Greetings 4-H’rs,

What incredibly busy months July and August were! If you did not get to come to a camp in July, do not worry, there will be lots of great events during the school year. We had Rockets, Flags, Citizenship and even a trip to Fayetteville and Little Rock for our youth.

In August we held an advisory meeting to provide direction on upcoming events. If you would be interested in providing additional feedback on 4-H educational programs, please contact the County office.

School began August 18th, so there will be no 4-H events until September, with Pride of McGehee meeting Sept 15 and Foodology on September 23. Please keep an eye on your email or Facebook, as I will try to keep you informed of coming events.

Get ready to cook, grow, and learn this 4-H year, we have a lot planned that should be lots of fun. Bring a friend and let them see how today’s 4-H is changing!

Sincerely Yours!

Hope Bragg

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Are you ready for a new school year? I know I am ready for a new 4-H year!

The mission of the Family, Youth and 4-H Education program is to help children, youth, and families realize their full potential and to improve the quality of life for Arkansas children, youth and families. The 4-H youth development program provides opportunities for youth to acquire knowledge, develop skills, form attitudes, and practice behavior that will enable them to become self-directing, productive, and contributing members of society.

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The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.
Continue to Recycle your Cartridges and Electronics

Thanks to our community support, we have made over $45 to date by simply recycling electronics and ink cartridges in Desha County. With the support from other community groups, I hope we can double that in the coming months. This funding can be used to buy supplies for games and activities through the company that we have been working with. I am excited about some of the kits we may get in the coming months. Continue to spread the word, and bring in your old phones, tablets, laptops, or ink and toner cartridges. This program does not cost us anything other than a little time to box up the materials!

Contact Hope Bragg for more information about the program, including list of items we can take, or how you can help in the program.

TEE SHIRTS!

We still have lots of t-shirts available. For only $10, you can share your 4-H spirit!

See Hope Bragg to pick up your shirt today!

It is Time to Register!

Every year we ask you as parents to register on-line so that we have up to date contact information. If you have not done so by now, please take a few moments to register your child and yourself as a volunteer at:

https://arkansas.4honline.com/
America’s Farmers Grow

Reach out today and encourage a farmer to enroll in America’s Farmers Grow Communities. Since 2010 Grow Communities, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund, has partnered with farmers to invest more than $1.6 million in 4-H clubs across rural America. The 2015 Grow Communities program enrollment is now under way, and we are asking our members to help spread the word. By telling your farmer friends and neighbors about this amazing opportunity, you could help your own 4-H chapter receive one of these $2,500 donations. Farmer enrollment is easy, visit www.GrowCommunities.com or call 877-267-3332.

In the past Desha County 4-H has used their farmer-directed donations for leadership development opportunities, to send youth to camps, and to help defray the costs of special community and youth education programs.

The purpose of America’s Farmers Grow Communities is to make a positive impact in farm communities across the country by partnering with farmers to support the causes that are most important to them. In 2015 Grow Communities will be giving away $3.3 million to nonprofit organizations nationwide. Now through November 30, farmers can enter for a chance to win a $2,500 donation for their local 4-H.

One winner will be selected at random from each of the eligible 1,324 counties across 40 states. Winning farmers and recipient nonprofits will be announced in January 2015.

Since its inception, Grow Communities has invested more than $16 million in 6,000 nonprofit organizations across rural America. The program is part of the America’s Farmers initiative. America’s Farmers programs, supported by the Monsanto Fund, have awarded over $23 million to rural communities since 2010. Connect with America’s Farmers on Facebook or @AmericasFarmers on Twitter. Join the #GrowCommunities conversation today and find out more at AmericasFarmers.com.

The 4-H State Office wanted to extend this special opportunity to 4-H members, volunteers, friends and family of 4-H to attend the upcoming Arkansas Razorback football game against Northern Illinois at Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium on Saturday, September 20th, 2014 (Time is still to be determined)

This game is our

“4-H Appreciation Day!”

With this special offer upper deck seats are only $30.00 (over 30% discount!) by CLICKING HERE and entering promo code: 4HFB14 (An ordering fee will be applied to all orders)

The deadline to order tickets is September 5th.

SEE YOU AT THE STADIUM!

GO HOGS!
Forestry and Wildlife Camp

Have you ever gone to a 4-H camp at Ferndale? If not, there is still one more camp opportunity this year. The Forestry and Wildlife camp will be September 26-28th. This weekend camp is for youth ages 10 to 13, and is an excellent chance to experience what 4-H camps can offer. Youth will get the chance to canoe, hike, meet other 4-H youth and learn about Arkansas’s plants and animals. The cost for this weekend camp is $145.

Registration must be turned in through 4-H online by September 1st.

4-H Expansion Review

On August 19th community members and a group of current 4-H youth gathered to provide feedback on what they would like to see happen in 4-H of Desha County, and where the County Extension Office needed to improve. It was a great opportunity for our county agents to hear what direction the Desha County Community feels 4-H’s should be taking.

Some of the items discussed at the meeting included:

- A need for fundraising to help pay for camps
- Field Trips to state and national parks, museums and other outings
- A veterinary sciences club/program
- Continued day camps, including rocketry
- City Festival and Parade Participation
- Hiking and Camping
- Recruitment efforts at local schools and groups
- Sewing clubs, perhaps partnered with EHC
- 4-H participation in other programs as leaders/helpers, including SNAP-ED, FCS, EFNEP.
- Fishing derbies and outings
- Family Cooking classes
- More projects like the Quad Day Archeological Day.

As a result of this meeting, some activities are already in the works. Foodology Club, which meets the 4th Tuesday of every month, is planning a Thanksgiving feast prepared by 4-H youth for their parents. We will be meeting a bit extra so that the youth know how to prepare all the great food traditionally served up on Thanksgiving. We will be meeting September 23, October 28, November 4, November 11th and November 20th to prepare for the Feast, and family will be invited to partake of the meal on November 20th from 5-6 PM. More details on this great event will be announce in the next newsletter.
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