Welcome to a New 4-H Year

The cold weather is gone and spring has finally arrived! Hopefully your clubs made good use of the winter months catching up on 4-H project work, club fundraisers, and/or service projects. Before we know it summer will be here with lots of great opportunities that you need to start making preparations for now. Please read this newsletter carefully and commit to your 4-H summer early so you do not miss out! Also, remember that record books started over in January. By now all 4-H members should have new goals established, should be working to reach those goals, and be recording their progress along the way. Keeping up with project work throughout the year makes completing record books a much easier task. We hope to see you all at County O-Rama this week!

Monroe County Due Dates & Activities

*Dist. BBQ Contest, LR
May 2
Teen Leader Registration Due
May 15
Giant Watermelon & Giant Pumpkin Seeds to be planted
May 20
Ross Photo entries due to county office.
May 20-21
National SeaPerch Challenge, Baton Rouge, LA
May 27
State O-Rama Registration due to County Office

July 1-5
National BB Match, Rogers
July 13-16
State Range Events

August 2-5
State O-Rama, Fayetteville
August 10
Rice Expo, Stuttgart
County 4-H’ers help with youth activities

4-H Mission

The mission of 4-H is to provide opportunities for youth to acquire knowledge, develop life skills, form attitudes, and practice behavior that will enable them to become self-directing, productive, and contributing members of society.

4-H Pledge
I PLEDGE MY HEAD TO CLEARER THINKING, MY HEART TO GREATER LOYALTY, MY HANDS TO LARGER SERVICE, AND MY HEALTH TO BETTER LIVING, FOR MY CLUB, MY COMMUNITY, MY COUNTRY, AND MY WORLD.

4-H Motto
To Make the Best Better.

Welcome to a New 4-H Year

The cold weather is gone and spring has finally arrived! Hopefully your clubs made good use of the winter months catching up on 4-H project work, club fundraisers, and/or service projects. Before we know it summer will be here with lots of great opportunities that you need to start making preparations for now. Please read this newsletter carefully and commit to your 4-H summer early so you do not miss out! Also, remember that record books started over in January. By now all 4-H members should have new goals established, should be working to reach those goals, and be recording their progress along the way. Keeping up with project work throughout the year makes completing record books a much easier task. We hope to see you all at County O-Rama this week!
4-H Poster Art Contest

The 2016 Poster Art Contest is open to 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 or have any three-dimensional items on them. The 4-H members’ name, age, county, full address and brief interpretation of the 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.) Posters should be brought (flat, not rolled) to County O-Rama, April 28. The top ten district winners will receive certificates, which will be presented at District 4-H O-Rama. The themes for 2016 are as follows: I Am…4-H OR Open theme.

Farm Bureau Dairy Foods Contest

4-H’ers (grades 4 through 12) entering this contest prepare their favorite dairy food dishes. Recipes can be gathered from a cookbook, website or better yet ...created! The contest is divided into two categories: Main Dish and Party Ideas. Recipes will be judged on the following: ready availability of ingredients, clearness and accuracy of recipe, recipe procedure followed, preparation technique, appearance of prepared food, taste appeal, serving suggestions, and originality. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three in each category. The two winning recipes will be sent in to Little Rock for judging and may be eligible to compete at the state competition in June.

The competition will be held April 30 in conjunction with the Indoor County O-Rama Events. Contestants are to bring their entries ready to present to the judges. Each eligible youth can enter one item in each category. Judging will start at 11am.
County O-Rama

The 2016 Monroe County 4-H Outdoor O-Rama will be held on Thursday, April 28 at the Radio Club in Clarendon. The Bicycle and Gun Safety/BB Marksmanship events will take place along with Poster Art Entries.

The Indoor County 4-H O-Rama Events will be held Saturday, April 30 at the Clarendon Church of Christ starting at 10am.

The Dairy Foods judging will start at 11. Specific competition guidelines are provided on line under 4-H O-Rama Competition Activities. It’s time to start preparing for each activity you plan to enter.

If you need further information regarding an activity, let us know. Registration for County O-Rama is due April 27. 4-H’ers must pre-register for competitive activities.

The following activities will be held during County Indoor O-Rama for youth ages 5-19: Illustrated Talks and Demonstrations
Performing Arts – Vocal, Instrumental, and Dance
Fashion Review – Purchased or Constructed
Wildlife
Bait Casting
Reel into Sport Fishing
Horticulture
Crops and Weed ID

For more information about specific O-Rama activities, look online http://www.uaex.edu/4h-youth under 4-H O-Rama applications and information or call the county office.

M.C. Tech Sirens are National

Monroe County 4-H High School team placed first at the Arkansas 4-H SeaPerch ROV Challenge Competition on Saturday, April 2nd at the C.A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center in Ferndale.

The first ever state event is part of the National SeaPerch Initiative, which helps students build an underwater robot or “Remotely Operated Vehicle”(ROV) with low-cost, easily accessible parts.

