isolating a muscle group.

3. Working at the right tempo helps you stay in control rather than using momentum. Slow counting while raising & lowering a weight helps you get the maximum benefit.

4. Pay attention to your breathing during your workouts. Exhale as you work against resistance by lifting, pushing, or pulling; inhale as you release.

5. Challenge muscles by increasing weight or resistance. The right weight for you differs depending on the exercise. Choose a weight that tires the muscles by the last two repetitions while still allowing you to maintain good form. If you can’t do the last two reps, choose a lighter weight. When it feels too easy add weight (roughly 1 to 2 pounds for arms, 2 to 5 pounds for legs).

6. Stick with your routine — working all the major muscles of your body two or three times a week is ideal.

7. Give muscles time off. Strength training causes tiny tears in muscle tissue. These tears aren’t harmful, but they are important: muscles grow stronger as the tears knit up. Always give your muscles at least 48 hours to recover before your next strength training session.

Health & Wellness
Phones Apps

Exercise App: FitDay
Cost: free / Runs on: iPhone
Tracks your foods, exercise, weight, and goals to help take control of your diet and lose weight.

Dietary Apps: CalorieKing
By: CalorieKing Wellness Solutions
Cost: free / Runs on: iPhone, iPad
Provides a quick and easy way to count calories, carbs, and fat by giving you access to over 70,000 foods and 260 fast food chains and restaurants.

Cooking Apps Epicurious By: Conde Nast
Cost: free / Runs on: Android, iPhone, iPad
Has recipes, cooking techniques, and shopping lists for more than 30,000 dishes from Bon Appetit, Gourmet, and Self magazines. Includes recipe ratings.

The Right Bite
Tips for Cutting Fat in Food Preparation

Make a cream cheese or sour cream substitute by draining plain non-fat or low-fat yogurt. Line a colander with several layers of cheese cloth or coffee filters. Put the colander in a shallow container and let the yogurt drain for 8 hours in the refrigerator.

UA Division of Agriculture Research & Extension
University of Arkansas System

Find other tips like these periodically appearing on our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/UAEXVanBurenCounty

Like our page and keep informed about the most recent information and events!
EHC: Christmas Council Rescheduled!

The Executive Committee has rescheduled and will host the Christmas Council. The theme will be changed from “December in the Ozarks” to “Ozark Winter in June.” There will be a potluck luncheon, and it will take place at Petit Jean Electric’s Community Room with registration beginning at 9 am. Using the theme as a guide, each club is asked to create a table decoration, including a centerpiece which can be taken out and given as a door prize. The table decorations will be judged and three cash prizes of $15, $10, and $5 will be awarded. Plans are to have entertainment for the meeting. Since Children’s Hospital does not need Christmas Stockings this year, each member is asked to purchase one gift from the children’s want list and bring to the Christmas Council. Please, DO NOT Wrap the gift. Examples of gift items needed:

**Infant/Toddler Items**
- Teethers, Pacifiers, Baby Wipes, Socks, Wooden Puzzles, Board Books

**School-Age Items**
- Coloring Books
- Books
- Puzzles (25-250 pieces)
- Crayola Crayons
- Play-Doh (name brand)
- Hot Wheels/Matchbox Cars
- Crayola Colored Pencils
- Play-Doh Accessories (cutters)

**Teen/Adult Items**
- Journals/Diaries
- Brain Teaser Games
- Playing Cards (plain decks)
- Prepackaged Arts and Craft Kits
- Puzzles (250 pieces)

Wraps Your Way: From Healthy & Homemade

**Ingredients**
- 1 10-inch whole grain Tortilla
- 1 tsp spread (guacamole, Dijon, Italian dressing, or other choice)
- 1/2 cup chopped vegetables (lettuce, spinach, slaw mix, cucumber, onion, carrot, peppers, or other choices)
- 1 oz. protein (chicken, beef, tuna, hard cooked egg, beans)
- 1 tbs shredded mozzarella or other cheese

**Directions**
Mix the spread and veggies together. Spread on the tortilla. Spoon on protein choice & sprinkle with cheese. Roll up and eat or wrap in waxed paper & heat in microwave for 30 seconds or until cheese melts.
4-H Enrollment is Necessary to participate in any 4-H activity

Be sure you renew your membership by logging into https://arkansas.4honline.com/ using your email address and password. Inactive members will not be able to participate in any activity (Includes showing livestock & poultry at the county, district, & state fair) or receive future mailings, emails or notifications of 4-H Activities. Enroll by July 8th to be eligible to register 4-H Livestock exhibits for the Arkansas State Fair & by August 28th if registering exhibits for the County & District fairs.

4-H Citizenship/Leadership Camp

4-H’ers ages 14-17 are invited to apply to attend the new 4-H Citizenship & Leadership Camp! Delegates will be selected based on responses to registration questions in 4-H Online. There is no cost to attend!

When & Where:
June 22-27, 2014 @ the Arkansas 4-H Center

Registration and Application:
Youth will complete registration and application at the same time through 4-H Online. The deadline is May 27, 2014 (https://arkansas.4honline.com/).

Who is Eligible:
4-H’ers ages 14-17 years of age
Geographic representation will be considered in delegate selection.

