Important question from the Garland County 4-H office:

ARE YOU STILL ACTIVE????

Last year, over 200 youth in Garland County were active in 4-H. As of February 1, 2016, there are only 108 who have enrolled or re-enrolled for the new year.

On August 31 of each year, every 4-H member and volunteer leader’s status is reset to “inactive”. The new 4-H year started on October 1. **If you have not re-enrolled since September 1, you are currently inactive!!** Go to your family page in 4-H online and click “edit” by your name. A screen will come up that already has information filled in about you. Scroll to the BOTTOM of that screen and click on “Enroll for 2015-2016”. You will have to update the health portion of the enrollment process, sign the publication and video consent agreement, and sign the code of conduct.

On the participation screen, your club will not be in the drop down list because it is already listed below as your club. Be sure you add any additional club or clubs in which you participate. If you have problems or questions, please call the office and ask for Linda Bates. I will be happy to help you.

**Get re-enrolled for 2015-2016!!**

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Record Books Galore!!!!!

Twenty 4-H members turned in Record Books this year! Thank you to all who submitted their 4-H stories. The Record Book is the story of your previous 4-H year and it details all the work you do from January to December with your projects, leadership, and community service work. Start today to prepare for your 2017 Record Book! Take pictures of what you do, keep a calendar of your activities, and create opportunities that can be entered into your book as the year progresses. Can’t wait to see yours next year!!!
Leader’s Corner:

At the volunteer leader meeting held on Monday, February 8, discussion centered around working hard this year to get everyone’s four hours of voluntary training. Discussion also took place concerning the making of club t-shirts. The 4-H Clover is a protected national emblem and there are lots of policies and rules to consider when using the emblem on a t-shirt. To be sure you are following the guidelines for using the clover on the t-shirts, please check with the county 4-H office to have your design approved. Also, make sure you are using approved Arkansas vendors for making your shirts.

THANK YOU to those who have already completed your Mandated Reporter training! This is a one-time training and can be done online, on your own. If you have trouble with your internet connection, you can come by the office to complete the training. It takes about 30-45 minutes. Once you have completed the training, send a copy of the certificate to me by mail or e-mail (or bring a copy by the office). The Mandated Reporter Training can be found at the following address:

If you were a volunteer adult signed up in 4-H online last year or this year, whether you are the actual club leader or not, it is very important for you to complete this training. This training is for anyone who is working with the youth of our county as a 4-H volunteer.

GARLAND COUNTY 4-H APPRECIATES OUR AWESOME ADULT VOLUNTEERS!!!

Youth Council News!

This year’s Youth Council nominees were excited to submit the reasons they want to be considered for Youth Council Offices this year. Youth Council Officer is the highest office a 4-H’er can hold in our county. Among the requirements for running for office, the most important one is that they do a Record Book for the year. This year, we had more qualified to run for Youth Council than we have the past three years put together! It is exciting to see our 4-H members reaching for higher goals!

This year’s Youth Council Nominees are:

Breanne G.- President.
Carlie D.- Vice President.
John B.- Secretary.
Jillian R.- Photographer.
Katelynn W.- Photographer.
Jessa G. - Historian.
Jazzlan R.- Treasurer
Daniel P. - Treasurer.
Nathan C.- Reporter.

Voting to occur at the Feb. 29 Youth Council Meeting at the Extension Office.

GET YOUR BABY CHICKS!

Poultry Chain registration and payment deadline is March 8. This year we will be returning to the brown egg-laying chicken. They are called “Amberlinks”. They are large bodied, very docile, and fantastic egg layers. The fee for this project is $25.00 for up to 25 birds. They are available for order--one set per active 4-H member enrolled in 4-H online. The day-old chicks will arrive either Saturday, May 7 or Saturday, May 14. You must either bring or mail a check to the Extension Office (236 Woodbine, Hot Springs, AR, 71901). Make the check payable to “CES”.

