Dear 4-H’ers:

There are lots of exciting 4-H events scheduled, so mark your calendar and plan to participate. Please call the Extension Office, if you have questions.

**4-H METHOD DEMONSTRATION**

The 4-H Method Demonstration/Illustrated Talk Activity is scheduled for Monday, February 22 at Phillips Community College, Community Room in Stuttgart. Registration will begin at 5:30 p.m. with the competition beginning at 6:00 p.m. Presentations for juniors will be 2-5 minutes in length, and for seniors the time limit is 5-8 minutes.


Assignments for the activity are: MC’s – Destiny, Riley; Registration – Hailey, Emily, Jayden, Will, Sarah, Autumn; Clean-Up – All officers.

Many of you are already working on your presentation. If you need additional help on the rules or need help in preparing your talk, contact the Extension Office. Remember: "Practice Makes Perfect" so the more you practice your talk beforehand, the better you will do in competition. Please remember the importance of pre-registering for all county 4-H events. This allows our office to be better prepared for conducting the activity. **Please call the Extension Office at 946-3231 or 673-2346 to pre-register for this activity by Thursday, February 18.** We’re looking forward to seeing you at Method Demonstration.

**4-H RECORD BOOKS**

Congratulations to twenty-four 4-H’ers who completed 4-H Record Books! These 4-H members will be recognized at the 4-H Achievement Banquet on March 14. Cloverbuds: Gage, Kaitlyn, Mary Katherine, Lizzy, Ellie, Emily, John Braeden, Joshua, Cole, Juliann, Ava-Grace, Kameron; Beginners: Rachel, Jayden, Connor, Allie, Rob, Autumn, Chloe-Belle, Mary-Claire; Intermediate: Riley, Chloe, Will; Advanced: Destiny.

Now is the time to begin preparations for submitting your 2017 4-H Record Book. Through your record book, you show your accomplishments and how you have developed responsibility by keeping records. Throughout your 4-H career, you will find your record book useful in evaluating past achievements and in making improvements in future plans. Numerous awards are available for just turning in a completed record book. These awards include attending the 4-H Achievement Banquet, jackets, t-shirts, pins, camp scholarships and other awards. More information is available at the County Extension Office or on the website at: [http://www.uaex.edu/4h-youth/resource-library/project-books.aspx/](http://www.uaex.edu/4h-youth/resource-library/project-books.aspx/).

Visit our website at: [http://www.uaex.edu/counties/arkansas](http://www.uaex.edu/counties/arkansas).
4-H POULTRY CHAIN CHICKS
Arkansas County 4-H'ers will have the opportunity to learn more about chickens, how to grow them and business management skills through the 4-H Poultry Chain program. This year’s birds will be the Amberlink offered through the State 4-H Poultry Chain Program. These are large bodied, docile birds and a fantastic brown egg layer. Any 4-H member who wishes to participate in this program will receive up to 25 one-day old chicks to care for and keep records of. 4-H'ers agree to return four of the chickens to the county during the County Fair. Chickens are judged and then Arkansas County 4-H auctions them off. This funding is then used to implement the next year's program. All youth participants and an adult parent/guardian will be required to attend a mandatory education session on poultry husbandry and biosecurity. Target delivery dates are Saturday, May 7 and Saturday, May 14. To pre-register, call the Extension Office by February 12.

4-H RECOGNITION DAY WITH THE ARKANSAS RAZORBACKS
The Arkansas Razorbacks have extended a special opportunity to 4-H members, volunteers, friends and family of 4-H to attend the upcoming Arkansas Razorback Basketball game Arkansas vs. South Carolina on Saturday, March 5 at 4 p.m. at Bud Walton Arena in Fayetteville. Tickets are a $12 and can be purchased online by March 2. For more information contact the Extension Office.

4-H BANQUET
The 2016 4-H Achievement Banquet will be held on Monday, March 14 at the DeWitt High School Cafeteria with registration beginning at 6:00 p.m. and the banquet to begin at 6:30 p.m.

4-H BROILER BARBECUE
The 2016 County 4-H Broiler Barbeque Contest will be held in April. Youth interested in participating in a 4-H Broiler Barbeque Workshop should contact the County Extension Office by Friday, March 4. The top five winners from the Junior and Senior participants will be eligible to compete in the District Contest in May. For more information contact the County Extension Office.