The agenda includes:
- A presentation by a State Legislator
- A visit to the State Capitol and attendance at a legislative session
- Introduction to the duties of the House, Senate, Governor, the Judiciary, and more
- A visit to the Governor’s Mansion
- A day of service learning
- ExCEL leadership training
- True Colors personality assessment
- A dance
- Campfire get-together
- Camp Olympics
- Talent show

See application questions below. Selected delegates will be notified by email by May 30th. There is no cost to attend (delegate must provide own transportation to and from camp).

Selection Process:
Selection will be based upon responses to the following items that will completed in the 4-H Online registration process (with a maximum of 300 words per item response):
1. List Offices Held (5 points)
2. List Leadership Roles (5 points)
3. List Community Service Involvement (10 points)
4. Why are leaders important? (10 points)
5. What makes a good leader? What characteristics do good leaders have? (10 points)
6. What is the role of government? (10 points)
7. Why do you want to attend this camp? (10 points)

For More Info: Danny Griffin at 745-7117

Central Ozark District Horse Show

This will be the district 4-H horse show that Van Buren County will participate in on Thursday June 26th, 2014. Checkin will be at 8 AM that morning with the show starting at 9 AM classes will include: Halter, Performance (Western & English), and speed events.
There will also be a Queens contest for JR and SR members (will begin at 8:30 AM)
Must be preregistered—Completed on www.arkansas.4-Honline.com by May 30th, 2014
For more information on Classes, Rules, & Guidelines contact the Van Buren County Extension Office at 745-7117
**Van Buren County 4-H Foundation Graduating Senior Scholarship**

Two qualifying Senior Van Buren County 4-H members will receive an annual scholarship that will be renewable for up to 4 years. The recipients of this scholarship for 2014 are Ali B. & Brandon F. Congratulations Graduating Seniors Ali and Brandon for all your years of dedication to Van Buren County 4-H.

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**Van Buren County 4-H Poultry Club To Organize**

Is your child interested in poultry such as backyard chickens, geese, turkeys, etc.? Are they interested in learning more about rearing and caring for poultry at home? There is a new Van Buren County 4-H Poultry Club being organized and as of now they are planning to meet on the 3rd Monday night of each month. Elias and Ashley Watson will be leading the club and their contact number is 253-1869 or 745-2384. This club’s primary interest will be to educate youth with fun and interesting activities on poultry production in the backyard or home setting. Youth do not have to be participating in other 4-H Poultry activities such as our annual poultry chain program to participate in this club. The Van Buren County 4-H program is open to all youth between the ages of 5 and 19 without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (large print, audiotapes, etc.) should notify the county Extension office as soon as possible prior to the activity. For more information on this club meeting or Van Buren County 4-H programs in your area, please call the Van Buren County Extension office at (501)745-7117.

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**Arkansas 4-H Grassland Evaluation Contest**

was conducted in Holland AR on April 30, 2014. Six VBC 4-H members from the Southside 4-H Club participated in the contest. Competing in the contest as a Senior 4-H Team were members Casey Deckard, Clay Evans, Bryce Sawyer, and Brooklyn Smith. Sarah Megee and Riley Sawyer competed as junior individuals. All of these 4-H members represented Van Buren County very well. The members competed in 4 areas of the contest including Grassland Condition, Wildlife Habitat Evaluation, Soil Interpretation, and Plant I.D. The Van Buren County Senior team placed 4th in the contest and earned the privilege to compete in the Mid-America Grassland Contest in Springfield MO in June.

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**2014 County O-Rama Winners**

**Indoor O’Rama**

- Illustrated Talks
  - Animal Science – JR Lacey M. 1st
  - Innovative Technology – JR Katie C. 1st
  - Health – JR Carissa H. 1st

- Public Speaking - JR Matthew A. 1st, JR Gabrielle A. 2nd

- Fashion Revue: Purchased – JR Carissa H. 1st

- Performing Arts: Instrumental Division – JR Brittany L. 1st

- Performing Arts: Dance Division – SR Sammy M. 1st

**Outdoor O’Rama**

- Bait Casting and Fish I.D. – JRs Lacey M. 1st, Carissa H. 2nd, Brittany L. 3rd, Alexis G. 4th, Jordan M. 4th SRS Sammy M. 1st

- Bicycle Safety – Cody D. 1st, Matthew A. 2nd, Gabrille A. 3rd, Joseph S. 4th


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**District O’Rama at Greenbrier HS**

June 18th, 2014

Registration- 9:30 am
General Assembly- 10:00 am
Competitive Activities-12:45 pm
District Voting-10:30-12:30 pm
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1414 Hwy 65 S. ~ Suite 137
Clinton, Arkansas 72031
501-745-7117

Danny Griffin
County Extension Agent
Staff Chair

Regina Chaney
County Extension Agent
Family & Consumer Sciences

Sincerely,

Danny Griffin
County Extension Agent
Staff Chair

Regina Chaney
County Extension Agent
Family & Consumer Sciences

Kerri Jones
Administrative Support Supervisor

All meetings and activities announced in this newsletter are open to all eligible persons without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (large print, audiotapes, etc.) should notify the county Extension office as soon as possible prior to the activity.