2015 Poultry Chain orders are due Friday February 27th by 4:30pm.

It is time to roll with the 2015 Poultry Chain Program. We have a big change in this year’s project. Last year we ordered brown egg layers for the 2015 project, but due to a major shortage across the commercial industry we will be getting white leghorns. We have already requested to return to the brown layers for 2016. White leghorns are extremely good layers and have been known to lay throughout the entire year if provided with a healthy environment. Due to the shortage we will also be reducing the number of birds each child gets and the price to participate will drop back to $20.00 per participant. Our goal is to provide between 15-18 birds per project. White Leghorn males will be available for order. The males will be 30 cents each.

If you would like additional information on this project please contact Cynthia Rorie. Also, if you are interested in the project but would like to only receive a few chicks email or call me with your request.

- **Target delivery** – April 11th and April 24th are the dates the hatchery has estimated.

Volunteer Leader Forum

This year’s 4-H Parent and Volunteer Spring Conference (aka - Spring Leader Forum) will be February 27-28, 2015 at the Arkansas Vines 4-H Center. The Conference starts at 6:00 p.m. Friday night and ends at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday. The theme for this year is “Planting the Seed of 4-H.”

O’Rama Practices—Registration Required

4-H County O’Rama will be held in April—Date TBD

What: O’Rama Talent, Speech, & Fashion Practice Session
When: Monday March 23rd at 10:00am
Where: Crittenden County Extension Office

What: O’Rama Big ‘B’ Practice Session
When: Tuesday March 24th at 10:00am
Where: Crittenden County Extension Office

We will conduct a mock O’Rama competition. Study materials will be distributed for each event. Big ‘B’ Day will consist of preparing for Bicycle (bring your own bike and helmet), Baitcasting (poles will be provided, but I recommend bringing your own), and BB Safety & Marksmanship (guns will be provided).
**Junior Master Gardeners Club**

The Junior Master Gardeners Club will meet Thursday March 5th at 4:30pm at the Extension Office.

We are very excited about this brand NEW club!! If you are interested in gardening, entomology (insects), food preservation, and FUN please join us for our first meeting to learn more about this great club and program.

We will meet every Thursday for 6-8 weeks. After the initial 6-8 meetings and JMG certifications we will meet monthly for Lessons and Activities.

If you would like to learn more about this program contact Cynthia Rorie or check out the JMG website at: [http://jmgkids.us/](http://jmgkids.us/)

**Veterinary Science SPIN Club**

The Veterinary Science Club will meet Tuesday March 3rd at 5:30pm at the Extension Office.

Our lesson and activity will cover how to properly handle and use a compound microscope. Participants will view and record observations of slides.

**St. Patrick’s Craft Day with 4-H**

When: Monday March 16th at 5:30pm

Where: Crittenden County Extension Office

What: We will be creating a St. Patrick’s Day Craft! Bring a canvas or paper and paints and brushes will be supplied.

**Giant Pumpkin and/or Watermelon Contest**

Seed requests are DUE Monday March 30th by 4:30pm. $2.00/pumpkin seeds and $2.00/watermelon seeds.

2014 Winners:
Charlie B. 1st Place Giant Pumpkin NEA District Fair
Chandler B. 2nd Place Giant Pumpkin NEA District Fair
Ashley B. 6th Place Giant Watermelons AR State Fair

We currently have 8 participants registered for 2015. If your name is not on the list and you would like to be added contact Cynthia Rorie.


**WHEP (Wildlife Habitat Education Program) State Tournament**

April 24th (Friday) - Wildlife Habitat Education Program (WHEP) State Competition, Stuttgart Arkansas.

If you are interested in participating in this event remember to study the WETLANDS materials for the competition. Study materials can be found via this link:

[http://uaex.edu/4h-youth/activities-programs/whep.aspx](http://uaex.edu/4h-youth/activities-programs/whep.aspx)
All meetings and activities announced in this newsletter are open to all youth between the ages of 5 and 19 without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability, or any other legally protected status. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (large print, audiotapes, etc.) should notify the county Extension office (or other appropriate office) as soon as possible.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!!!!!

Crittenden County Shooting Sports Club
Eight elite members of the local 4-H shooting sports club competed in this statewide event. Participants prepared for this competition by practicing their gun safety and marksmanship weekly for several months. The top 8 participants were chosen to compete in the State Tournament: Austin B., Preston C., Sam C., Anthony F., Jerry K., Michael R., Daniel T., and Madison T. Each youth completed a written safety test and then competed in 4 marksmanship positions: prone, standing, sitting, and kneeling. Sam C. placed second overall in the sitting position.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!!!!!

Ashley B.
4-H Teen Leader Ashley B. of A Bit of Hope 4-H Club was awarded the Katie’s Krops grant for 2015. The mission of Katie’s Krops is to start and maintain vegetable gardens of all sizes and donate the harvest to help feed people in need, as well as to assist and inspire others to do the same. Ashley will plant, maintain, and harvest a 10x10 garden; she has chosen to donate her vegetables to Hope House Ministries.

Congratulations Record Book Participants!!!!!
Cloverbud: Charlie B., Brynn R., Daniel T.
Beginner: Chandler B., Hannah O., Anna Grace R., Jolie R., Madison T.
Intermediate: Precious M., Kristin S.
Advanced: Ashley B.
Due to winter weather Record Books will be judged at the State Level March 2nd-4th.

Congratulations Beekeeping Essay Participants!!!!!
Kelis A.-1st Place at County
Jevonte T.-2nd Place at County
4-H T-Shirts
The Arkansas Association for Extension 4-H Agents is excited to announce a statewide, 4-H Youth Development shirt and we want your county to be a part. These affordable, fashionable shirts are a great way to promote a united 4-H front across our state.

The front and back designs are attached. Shirts will be kelley green with the below shirt design. The words inside the state outline were provided by Extension Agents during the 2014 state 4-H in-service. Both short sleeve and long sleeve options are available.

Prices for Short Sleeve T-Shirts
$8.00 sizes Youth Small-Youth Large
$10.00 sizes Adult Small-Adult XLarge
$12.00 sizes Adult XXLarge-XXXLarge

Prices for Long Sleeve T-Shirts
$12.00 sizes Youth Small-Youth Large
$12.00 sizes Adult Small-Adult XLarge
$15.00 sizes Adult XXLarge-XXXLarge

Orders and Money Due March 10th