Roosters are available at $40 each—maximum of five roosters per set of hens.
Garland County 4-H Clubs

Clever Clovers  Meetings in Royal/Hot Springs Area  2nd Thurs.
Stacy Dodd – 617-6505

Cool Clovers  Meetings at Centerfork Baptist Church. Lake Hamilton Area 3rd Monday
Lisa Driggers – 767-4232

Country Clovers  Meetings at Pleasant Hills Baptist Church. 3rd Tuesday
Amber Wheeler- 282-9862

Creative Clovers  Home School Group
Tonya Reck – 282-2755

Crimson Clovers  Meeting in the Lakeside Area
Gabrielle Dickson – 627-5185

Fountain Lake 4-H  Meetings at Ftn Lake School Ftn Lake/Jessieville Area
Mandy Ault – 620-9569

Garland Gunners  Meetings at Christian Ministries Church near Walnut Valley
Shooting Sports
David Taylor—282-4430

Vet Science Club  Meeting at Extension Office
Last Thursday of each month
Linda Bates 617-2603

Teen Leaders  Meeting at Extension Office
Last Monday of each month
Linda Bates 617-2603

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Scholarship Opportunities

With the rising cost of higher education these days, every extra dollar helps. We will try to keep you updated on any scholarship opportunities that we hear or know about. Listed below are four scholarships offered through Garland County 4-H. The scholarships are open to undergraduate 4-H members of Garland County, in any year in college.

Sitton/Sanders/Neepar EHC Scholarship

The I. L. “Ish” Stivers 4-H Scholarship

Jimmie Tucker Memorial 4-H Scholarship

Recipient of this scholarship must plan to attend the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville or Southern Arkansas University at Magnolia.

Garland County Master Gardeners 4-H Scholarship

More information about the requirements and applications are in the Extension Office. Applications are due March 1, 2016.

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Club Awards – Due Feb 29

County Honor Club—In each Club Secretary’s Book, there is a page titled County Honor Club Report. The first two items listed are required, and then the club must have at least 10 of the other 13 qualities listed. Go through this checklist; then submit it to the Extension Office by the deadline. Honor Club is awarded at the Achievement Banquet.

County Champion Club—Presented to one club that has turned in a Secretary’s Book and a Scrapbook of clubs activities and involvement in the community. These items need to be submitted to the Extension Office by the deadline. The winner is chosen by the Garland County 4-H Foundation Board.

Merit Star Award—$50 check given by the Garland County 4-H Foundation to two clubs, based on a statement of your club’s community service activities for the past year. All that is required is a list of what activities your club has participated in within the past year.

On the State Level:

State Honor Club – This has all the requirements of the County Honor Club, but also requires a Scrapbook with a picture of the Club Officers and Leaders, a summary of work done, plans for the following year, as well as a page devoted to each member of the club. Multiple clubs can win this award!!

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Do you want to show livestock …?

Are you planning to show livestock at the fair next year? Do you want to show an animal but don’t have the startup money to purchase one? Then the Farm Credit Youth Loan Program may be for you!

Farm Credit Services of Western Arkansas offers a Youth Loan Program for 4-H members. Loans range from $500-$2500 to assist with 4-H projects involving cattle, swine, sheep and goats. For more information contact Mr. Jimmy at the extension office.
4-H Important Dates

February
22 Ambassador Applications due
22 Teen Star Applications due
25 Vet Science Meeting 6:00
29 County Honor Club, County Champion Club, Merit Star Award submissions due
29 Youth Council Meeting 5:00
29 Teen Leader Meeting 6:00

March
1 County scholarship applications due
2 County Champ Interviews
7 Big T O’Rama
8 Last Day to order Poultry Chain Chicks
18 State 4-H Roping—Benton
21-25 Record Book Workshop TBA
28 Last day to order Giant Pumpkin and Giant Watermelon seeds
28 Teen Leader Meeting 6:00
31 Vet Science Meeting 6:00

April
1-2 State Vet Science Tour OSU
4 Big B O’Rama