GIANT PUMPKIN & WATERMELON SEEDS
Call now, if you want to participate in the 4-H Pumpkin or Watermelon Contest. Seeds will be available from the Extension Office with instructions for planting, cultivating, fertilizing, etc. Planting dates are May 1-31 to harvest by fair time. Reserve your seed now, deadline is Friday, March 25.

BEEKEEPING ESSAY CONTEST
The topic for this year’s contest is “Bees and Pollination: How Important is It?” Now more than ever, people are asking “What will happen if the bees are gone?” Your paper should research and help answer this question. Please see complete rules for the contest at: http://uaex.edu/farm-ranch/special-programs/beekeeping/4HBeekeepingEssay.aspx
Essays must be submitted electronically. Deadline for submission is February 16. For more information contact the county Extension Office.

SCOTT TRACTOR COMPANY 4-H SCHOLARSHIP
The Scott Tractor Company awards a local 4-H scholarship each year for a graduating senior. Recipient selection is based on the student’s interest and desire to be a part of the 4-H program as well as other community and school activities. Applications are available from the County Extension Office and are due by April 1.

MISS ARKANSAS COUNTY RICE
Rice is one of the largest grown crops in Arkansas County and is very important to the economy of our county. In an effort to bring about a better appreciation of our rice industry locally, any person who resides in Arkansas County and is enrolled in school who is 16 years old or turns 16 years old during the 2016-17 school year is invited to participate in the Miss Arkansas County Rice Contest on March 7 at 6:00 p.m. at the County Extension Office in DeWitt. The winner receives a spending allowance to be spent on promotion activities; cash prize; and a pendant. Deadline for entry is March 1. For more information contact the Extension office.

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 the Arkansas County 4-H Facebook Page at: www.facebook.com/Arkansas4H.arkansas.

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.
4-H LEADERS MEETING

A meeting of the Adult, Sr. and Jr. 4-H Councils was held at the Extension Office in DeWitt on February 1 with 7 leaders and 5 youth representing four clubs. Also attending were: Grant Beckwith, CEA-Ag, LaTaaka Harvey, CEA-FCS and Alta Lockley 4-H Program Assistant. The meeting was called to order by Charles, President.

The program “Positive Youth Development: Understanding Ages & Stages” was presented by Grant Beckwith.

The 4-H Achievement Banquet was discussed. The 4-H Banquet will be held Monday, March 14 at 6:30 p.m. at DeWitt High School with a Celebration Theme. The 4-H Banquet Decorations Committee is: Priscilla, Brandi, Megan and Alta. Work days will be scheduled at a later date. Food preparation will be provided by LaTaaka Harvey and the Extension Homemakers.

The 4-H Broiler BBQ was discussed. A workshop will be scheduled, if members are interested. Leaders should call the Extension Office to report interest.

4-H Rally Day (BB Shooting, Bicycle, and Baitcasting Competition) was discussed. A motion was made and seconded to schedule Rally Day for Thursday, April 7 at 4 p.m. (registration: 3:30 p.m.) at the Arkansas County Fairgrounds. The 4-H Council will provide hot dogs and drinks during registration. (Charles will be in charge of the hot dogs.) 4-H leaders are asked to bring chips and cookies.

Alta Lockley reported twenty-four 4-H record books were submitted. Twelve were submitted for district judging. Monthly Record Book Logs are available for 4-H members to assist with record keeping.

Brandi announced the Wildlife 4-H Club will sponsor the annual Community Easter Egg Hunt on March 19 with registration at 9:30 a.m. and begins at 10:30 a.m. at the DeWitt City Park. 4-H Clubs are invited to help fill eggs or donate filled eggs.

Summer 4-H workshops were discussed:

Grant Beckwith suggested a summer 4-H field trip to Mississippi River State Park near Marianna. A motion was made and seconded that Beckwith schedule this event. The motion carried.

Priscilla announced Prairie Angels 4-H Club plans to host a Crafts Workshop.

LaTaaka Harvey announced plans for a “Grandparents are Heroes” program.

LaTaaka Harvey has requests for an Etiquette Workshop.

LaTaaka Harvey announced interest in organizing a 4-H Club in the Humphrey community. Harvey has a meeting scheduled with potential adult leaders.

LaTaaka Harvey encouraged participation in the 4-H After School Training on Saturday, February 20, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at Jefferson County Extension Service.

