

EXHIBIT E2



DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION

University of Arkansas System

Horticulture Program

Dr. Jackie Lee

Integrated Pest Management Extension Specialist

UAEX Horticulture Extension Specialists

Dr. Jackie Lee



Dr. Amanda McWhirt



- **Commercial Horticulture**

Dr. Jim Robbins



Janet Carson



- **Consumer Horticulture**

Commercial Horticulture in Arkansas

Data from NASS 2015

- Specialty Crop Production Importance
 - Diversity = sustainability
- **Fruit and nuts \$16 million**
 - Pecans, peaches, grapes, blueberries, blackberries, strawberries
- **Vegetable production \$35 million**
 - Sweet potato, watermelon, tomato
- Interest is growing due to local food movement and decreased prices in row crops
- Organic production increasing

Current Issues: UAEX Developments and Plans to support specialty crop production

- **Pest problems: disease, insects, and weeds**
 - Tomato app, online prediction models, pesticide research, spray guides
- **Outdated production techniques**
 - Cover crops programming, high tunnels programming and BMPs, research on varieties and planting dates, vegetable production guide
- **Inexperienced growers**
 - Beginning farmer programming, crop schools, field days, farm visits
- **Lack of associations**
 - Sustainable Agriculture Association, Blackberry growers association, active in other associations
- **Reluctance to diversify**
 - Educational programming
- **Herbicide drift**
 - Education
- **Lack of infrastructure**

Need for targeted education and research efforts.