Dear 4-H'ers:

Valentine’s Day is the celebration of Love, so here are four things to LOVE about 4-H:

L – Lifelong learning – 4-H helps youth and adults develop life skills and opportunities to continue learning at all ages.
O – Opportunity – 4-H provides opportunities to meet new people, learn new skills, and travel to exciting places.
V – Volunteers – 4-H volunteers have an interest in helping youth learn explore, grow and develop knowledge and life skills.
E – Experience – 4-H allows youth to have "learn by doing" hands on learning experience. Information adapted from: http://jefferson.uaex.edu.

FASHION REVUE AND SHARE THE FUN/PERFORMING ARTS ACTIVITY

The Fashion Revue and Share the Fun/Performing Arts Activity will be held Monday, February 20, at Faith Baptist Church Gym, 725 McAdams Road, DeWitt. 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. Call the Extension Office by Thursday, February 16 to pre-register. Assignments for the activity are: MC’s – Will, Rob; Fashion Revue Registration – Emily, Hailey, Autumn; Share The Fun Registration – Chloe, Sarah, Connor; Clean-Up – All officers.

4-H Fashion Revue: Registration for Fashion Revue is 5:00 – 5:15 p.m. with presentations for the judges beginning at 5:15 p.m. The style show will begin at 6:15 p.m. or immediately after the This activity consists of informally modeling garments purchased or constructed by the contestant and a short, informal presentation detailing the cost, use, and how the contestant has cared for the garment after the garment was worn. The fibers and fabric from which the garment is made should be identified and reasons given for their choice. Presentations should be 1-2 minutes and are delivered without the benefit of notes. Contestants should be prepared to answer the judges’ questions about how the competition garments were purchased or fabric selected. The Fashion Revue activity has two categories, casual and dressy. (1) Causal, for school and casual after school activities, such as spectator sports, picnics, and casual dates. Examples are: pants, jeans, skirts, or shorts and tops, jumpsuit, casual or sporty dresses, skirts or pants with casual/sporty jackets, school coats, and coordinated separates. (No swimwear.) (2) Dressy, for ensembles worn to dressy activities such as church, dinner dates, theater, and job/scholarship interviews. (Note: This category does NOT include garments worn for formal evening events and formal weddings.) Competition garments must be a complete ensemble and must include a top and bottom. Accessories such as ties, belts, scarves, shoes, etc. should be used appropriately to enhance the garment. For more information call the Extension Office or visit http://www.uaex.edu/4h-youth/resource-library/applications.aspx#districtevents. Those participating in Fashion Revue should have a copy of your garment, accessories, and information about the contestant, to be read as you model on stage at the Extension Office by Thursday, January 16.
4-H Share The Fun/Performing Arts: Registration for Share The Fun/Performing Arts is 6:00 – 6:15 p.m., with the activity beginning immediately following the Style Show. Those participating in the 4-H Share the Fun/Performing Arts Activity should provide the name and type of number you plan to perform at the time of registration. Members may perform talent numbers in vocal, instrumental, or dance, or groups or individuals may present a skit or interpretative reading. (Only Dance, Instrumental, and Vocal will qualify for District Competition). For more information call the Extension Office or visit: http://www.uaex.edu/4h-youth/resource-library/applications.aspx#districtevents.

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 Hyline Brown 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 20 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 date is Tuesday, April 11. To pre-register, call the Extension Office by February 24.

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. Georgia on Saturday, March 4 at 1 p.m. at Bud Walton Arena in Fayetteville. Tickets are a $17 and can be purchased online by March 3. For more information contact the Extension Office.

4-H Banquet
The 2017 4-H Achievement Banquet will be held on Monday, March 13 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 Rally Day
4-H Rally Day is scheduled for Monday, March 27 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.

Hamburgers or Hot dogs and drinks will be provided by the 4-H Council. 4-H Leaders will provide chips & cookies. Don’t forget - call to pre-register by Monday, March 20! Those who do not pre-register will be allowed to participate in only one event.

4-H Broiler Barbeque
Youth interested in participating in a 4-H Broiler Barbeque Workshop should contact the County Extension Office by Friday, March 3. 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 Monday, March 27.

4-H Leadership Opportunity
4-H members who are looking for an environmental stewardship leadership opportunity should call the Extension Office and volunteer to assist with the Community Conservation Project.

4-H Online Enrollment
Every year we ask all 4-H members and leaders to enroll in 4-H Online so that we have updated contact information. Please take a few minutes to enroll 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.

4-H Volunteers
Make a World of Difference

4-H Leaders/Officers Meeting
A meeting of the Adult, Sr. and Jr. 4-H Councils was held at the Extension Office in DeWitt on February 6. The meeting was called to order by Cindy, President. Rob, Jr. Council President led the Pledge of Allegiance. Will, Sr. Council President led the 4-H Pledge.

The program “4-H Record Books” was presented by Alta Lockley, CEA-4-H/Family & Consumer Sciences.

