NEA District Fair Begins September 19th

It’s hard to believe that it is fair time again! Plans are being made for the 2016 NEA District Fair to be hosted at the NBC Expo Center (formerly the NEA District Fairgrounds) beginning on Monday, September 19th.

We are making plans now to staff the Family Living departments (quilts, food preservation, crafts, sewing, art, photography, etc.) with volunteers to take in entries on Monday, September 19th and to assist with judging on Tuesday, September 20th.

In the past, letters were sent to Extension Homemakers, Master Gardeners and 4-H Volunteer leaders to assist as fair volunteers. This year we are counting on club leadership to survey their membership through email, social media and telephone contacts. We also welcome community members to join in!

This will be the first year in as long as most can remember that the Extension Homemakers will not have a concession stand. However, EH members will remain a visible presence at the fair as they have for more than 100 years.

I hope to see each of you there! It is an EHC and Craighead County tradition that merits continuing!

Sincerely
Debbie DeRossitte
Craighead Co. Extension Agent – Family and Consumer Sciences
Craighead Co. Cooperative Extension
611 East Washington, Suite A / Jonesboro, AR 72401

Rice Expo Set for August 10th

The Arkansas Rice Expo returns to Stuttgart’s Grand Prairie Center, 2807 Highway 165 South on August 10, 2016. Doors open at 8 a.m. and will finish up with a complementary lunch. The annual half-day event celebrates a crop that in 2013 was valued at nearly $1.3 billion for Arkansas’ economy. (Continued on next page.)
Rice Expo (continued)

This year’s general session will feature a panel of industry experts answering “Where will we sell Arkansas rice in 2025?” The Arkansas Rice Expo will also have plenty of activities for the family, thanks to Arkansas 4-H, and field tours for farmers to see research from the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture in action.

Get a peek at this year’s Arkansas Rice Expo Recipe contest entrants as well as the creativity that goes into the Rice Tabletop Centerpiece contest.

Seminar topics include new technology for in-bin rice drying and storage and factors affecting rice milling yields.

A walk-in plant disease clinic will be available to help farmers and gardeners diagnose problem plants. There will be plenty of booths with products and services on display.

For more information about the Rice Expo, visit www.uaex.edu/rice-expo/.

ASU Farmers’ Market offers Double Up Food Bucks

If you have an Electronic Benefit Transaction (EBT) card, extra savings awaits you at the ASU Farmers’ Market! According to Bob Young, market manager, patrons with EBT (formerly Food Stamps) can purchase tokens to be used like cash at the market manager booth. On Saturdays, the tokens will be doubled up to $20.00. The bonus bucks can only be used for fruits and vegetables.

The ASU Regional Farmers’ Market is located at 3350 Aggie Road, Jonesboro, AR and is open from May through October. Saturday hours are 7:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

The Farmers’ Market is also open on Tuesdays from noon until 5:30 p.m. but the Double Up Food Bucks are not available on Tuesday.

Mark Your Calendar!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 1</td>
<td>EHC Executive Committee 1:30 p.m.  EHC Board (club presidents) 2:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 10</td>
<td>Rice Expo at Grand Prairie Center in Stuttgart.</td>
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<td>Aug. 12</td>
<td>Fair superintendents meeting at Extension office 10:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>Sept. 5</td>
<td>Extension office closed for Labor Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 19</td>
<td>Entry day (judging for Food Preservation) at the NEA Fair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 20</td>
<td>Judging day at the NEA Fair</td>
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<td>Sept. 25</td>
<td>Give-it-Back Day at NEA Fair</td>
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<td>Oct. 20</td>
<td>Delta EHC Rally – Grand Prairie Center in Stuttgart</td>
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