Dear 4-H’ers:

Arkansas County 4-H is busy this time of year! Please check out the 4-H News section to see club meeting dates and the exciting events planned by all of our 4-H Clubs and make plans to participate.

4-H RALLY DAY

4-H Rally Day will be held Thursday, April 7 at the County Fairgrounds. Registration will begin at 3:30 p.m. with the Bicycle, BB Shooting and Baitcasting competitions starting at 4:00 p.m. Hot dogs and drinks will be provided by the 4-H Council. 4-H Leaders will provide chips & cookies. Those who did not pre-register by March 31 will be allowed to participate in only one event.

Baitcasting & Game Fish Identification - The purpose of this activity is to create an interest in fishing. This will be accomplished in two ways: (1) by testing the participant’s basic knowledge of fish identification (juniors will identify five common Arkansas fish and seniors 10) and fish anatomy (juniors and seniors will identify five basic anatomical features of fish); (2) by testing the participants skill at casting, thus encouraging improved accuracy. This important skill is essential for successful fishing. Participants are required to bring their fishing rod; practice plugs will be furnished. For more information, publications are available from the Extension Office.

Bicycling - This activity is designed to teach 4-H youth safe bicycle habits, and offer an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of bicycles, and to show their skills of riding a bicycle. This will be demonstrated by riding the bicycle rodeo courses: (1) Straight line test, (2) Figure eight steering, and (3) City Street course. There is also a short written exam and parts identification. Participants are required to bring their own bicycle. Again, more information is available at the Extension Office.

BB Shooting - This activity is to offer 4-H members the opportunity to learn safe gun handling, proper care of guns, and rules of gun safety. (Please note: Because of safety reasons BB Shoot will be available to Jr. and Sr. 4-H members only.) The BB gun target shooting contest and a brief examination will offer 4-H members the opportunity to demonstrate their skill in target shooting and their knowledge of gun safety. This activity consists of three parts: (1) A general gun safety session to discuss gun safety rules, safe handling and care of guns, and four basic shooting positions, and shooting range procedures; (2) a brief written examination; and (3) target shooting. Do not bring your own gun. All guns, BB’s, pencils, and targets will be furnished. For more information call the Extension office or visit: http://uaex.edu/4-h-youth/resource-library/applications.aspx#districtevents.

4-H ONLINE ENROLLMENT

All 4-H members and leaders should enroll in 4-H Online. Please take time to enroll now at: https://arkansas.4honline.com. This is very important for our office records. 4-H online enrollment is required to participate in county activities. Computer access is available at the Extension Office.

Visit our website at: http://www.uaex.edu/counties/arkansas.
interested in help purchases and can get involved by helping bag customer fundraiser event will be held April activities for the kids.

is located.

nationwide, in store fundraiser that benefits 4-H programming in the communities where a TSC store is located. In Arkansas County, the Paper Clover funds have gone to support camps and educational activities for the kids. The 2016 Spring Paper Clover fundraiser event will be held April 13-24. 4-H Clubs can get involved by helping bag customer’s purchases and just promoting 4-H. If you club is interested in helping, please call the Extension Office.

4-H TEEN STAR
Arkansas County 4-H is pleased to announce that Destiny was selected as a 2016 Arkansas 4-H Teen Star and a 2016 Ambassador finalist! Teen Stars will be recognized at the Teen Star/Hall of Fame Banquet during Teen Leader Conference to be held June 6-9, 2016 at the Arkansas 4-H Center. The Ambassador finalists will participate in an interview process that is held in conjunction with TLC.

4-H POSTER ART CONTEST
The 2016 4-H Poster Art contest is open to all 4-H members ages 9-19. The themes are: I AM…4-H, Open theme (create a theme and poster to go with it). Posters should be 14” x 22” in dimension and may be horizontal or vertical. Posters may be any medium art - watercolor, ink, crayon, acrylic, charcoal or collage. They cannot contain any copyrighted material such as cartoon characters and cannot have any three dimensional items on them. One poster entry per 4-H member will be accepted. The 4-H members name, age, county, full address and brief interpretation of art work must be affixed to the back of the poster in the upper left hand corner. (You may use a 3” x 5” index card.) Posters should be submitted (flat, not rolled) to the Extension Office by Friday, April 22. For more information, contact the Extension Office.

