



Erica Fields of the Southern Risk Management Education Center speaks at "Surviving the cost-price squeeze" in Stuttgart in October. (Special to The Commercial/University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture/Ryan McGeeney)

Center assists farmers amid financial burdens

MARY HIGHTOWER SPECIAL TO THE COMMERCIAL

Farmers "are not just worried about losing the farm; they are afraid of losing an identity, a legacy and a sense of purpose," said Erica Fields, associate director of the Southern Risk Management Education Center.

prices, tariffs, shrinking margins complicated by limited access to loans and severe weather "across the South, producers are under tremendous financial pressure."

to," she said. "The red flags often appear quietly in unreturned calls, skipped meetings or delayed harvesting," she said.

See FINANCE, PB3



Lin Burnett was the first angler to work with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission during its trial runs of the Legacy Lunker trophy bass program last year. (Special to The Commercial/Arkansas Game and Fish Commission)

Lonoke hatchery to take bass catches

RANDY ZELLERS SPECIAL TO THE COMMERCIAL

"This is probably one of the most exciting things I've been a part of in my career."

Arkansas Legacy Lunker combines citizen science with advanced hatchery technology and techniques to reinforce superior genetics in Arkansas' largemouth bass populations.

representative from the agency will meet them at the lake and take possession of the fish if it is healthy enough, return it to the commission's Joe Hogan State Fish Hatchery in Lonoke and spawn it with genetically superior or male bass to create improved fingerlings that will be stocked in the lake.

for their participation, anglers will receive a free replica mount of their fish, crafted by Harper's Pure Country Taxidermy, and be entered into a drawing held later in the year for a new boat.

See HATCHERY, PB2

Union Bank donates to waterfowl research

SPECIAL TO THE COMMERCIAL

Union Bank & Trust Co. gifted \$100,000 in support of the recently created Snowden Waterfowl Center of Excellence, a national research center dedicated to advancing waterfowl and wetlands science based at the University of Arkansas at Monticello in partnership with the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture.

a joint event with the UADA. The announcement celebrated the creation of both the center and the Dyke-Snowden Endowed Chair of Waterfowl and Wetlands, made possible by \$7 million in total contributions: \$5 million for the Snowden Waterfowl Center of Excellence and \$2 million for the Dyke-Snowden Endowed Chair of Waterfowl and Wetlands.



The Snowden Waterfowl Center of Excellence presentation included Joel Stevens (left), Union Bank & Trust Co. board member, Dave Dickson, president and CEO of Union Bank; inaugural Snowden director Doug Osborne; UAM Chancellor Peggy Doss; Robin McClendon, Union Bank board member; David Snowden, Arkansas waterfowl conservationist; John McClendon, chairman of Union Bank board; and Mike Akin, Union Bank board member. (Special to The Commercial/Union Bank & Trust Co.)