Happy Valentine’s Day to everyone! Now that the holidays have ended and everyone is back to normal it’s time to get back into the swing of things.

First of all, I want to thank everyone who helped with the TN gift card drive.

Now to the activities.

The Science of Raising Good Chickens, Feb. 21 - 6:00-9:00 PM. I can’t express this enough that if you plan to show poultry or rabbits at the fairs, you need to attend this work-shop for disease and bio-security, a requirement.

Arkansas 4-H Livestock Leadership Academy, March 23-25 at the C. A. Vines 4H Center.

The Market Hog Show has become a Breed Show, meaning you don’t need papers to show.

Camp is coming in June. Cost has increased to $75 so we’ve implemented a payment plan for those interested. We’ve also added Pike Co., making it 5 counties going to camp. There’s also a contest for naming this new camp with a gift card prize.

There is again a Kids’ Zone at the AR Flower & Garden Show.

And it’s time to order chicks for the poultry chain for those that want to participate in this.

We would also like to congratulate Hayden Hyman, above, for his Brayford Division Calf Championship & his heifer that won in her division. Congrats Hayden!!! We’re proud of you.

Sincerely,
Samantha Kroll, County Extension Agent-4H

Quad County Camp Has Become Quint County Camp

Quad County Camp is always so much fun with four counties – Miller, Little River, Howard, and Sevier – that we decided to include Pike County and turn our camp into a Quintuple County Camp. It is sure to be even more fun. The date of this year’s camp is June 21st thru June 23rd, 2017. Cost per participant is $75.

Activities tentatively will include:

- Archery, BB Gun and Dutch Oven
- Team Building STEM
- LIFE Training
- Forest Eco-systems, Food Webs & Decoding
- Water and Soil Analysis, Tracking
- And Much More

New also this year, if you would like to use a payment plan to get your name on our list of participants, you would pay $18.75 each month beginning February with your final payment due early May. Deadline for payment is May 19th. Let us know if this is something you’d be interested in.

There is also a contest to name the new camp. The camper with the winning name receives a gift card.

The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action institution. If you require a reasonable accommodation to participate or need materials in another format, please contact your County Extension office as soon as possible. Dial 711 for Arkansas Relay.
2017 Poultry Chain Chicks

This year we were able to again stay with the brown egg layer, the Hy-line Brown. These are large bodied, docile birds and are fantastic egg producers. The fee for this project will be $25 per participant. Each project order will receive up to 20 birds. Hy-line males will be available for order, with a maximum of five males per one set of hens. The males will be 50¢ each. Target delivery date is Tuesday, April 11th. Poultry chain orders through 4-H online are due by Fri., March 3rd with the online ordering opening on January 30th.

All youth participants and adult parent/guardian will be required to attend an education seminar.

Please remember, this project is for the benefit and education of our youth and is not to provide birds for personal gain or profits. Only enrolled 4-H youth are allowed to order birds (one set per 4-H member).

AR Flower and Garden Show 4-H Kids Zone

The Arkansas Flower and Garden Show is February 24th-26th, 2017 at the State House Convention Center in Downtown Little Rock. Again this year, we are going to have a 4-H Kids Zone at the show and need volunteers to assist with our area. The 4-H Kids Zone will have 4-H activities and program information for the public.

If you would like to volunteer, visit http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f094ba72fa2f94-arkansas5 to sign up. Each county should have 2-4 youth and at least one adult. Admission passes will be provided to the group.

Here’s the schedule:

- **Friday, Feb. 24**
  - 10:00 am – 2:30 pm
- **Saturday, Feb. 25**
  - 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
  - 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm
- **Sunday, Feb. 26**
  - 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
  - 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

If you have any questions please call, text or email Samantha.

2017 Market Hog Show

The 2017 Market Hog Show will be a Breed Show. Details are not all ironed out but will be soon. Many breeders are in the process of deciding what they’re breeding for, so these few details may help. Details, such as what shows when, are being worked out. The plan is to have a drop down of breeds when you choose Market Hogs on the ShoWorks Online entry site prior to the July 31st deadline. If the hog’s markings change before State Fair in October, there will be the opportunity to change during weigh-in. There will be a classifier available for a few hours on the day of weigh-in. The judge will ultimately have the final say of course. There must be a minimum of 25 hogs to “make” a breed show. The cross breed option will still be available.

You don’t need papers to show in a Market Hog Breed Show; similar to the concept at the local fairs.

Some of the common types of hogs that you will see in a breed show are:
- Durco
- Hampshire
- Yourshire
- Berkshire

We’re bringing back the BBQ Contest! More information will be available in the next newsletter but we have tentatively scheduled April 8th as the county competition date. District is Thurs., May 4th.