4-H POULTRY CHAIN CHICKS
Arkansas County 4-H’ers participating in the 4-H Poultry Chain will receive 25 Amberlink one-day old chickens to care for and keep records. Target delivery dates are May 7 or 14.

GIANT PUMPKIN & WATERMELON SEEDS
4-H members who have requested seed are: Abby, Autumn, Brooks, Cannon, Caroline, Chandler, Charlie, Chase, Cole, Connor, Delilah, Gabe, Ginger, Jaden, Kaitlyn, Landyn, Lizzy, Lola, Mary Katherine, Maxee, Michael David, Nick, and Payton. Seeds will be available from the Extension Office with instructions for planting, cultivating, fertilizing, etc. Planting dates are May 1-31 to harvest and enter in the Arkansas County Fair.

TRACTOR SUPPLY PAPER CLOVER
The 4-H/TSC Paper Clover Campaign is a nationwide, in-store fundraiser that benefits 4-H programming in the communities where a TSC store is located. In Arkansas County, the Paper Clover funds have gone to support camps and educational activities for the kids. The 2016 Spring Paper Clover fundraiser event will be held April 13-24. 4-H Clubs can get involved by helping bag customer’s purchases and just promoting 4-H. If you club is interested in helping, please call the Extension Office.

HUMMINGBIRD BANDING CLASSES
Cook’s Lake near Casscoe will be conducting Hummingbird Banding Classes on the following Saturdays throughout the summer months: May 28, June 18, July 2, 16, 23, August 13, 20 and September 3. All programs will be from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Bring sack lunch and drinks; lunch will be in classroom while you travel to South America via a PBS Nature Series video showing some of the 340-plus hummingbirds that live in South America only…won’t ever see them visiting us here in Arkansas! The program consists of a PowerPoint covering flowers, facts about hummingbirds, banding and why band, what happens in the nest, wintering hummingbirds…. “Lunch and a movie”….banding demonstration in the classroom under a “flex scope that projects onto our Promethean Board so everyone can see what is being done. At the end of the program volunteers will release the birds back into the “wilds” (you can actually feel the heart beat when the little bird is laid in your hand as you release it!). Please call Cook’s Lake at (670)241-3373 to register for a session…seating is limited to 36.

4-H ACHIEVEMENT BANQUET
Congratulations to twenty-four 4-H’ers who completed 4-H Record Books! These 4-H members were recognized at the 4-H Achievement Banquet on March 14. Cadets: Gage, Kaitlyn, John Braeden, Cole, Mary Katherine, Joshua, Juliann, Ava-Grace, Kameran, Lizzy, Emily; Beginners: Jayden, Allie, Autumn, Rachel, Chloe-Belle, Mary-Claire, Connor, Rob; Intermediate: Riley, Will, Chloe; Seniors: Destiny. Also, congratulations to: Destiny - Sr. County Champion; Rob - Jr. County Champion; Melissa - Outstanding Leader; Clover Kids 4-H Club - County Champion Club.

4-H EVENTS
The following is a quick reference for upcoming 4-H state camps and events. For more information contact the Arkansas County Extension Office.

- Arkansas 4-H Foundation scholarships may be available in 4-H online to assist 4-H members who have financial need to attend camp at the C.A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center. For more information call the Extension Office.
Arkansas 4-H Camps – offers camping and training opportunities for 4-H youth 5-19 years old and adults. For more information contact the Extension Office or visit our website at: http://www.uaex.edu/4h-youth/activities-programs/camps/camp%20flyer%2016.pdf.

Teen Leader Conference is scheduled for Monday, June 6 - Thursday, June 9 at the 4-H Center. The theme is: "4-H for LIFE!" The workshops will include: 1) Choose Health: Food, Fun & Fitness, 2) Life Hacks and 3) Financial management. TLC will be available to register for April 1 - May 11 via 4-H Online. Cost is $180 for delegates.