4-H Leaders were reminded of upcoming dates:
4-H Secretary Books Due – February 12
4-H Poultry Chain – Deadline to sign up February 12
4-H Method Demonstration – February 22
4-H Spring Volunteer Leader Forum, 4-H Center – February 26-27
4-H Recognition Day with the Arkansas Razorbacks – March 5
4-H Banquet, DHS – March 14
4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Training – March 17-19
4-H Scott Tractor Scholarship Applications Due – April 1
4-H Delta District ORama, Forrest City – June 16

Grant Beckwith announced that 4-H State ORama will be held August 2-5.

Handouts included the 4-H President’s Planning Guide, Monthly Record Book Log, Arkansas 4-H Camps and 4-H Calendar Events.

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.

- Remember Arkansas County 4-H Camp Scholarships are available for those qualifying whereby the County 4-H Foundation will pay 75% of the expenses for one camp per year. Call the Extension Office for more information.

February 2016 Due Dates:
15 Parent & Volunteer Spring Conf. Reg. Due
16 Beekeeping Essay Contest Entries

March 2016 Due Dates
1 Alumni Recognition Program State App.
1 Camp Counselor Applications Due
1 Equine, Spring Break & Summer Camp Reg.
1 Livestock Leadership Academy
1 National 4-H Congress Adult Chaperone App.
1 Shooting Sports PPP Pistol Match Reg.
7 Shooting Sports Instructor Training Reg.
15 Ambassador Applications
15 Ambassador Re-Certifications
15 Hall of Fame Nominations
15 Officer Election Applications
15 Teen Star Applications
2016 Spring 4-H Parent/Volunteer Conference -- The 2016 Arkansas Parent and Volunteer Spring Conference theme is "4-H'ers at The Fair". All 4-H Leaders, Parents and Volunteers are invited to attend the event February 26-27 at the C.A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center. The conference begins with registration at 5:00 p.m. on Friday night and ends at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday. Cost is: $50 youth and $70 adult. Through workshops, speakers, fun shops, and networking, participants have the opportunity to expand their capabilities in the county. Registration deadline is February 15. Contact the Extension Office for more information.

4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Training Workshop -- The Spring 2016 Arkansas 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Training Workshop will be held at the Arkansas 4-H Center on March 18-19, with free extra-curricular short courses offered Thursday evening, March 17. Deadline for registration is March 7. For more information contact 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.

Clover Kids 4-H Club had their monthly meeting on January 18. We worked on record books. We decorated Rally boards. The next meeting is Monday, February 8 at 3:30 p.m. at the First Christian Church, Stuttgart. Bring your talk or demonstration to share with the group. Officer elections will be held. Submitted by: Connor, Reporter

Livestock 4-H Club will meet Monday, January 28 at 5:30 p.m. at Swanky Salon, 1203 S. Whitehead Dr., DeWitt.

Prairie Angels 4-H Club met January 24 at Faith Baptist Gym. There were 19 total in attendance. There were 24 in attendance at our Christmas Party. We bought and delivered $55 in food for the DES backpack program. Our club had 9 record books turned in. We will donate $100 in dimes to the Easter Egg Hunt. We will sell pizza kits for our fundraiser. Announcements made were Poultry Chain sign up by February 12, WAA registration begins February 8, and Share the Fun/Fashion Revue was right after our meeting. We made Valentine Cards for the Nursing Home residents. Our next meeting will be February 29 at 3:30 p.m. at Faith Baptist Gym. Submitted by Autumn Danner

Spirit of '76 4-H Club started off 2016 with a very informative and interesting program presented by Michael Scott of ARORA (Arkansas Regional Organ Recovery Agency). Mr. Scott engaged the 4-H'ers in his talk and ended the program by providing everyone with several handouts, like pom poms, stress balls and pencils. The next meeting will be on February 17 at 3:30 p.m. at the Extension Office.

Wildlife 4-H Club met January 12 at Mrs. Brandi’s house. The club discussed the Easter Egg Hunt and Mrs. Brandi provided the program on Squirrels. The next meeting will be February 9 at 3:30 p.m. at Mrs. Brandi’s House. Submitted by Lizzy, Reporter.

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,
Chuck Capps
County Extension Agent - Staff Chair
Grant Beckwith
County Extension Agent - Agriculture
LaTaaka Harvey
County Extension Agent – Family & Consumer Sciences

4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship and life skills.