After building their ROV, students compete against one another in a series of underwater courses, testing robot design as well as vehicle agility and performance. Both pool events involve maneuvering the tethered ROV to complete various tasks such as capturing balls and swimming through hoops.

The SeaPerch challenge is also part of Arkansas 4-H’s larger effort to expose kids to STEM learning--science, technology, engineering and math.

These kids worked hard in a very short amount of time to be ready for competition. Some had to step out of their comfort zone to learn something new like soldering a connection, running a ROV, or presenting a poster.

The team, made up of Kira J., Zainab S., Mae Y., and Sue Y., qualified for the 2016 National SeaPerch Challenge to be held May 20-21, 2016 on the campus of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge.

Team members from left to right: Sue, Mae, Zainab and Kira
**Teen Leader Conference**

The Arkansas 4-H Teen Leader Conference is a three-day conference for 4-H members ages 14–19. The conference prepares teens for leadership responsibilities in their local clubs and counties. The 2016 conference will be held June 7-9 at the Arkansas 4-H Center. State 4-H officers and Arkansas 4-H Ambassadors assist with the conference and are expected to arrive one day prior to delegates. The registration fee is $160 and covers two nights' lodging; five meals beginning with dinner on first day through breakfast on last day; insurance; cost of T-shirt; and other program expenses. We highly encourage 4-H teens to take advantage of this opportunity! The state registration deadline is May 2 via 4-H Online.

**Teen Star Banquet Servers**

Each year 4-H'ers ages 12-14 are needed to assist with serving the meal at the Teen Star/Hall of Fame Banquet. Interested 4-H'ers should contact the office for an application. Those selected would need to be at the 4-H Center Tuesday, June 7, by 4:00 pm and would finish by 9:00 pm. The meal for the servers is provided. Please let us know if you are interested in participating in this service opportunity.

**Enter the Ross Photography Contest**

The Ross Photography Contest provides an opportunity for members ages 9-19 to demonstrate, compete, and exhibit their photography skills. Four county winners will be selected and sent on for state competition. Cash prizes are awarded at the State level! Photos are due to County Office by May 20 for judging. Check your emails for competition rules or call the 4-H office.

**4-H State Camping Opportunities**

There are some awesome statewide 4-H camping opportunities coming up. All camps will be held at the beautiful Arkansas 4-H Center in Ferndale, unless otherwise noted. Registration is through 4-H online. Let us know if you’d like more information about any of the camps below.

**Veterinary Science Camp (11-19 year olds)**
- June 27-29
- Registration opens April 15
- Held at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville
- $125

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

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

- Session I: July 11-13
- Session II: July 18-20
- Registration due by June 15th
Leaders always needed.

For information regarding upcoming 4-H state camps and events check out the 2016 Events Packet online. You will find a calendar of events including important deadlines, leadership opportunities and trips for youth, award information, scholarship applications, O-Rama guidelines, etc.
http://uaex.edu/4h-youth/activities-programs/default.aspx

County Poultry BBQ

Thirteen Monroe County 4-H youth came out Sunday to show off their cooking skills in the 4-H Broiler BBQ Cook-Off. This year’s event, sponsored by Monroe County Farm Bureau Women’s Committee, was held Sunday, April 10 in the Clarendon Church of Christ parking lot.

The 13 BBQ contestants demonstrated their knowledge of grilling and food safety techniques when each contestant was allowed 1.5 hours to successfully grill two broiler halves. Farm Bureau Women’s Committee members Sandra Kemmer and Allison Gurley along with Clarendon City Council Member Diane Cunningham served as judges for the event. First through fifth place ribbons were presented along with monetary awards for first through third places provided by Monroe County Farm Bureau Women’s Committee. The top five contestants earned the privilege to compete at the 4-H District Broiler Barbeque Contest April 30 in Little Rock. This year’s county winners are: 1st Place Zealand J., 2nd Place Bridgett T., 3rd Place Donterrio W., 4th Place Kira J. and 5th Place Pablo V..

Monroe County 4-H would like to say a special thanks to our sponsor, Monroe County Farm Bureau Women’s Committee and Clarendon Church of Christ.
At the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, we are the educational outreach arm for the university's Division of Agriculture. Our job is to provide our neighbors with the right tools to meet economic, natural and social challenges. Our mission is to provide research-based information through non-formal education to help Arkansans improve their economic well-being and the quality of their lives. We have offices in all 75 counties, enabling us to reach all of the state with the know-how for living healthier lives, building stronger families and communities and growing more efficient food and fiber supplies to meet increasing global demands. Program areas include: Agricultural Production & Processing, Environment, Energy & Climate, Access to Safe & Nutritious Food, Increasing Opportunities For Families & Youth, Economic & Community Development.

Stop by your Monroe County Extension Office today for more information.

How can we serve you?

Valerie Turner
CEA-FCS
vturner@uaex.edu

 Arkansas is our campus.

We're on the Web
www.uaex.edu/Monroe

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.