Lockley discussed membership areas and the Civil Rights compliance requirements. Club presidents were reminded of the Annual Certificates of Non-
discrimination.
The 4-H Achievement Banquet was discussed. The 4-H Banquet will be held Monday, March 13 at 6:30 p.m. at DeWitt High School with a Celebration Theme. The 4-H Banquet Decorations Committee is: Priscilla, Brandi, and Charles. Food preparation will be provided by Lockley and the Extension Homemakers.

4-H Rally Day (BB Shooting, Bicycle, and Baitcasting Competition) was scheduled for Monday, March 27 at 4 p.m. with registration at 3:30 p.m. at the Arkansas County Fairgrounds. The 4-H Council will provide hamburgers or hot dogs and drinks during registration. 4-H leaders are asked to bring chips and cookies.

Grant Beckwith, CEA-Interim Staff Chair reported a summer 4-H field trip to Mississippi River State Park near Marianna has been scheduled for June 15. The program will be “Birding Basics.” Lockley reported nineteen 4-H record books were submitted. Nine were submitted for district judging.

There being no further business Lockley reminded 4-H Leaders of upcoming dates. Handouts included Arkansas 4-H Parent & Volunteer Spring Conference, Arkansas 4-H Camps and 4-H Calendar Events.

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 6 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.

Look us up on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/Arkansas4H.arkansas.

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. The County 4-H Foundation will pay 75% of the expenses for one camp per year. Call the Extension Office for more information.

February Due Dates:
- 13 SS Hunting Skills State Competition Registration
- 13 Ark. Leader’s Assoc. Volunteer Forum Registration
- 15 Vet Science Field Trip – Registration Opens
- 15 Beekeeping Essay Contest Entries
- 27 JO/PPP Air Pistol Match Registration

March Due Dates:
- 1 Alumni Recognition Program State Application
- 1 Spring Equine Camp Registration
- 1 STEM Camp Registration
- 1 TLC/Camp Scholarship Application
- 2 Livestock Leadership Academy Registration
- 15 Ambassador Application
- 15 Ambassador Re-Certification
- 15 Governor’s Award Nomination
- 15 Hall of Fame Nomination
- 15 Officer Election Application
- 15 Teen Star Application
- 15 Vet Science Field Trip Registration
- 20 Camp Leadership – Basic & Advanced Registration

4-H WHEP and Wildlife Activities: The WHEP and Wildlife O-Rama region for 2017 is Mississippi Alluvial Plain. The additional region for Wildlife ID is Urban. Following is a list of upcoming wildlife program activities & events.

- February 18 – 4-H WHEP Practice Session, Pine Bluff
- March 1 – 4-H Food Plot Project Book deadline
- April 28 – 4-H WHEP State Contest, Lonoke County
- June 1 – 4-H Food Plot Project registration deadline
- June 22 – 4-H Wildlife Delta O-Rama Competition, Forrest City
- July 26 – 4-H Wildlife O-Rama State Competition, Fayetteville
- November 3–5 – 4-H Forestry & Wildlife Camp, 4-H Center

4-H Coding Camp 2017: This camp is open to all junior 4-H’ers (age 9-14) and will focus on computer science and engineering skills. Participants will explore coding and engineering through completing hands on activities. This is a 1 day camp to be held on June 24 at the 4-H Center. Registration will be available soon via 4-H Online and is tentatively set at $75 per youth (lunch and dinner included). Maximum of 25 participants.

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%2017.pdf.
4-H CLUB MEETINGS

Clover Kids 4-H Club met on January 9. John Braeden gave his Parfait Snack Demonstration. Rachel and John led a shoe smooze recreation in which members learned more about each other. The club met on January 16 to practice their Method Demonstrations. The next meeting is Monday, February 13 at 3:30 p.m. at the First Christian Church, Stuttgart.

Prairie Angels 4-H Club met on January 30 with 8 members and 4 leaders present. President Autumn opened the meeting with Kaylie and Lynsi leading the pledges. Minutes from the last meeting were read by Cole and approved. The club voted to help with the DeWitt Elementary School backpack program. The club fundraiser was approved and a request will be sent to Mr. Grant. Share the Fun will be February 20. More Community Easter Egg Hunt plans were discussed. Daniel was welcomed as a new member. Club members made 105 Valentine’s cards for Nursing Home residents and made plans to deliver them on February 9. A Valentine’s Day crafts was made. Mr. Charles and Mrs. Priscilla provided snacks. The next meeting will be February 27 at Faith Baptist Gym.

Spirit of ’76 4-H Club started off the new year by electing officers for 2017: President-Mary Claire, Vice President – Kaid, Secretary – Dillon, Treasurer – Nick, Reporter – Jaylen, Pledge Leaders – Chloe Belle & Asiah, and Cheerleaders – Ava Grace & Wendell. Ms. Melissa led by group in a Yoga Activity. For closing recreation, members played a game of “I Have Never.” The next meeting will be February 15 at 3:30 p.m. at the Extension Office.

Visit our website at: http://www.uaex.edu/counties/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

Phil Horton
County Extension Agent - Agriculture

Alta Lockley
County Extension Agent - 4-H/Family & Consumer Sciences

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 4-H community conservation project! Proceeds go to the Arkansas County 4-H Council.