OBJECTIVES

This activity will train 4-H members in identification of common wildlife species found in Arkansas, the foods they consume, and wildlife management concepts. In their training prior to the district and state contest, 4-H’ers should learn the wildlife species from species lists of the Arkansas 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program (WHEP). Participants are encouraged to compete in this contest in preparation for the Arkansas 4-H WHEP state contest held in the spring.

ELIGIBILITY
The contest is open to Junior and Senior 4-H members. Any 4-H member whose name is entered by his or her county extension agent will be eligible to enter this contest and compete as an individual.

District 4-H O-Rama - Up to four (4) junior and four (4) senior members from each county may participate.
State 4-H O-Rama - The top five seniors from each District 4-H O-Rama may participate.

ACTIVITY
The Wildlife O-Rama will be held during the Arkansas 4-H District and State O-Ramas. This activity focuses on the contestant's ability to identify wildlife species, identify foods these wildlife species consume, and knowledge of wildlife management concepts. The official species list, study materials and scorecards are available online at www.uaex.edu.

Wildlife Identification
All wildlife identified in this activity will be from the official species list. Contestants study wildlife species in two Arkansas regions each year - the urban region and another announced region. The announced region will be the same region selected for the Arkansas 4-H WHEP state contest.

Participants will be responsible for identifying approximately 35 - 40 birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians found in Arkansas. Information about wildlife identification can be found in wildlife guides and references from libraries, bookstores and the internet.

Wildlife will be identified from pictures, artifacts, replicas, or other representations as found in a natural outdoor condition. Contestants should be able to:
• Identify birds by plumage, nests, eggs, tracks, and birdsongs.
• Identify mammals by fur, skulls, vocalizations, tracks, or other sign, such as a beaver's chewed log or a buck's rubbed tree.
• Identify the male, female, juvenile and adult of a species.
• Know the unique life histories and behaviors of these wildlife species that lead to identification. For example, when questioned about what species creates a tree cavity from the list of four urban species, the correct answer is Northern Flicker.
**Wildlife Foods and Management Concepts**
This portion of this contest focuses on:

1. **Food habits of wildlife species present in the region.** Questions about wildlife foods will focus on species from the announced region only. Study the foods table for wildlife species in the announced region. Be able to identify the food sample (e.g., grasshopper = insect) and which species consumes the sample (e.g., Northern bobwhite). A visual item may be provided, such as a food sample (e.g., a living grasshopper), picture, or prop.

2. **Wildlife management concepts and terms.** Use the contest study guide for learning wildlife management concepts and terms. Minimally, all contestants should be able to define these terms. Senior contestants may be asked application questions. For example, Seniors may be shown an aerial photo and asked if the edge is abrupt or gradual.

**Additional Resources**
Training trunks containing furs, skulls, wildlife foods, and resource materials are available on loan to county Extension agents. Contact Extension’s Forest Resources (501-671-2329) to schedule trunks.

Opportunity will be provided for faculty to share information about related college degree programs in Forestry and Wildlife Biology/Management, Environment, and Natural Resources, and career options in these agencies: University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Arkansas Forestry Commission, U. S. Forest Service, and other natural resource agencies and organizations.

**GENERAL RULES**

1. This competition is open to Junior and Senior 4-H individuals. One to four individuals from a county may compete in the District contest. The top five Senior individuals from each district will be eligible to compete in the State O-Rama.
2. No talking during the contest.
3. All contestants are required to provide their own sharpened pencils and an unmarked clipboard. No paper or reference material can be used.
4. The contestant’s name and county must be written legibly on each score card. If the name is left off the score card, the individual will receive zero points for that card.
5. Contestants will not be allowed to leave the contest site during the competition.
6. No electronic devices of any kind are allowed. This includes, but is not limited to, cell phones, computer watches, and PDAs.
7. The contestant must be present at the start of the contest and remain in the room for the duration of the contest. Contestants who arrive late or leave the room before turning in scorecards will not be allowed to compete.
8. After the activity begins, contestants have a maximum of one hour to complete the activity. Score cards must be turned in to an official judge before leaving the room.
9. One point will be awarded for each correct answer. The contest will be comprised of 20 wildlife identification questions and 20 foods and concepts questions. Question formats can be multiple choice, matching, or true/false.
10. Ties will be broken by the highest points for the Wildlife ID portion of the contest. In the event the score remains tied, the winner will be determined by starting at Question 20 then Question 19 and so on until the one individual with the correct answer will be selected as the winner. If no winner can be determined, the same process will be used for answers to Wildlife Foods and Management Concepts. If a tie remains, individuals will respond to one or more tie-breaking questions.
11. Judge’s decisions will be final concerning any questions involving the contest.

**AWARDS**
The high point junior and senior contestants will receive a trophy and ribbon. Second- through fifth-place junior and senior individuals will receive ribbons.

**PREPARED BY** Becky McPeake, Professor – Wildlife Extension & the Wildlife Habitat Education Program Steering Committee