4-H Volunteer Leader Trainings - 4-H Volunteer Leaders are invited to attend one (or more) of the 4-H Volunteer Leader Trainings! These trainings are open to adult volunteers, youth volunteers, County Extension Agents and Program Assistants. Trainings are $15 for registration and lunch (except the Northwest Arkansas Training, which is $10.) You may register for as many trainings as you wish. Agendas are being loaded into 4HOnline as they become available. To register, go to http://arkansas.4honline.com/ and sign up for “4-H Volunteer Leader Training.” Remember: 4-H Grows Here – with YOUR help! Below is a list of trainings – in order of appearance: Ozark District 4-H Volunteer Training - April 9 Russellville (Westside Church of Christ Family Building) For information contact: Lauren Cannon, CEA-4-H (Pope County – 479-968-7098)

Southern Delta District 4-H Volunteer Training - April 9 Monticello (UAM Forestry Building) For information contact: Hazelene McCray, CEA-FCS (Drew County – 870-460-6270)

Northwest Arkansas 4-H Volunteer Training - April 16 Bentonville (Peterson Auditorium) For information contact: Jessica Street, CEA-4-H (Benton County – 479-271-1060)

Ouachita District 4-H Volunteer Training - April 30 Mena (Polk County Extension Education Building)

For information contact: Carla Vaught, CEA-Staff Chair (Polk County – 479-394-6018)

Delta District 4-H Volunteer Training – June 18 Jonesboro (Southwest Church of Christ) For information contact: Maleigha Cook, CEA-4-H (Craighead County – 870-933-4565)

Deep South 4-H Volunteer Training Date and Location TBA For information contact: Robin Bridges, CEA-Staff Chair (Union County – 870-864-1916)

Please welcome a new addition to Arkansas County 4-H, the Humphrey Bobcats 4-H Club. Volunteer leaders are Kathy (Tweed) Copeland, Dr. Faye Wilson, Lacey Moneyham, Linda Jones, and Cynthia Wilson. They will have a meet and greet meeting Monday, April 11 at 5:30 p.m. at the Humphrey Community Center located at 207 E. Railroad Ave., Humphrey, AR. For more information please contact Kathy (Tweed) Copeland at humpheybobcats4h@gmail.com.

Clover Kids 4-H Club met on March 28 at 3:30 p.m. Kameran did a demonstration on cup stack racing and all the members tried it. We walked to the Food Bank and stocked the shelves and prepared sacks to be handed out. The next meeting is Monday, April 18 at 3:30 p.m. at the First Christian Church, Stuttgart.

Duck Nest 4-H Club is organizing and plans to meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month at Phillips Community College, Stuttgart.

Livestock 4-H Club will meet Monday, April 5 at 5:30 p.m. at Swanky Salon, 1203 S. Whitehead Dr., DeWitt.

Prairie Angels 4-H Club will meet Monday, April 4 at 3:30 p.m. at Faith Baptist Gym, DeWitt.

Spirit of ’76 4-H Club learned all about how bees work together in the hive to make honey with a presentation by Ken & Stacey Nelson at their March meeting. Members also stuffed 50 dozen eggs with candy for the community egg hunt. Refreshments were provided by Emily, Hailey, Sarah, & Drew. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 20 at 3:30 p.m. at the Extension Office. The program will be on cupcake and cookie decorating.

Wildlife 4-H Club sponsored the Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt at DeWitt City Park on March 19. There were 120 kids that hunted 4000 eggs. The next meeting will be held in April.
**2016 SPRING PLANT SALE & LUNCHEON**

Arkansas County Master Gardeners will sponsor a Spring Plant Sale & Luncheon on Saturday, April 16 at the Arkansas County Fairgrounds in DeWitt. This event will feature a luncheon with a presentation on “Sensational Succulents.” By Randy Forst, CEA-Agriculture in Pulaski County. The doors will open at 10:00 a.m. for Plant Sales with the luncheon beginning at 11:30 a.m. The event will end at 1:30 p.m. There is a $2.00 admission fee at the door. Luncheon tickets are $15.00 each and include admission fee. Tickets are available from the Extension Office or any Master Gardener.

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**Community Conservation Project**

Remember to continue saving aluminum cans, cell phones, and printer cartridges so you can bring them to the Extension Office for recycling. This has been a great 4-H community conservation project! Proceeds go to the Arkansas County 4-H Council.

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Visit the Arkansas County 4-H Facebook Page at: [www.facebook.com/Arkansas4H.arkansas](http://www.facebook.com/Arkansas4H.arkansas)

The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action institution. If you require a reasonable accommodation to participate or need materials in another format, please contact your County Extension office as soon as possible. Dial 711 for Arkansas Relay.

Sincerely,

Grant Beckwith
County Extension Agent - Interim Staff Chair

LaTaaka Harvey
County Extension Agent - Family & Consumer Sciences