4-H ACHIEVEMENT BANQUET

The date for the banquet will be April 8. The theme for this year’s banquet is “4-H’ers on the Case!” This year the dress will be formal or church attire. You will receive an invitation, if you turned in a record book or wrote a 4-H Story (for first year members only). Cloverbud record books and 4-H Stories are due March 1.

POULTRY CHAIN CHICKS

It is time again to order your 4-H Poultry Chain chicks! This year they will be Amberlink chickens. They are buff colored with brown/red markings, are excellent layers, lay brown eggs and have a docile personality. You must come to the office and place your order before March 18. The payment of $25 is due when order is placed. Each order will contain up to 25 birds. The birds are set to arrive either May 7 or May 14. We will notify you of the delivery date.

Attention- This year, there is a required training on poultry husbandry and biosecurity for all Poultry Chain participants, since the threat of avian influenza and other diseases has become more prevalent. The date for this training is April 21, 6 PM at the EH Center.

TALKS AND DEMONSTRATION, TALENT AND FASHION REVUE CONTESTS

These contests will be held on March 28 at 6:00 PM at the EH House. You may compete in talks and demonstration, talent, fashion revue, or multiple events. We encourage you to participate! Call the office to sign up by March 18. If you have any questions about any of these contests, call us at 870-845-7517. We will be glad to help you!
**NATIONAL 4-H STEM YOUTH AMBASSADOR AWARD**

Congratulations to Howard County 4-H member, Joshua R.! He was selected as a member of the inaugural class of National 4-H STEM Youth Ambassadors Program. Joshua was chosen as one of six teens from across 13 states. He will represent 4-H at the USA Science and Engineering Festival in Washington D.C. in April. He will receive a $1,000 scholarship at the end of his two year term in recognition of his service. Joshua will be working with a new 4-H STEM club that will teach STEM programs to county 4-H members.

**NEW CLUB TO BE FORMED**

Plans are being made to implement a new STEM club (science, technology, engineering, and math). This club is for ages 9 and up and will meet every 3 months. If you are a 4-H member in this age category and are interested in this new club, please call the office by April 1 and let us know. Pass the word to your friends! If there is enough interest, the first meeting will be April 26. The first project will be a bridge building contest.

**VETERINARY SCIENCES ACTIVITIES**

There are two major activities coming up soon for the 4-H Veterinary Science Program! First, the 2016 field trip to Oklahoma State University Center for Veterinary Health Sciences will be April 1st and 2nd. Registration is open at 4-H Online for students age 11-19. Cost for the trip is $100. Buses will pick up in Little Rock and Ft. Smith. There is detailed information provided on the registration page.

The second event is the 2016 4-H Veterinary Science Camp, which will be at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville. The dates are June 27-June 29. Registration will open at 4-H Online on April 15th for students 11-19. Cost for the camp is $125. Detailed information, including the schedule, will be provided on the registration page.

**DAIRY CONTEST**

The Dairy Contest will be held April 18, 6:00 PM at the EH Center. This is another great opportunity to showcase your cooking skills! If you need help selecting a recipe, call the office. We’ll be happy to assist you. Complete information about the contest will follow in a separate mail out. Be on the lookout for an award winning recipe! Remember, promote dairy foods!
**Poster Contest**

The 2016 4-H Poster Art contest is open to all 4-H members ages 9-19. Posters should be 14" x 22" in dimension and may be horizontal or vertical. Posters may be any medium art - watercolor, ink, crayon, acrylic, charcoal, oils or collage. They cannot contain any copyrighted material such as cartoon characters and cannot have any three dimensional items on them. One poster entry per 4-H member will be accepted. The 4-H members name, age, county, full address and brief interpretation of art work must be affixed to the back of the poster in the upper left hand corner. (You may use a 3" x 5" index card.) The top ten winners will receive certificates, which will be presented at the District 4-H O-Ramas. The themes for 2016 are: I Am...4-H or create your own theme and poster. The deadline will be Monday, April 18. Bring your poster by the office.

**Camps, Camps, Camps!**

Take a look at these awesome state-wide 4-H camping opportunities. All will be held at the beautiful Arkansas 4-H Center in Ferndale. You may register at 4-H Online. The Howard County 4-H Foundation will award scholarships to active 4-H members attending camp for the first time. Check the new policy handbook for the guidelines. If you do not have your new policy book yet, come by the office and pick one up. You will be responsible for transportation to the camps.

- Livestock Leadership Academy (14-19 year olds)
  - March 24-26
  - Registration closes March 3
  - $85
  - Topics include leadership development, advocacy, timely topics in livestock, college fair, animal science career panel, and much more.

- Camp Counselor Training (14-19 year olds)
  - June 3-4
  - Application Due April 1

- Teen Leader Conference (14-19)
  - June 7-9
  - Registration due May 2
  - $180

- STEM Camp (9-14 year olds)
  - July 5-7
  - Registration due June 15
  - $170

- Forestry & Wildlife - Basic & Advanced (Basic: 10-13, Advanced: 14-18 year olds)
  - September 23-25
  - Registration due August 31
  - $145

  - Session I: July 11-13
  - Session II: July 18-20
  - Registration due by June 15th
  - $170

- Cloverbud Camp (5-9 year olds - parent or guardian must accompany child)
  - July 8-10
  - Registration due June 15
  - $170

**Where Should You Go?**

- Whoo...Loves to Camp?
- Page 3
MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- Cloverbud Record Books/4-H Stories due - March 1
- Poultry Orders due - March 18
- Talks, Talent, and Fashion Contest - March 28
- Achievement Banquet - April 8
- Dairy Contest - April 18
- Poster Contest due - April 18
- Mandatory Poultry Training - April 21
- B-Day - May 19
- Teen Leader Conference - June 7-9

*All dates and/or times for events may be changed.

4-H Newsletter prepared with the assistance of Tina Williams, 4-H Program Assistant

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Sincerely,

Jean A. Ince
County Extension Agent-Staff Chair

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