Welcome 4-H of Monroe County

Welcome to the first edition of the Monroe 4-H Minders. Your Monroe County 4-H Newsletter. Being a part of 4-H can be one of the most exciting, unique and rewarding parts of your life. Whether you are a youth participating in an event or an adult volunteer helping/leading, we offer something for everyone.

The Monroe County Extension Office wants you to know we are here to help.

We Are Arkansas 4-H!

What’s happening in Monroe 4-H?

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We Are Arkansas 4-H!
Congratulations to Lee Y. who took 1st Place and $40 in the County BBQ Broiler Contest!!

Thank you to all those who braved the wind to compete in the county BBQ contest. Our hair blew and our fires went out but we had a lot of fun, learned how to BBQ chicken, and ate some really good BBQ. Other contestants included 2nd place ($30) winner Mae Y. and 3rd place ($20) winner Sue Y.

I hope to see more of you at the BBQ next year. But you better practice because these girls are good!

Our event was sponsored by the Monroe County Farm Bureau Women’s Committee.

These girls really know how to make some great tasting chicken!

Fourth Monday @ 6 PM

The Monroe County 4-H Club has set their meeting dates for the remainder of the year. The club will meet the fourth Monday of each month at 6PM.

All meetings will be held at Mid-Delta Community Room in Clarendon. Anyone in the county is welcome to come and participate.

Dairy Contest Set for April 19

Contestants must register by calling the Monroe County Extension Office (870-747-3397) no later than April 17.

The Farm Bureau Youth Dairy contest is open to all youth age 9-19. Youth are encouraged to develop their own dairy recipes or improve upon existing recipes in two categories, Main Dish and Party Ideas. Youth may enter one recipe in each of the two categories at the county level.

Judges will be looking for number of dairy items used, originality of recipe, clearness and accuracy of the recipes, ready availability of ingredients in food stores, and original ideas for serving.

Awards will be given for 1st-3rd place in each category. The 1st place entry in each category will advance to state competition.

So get in the kitchen and stir up something delicious. I look forward to tasting all the dishes and so do the judges!

What are you cooking up for the Dairy Contest?

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How’s Your Poster Looking?

Deadline for the 2014 4-H Poster Art contest is getting closer. The 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 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.) Entries should be brought to the County Office by April 28.

The top ten state winners will receive certificates, which will be presented at the District 4-H O-Ramas. The themes for 2014 are as follows: “Are You 4-H Strong?” “Open Theme” (create a poster and theme to go with it)

Officers and Name

Our club needs a name, “What do you think?” All County 4-H club members should be thinking about a name for our Monroe County 4-H Club. We want to vote on a name and elect club officers at the April 21 meeting.

Everyone should be looking over the 4-H Officers Manual, you all should have, and be ready to announce an office you would like to hold and why. After everyone has made their announcements for office, we shall elect our club officers for the 2013-14 club year.

Remember, this is your club and you make the decisions. Club officers are a very important part of a well functioning club.

County O-Rama

The 2014 Monroe County 4-H O-Rama will be held on Tuesday, May 13 at the County Extension Office in Clarendon. Registration will begin at 4:30 PM and competitive activities at 5 PM. See your Arkansas 4-H O-Rama Events packet you were given at a 4-H meeting for more information about these events. Pre-registration for County O-Rama is due April 28. Youth competing must be a registered 4-H member and pre-register for their competitive activities through the county office.

The following competitive activities will be held during County O-Rama: Illustrated Talks and Demonstrations; Performing Arts – Vocal, Instrumental, and Dance; Fashion Review—Purchased or Constructed; Bicycle Safety; Gun Safety and BB Marksmanship; Bait Casting.

Want to learn more about O-Rama before our big event?

Monroe County 4-Hers, leaders, and volunteers have been invited to observe the Prairie County 4-H O-Rama on Saturday, May 3. Events start at 9 AM. Prairie County 4-Hers will be competing in all the above mentioned activities in addition to their county Dairy Foods contest and Broiler BBQ Contest. This will be an excellent way for our 4-H youth and adults to see several of the O-Rama activities and gain a better understanding of what an O-Rama entails.
Photography, It’s a Flash.

Say Cheese!!!!

All of you with photography projects or just like to take pictures, this contest is for you! The Ross Foundation 4-H Photography Contest provides an opportunity for members age 9-19 to demonstrate, compete and exhibit their photography skills. At the county level, each 4-H member may enter two color photographs (one must be in the living category and one must be in the non-living category) and two black-and-white photographs (one must be in the living category and one must be in the non-living category) for a total of four photos.

Size of photographs shall be no larger than 8” x 10”. There is no minimum size. Prints should not be mounted or framed. A negative or transparency must accompany each entry for state competition. Prints without negatives, transparencies or CD-R (digital) disks will be disqualified. The original photograph and negative, transparency or disk will be returned to the owner after state selections have been made. Four county winners will be selected, one in each category. Cash awards are presented to winners at the state levels. Photos are due to the county office by May 23. Contact our office for complete contest rules.

The 2014 4-H Photography Contest is underway. This is a "seniors-only," State O'Rama activity and is not associated with the Ross Photography Contest. “Color My World!” is the theme for this year’s 4-H Photography contest. As the name implies, images submitted to the contest should emphasize color – or the lack of it. July 18 is the date photos are due to the county office.

Citizenship Camp to be offered June 22-27

Two lucky Monroe County 4-Hers could be going to a New Citizenship Camp offered this summer at the C.A. Vines 4-H Center.

Be watching your emails for information about a new camp that will be offered this summer for individuals 14 and up. Each county will be able to send two representatives (free) to the camp. I really hope Monroe County will have two youth who want to attend.

Mandatory Reporter Training

4-H Volunteer Training Requirement

Leaders - One training that is required by the State of Arkansas and can be completed at home is the online “Mandatory Reporter” course conducted by the Arkansas Commission on Child Abuse, Rape and Domestic Violence and UAMS. This training will count for one of your 4 required hours of training and should be completed as soon as possible. You will need to go online to www.ar.mandatedreporter.org and create an account in order to take the course. Upon completion, we ask you to bring your certificate to the Extension office so we can keep a copy on file and credit you for your training.
4-H Events Packet

For information regarding upcoming 4-H state camps and events check out the 2014 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://www.kidsarus.org/go4it/Activities_Events/default.htm

Monroe County 4-H Donors

Monroe County Farm Bureau & Farm Bureau Women’s Committee
Monroe County Master Gardeners
Serio & Bishop
City of Clarendon

4-H is a volunteer led organization! A 4-H volunteer is defined as any adult that works directly with 4-H youth. These volunteers are caring and committed people that understand the value of selfless service. They have a willingness to serve both youth and families in our community, and are the “backbone” of the 4-H program. These wonderful individuals all have a unique set of skills and experiences they truly enjoy sharing with 4-H youth! If you are interested in becoming a 4-H Volunteer Leader, please contact the Monroe County Cooperative Extension Office for more information at 870-747-3397.

BB Match and More

Five Monroe County 4-H youth members and their coaches competed at the 2014 State BB Match held February 7 & 8 at the Arkansas 4-H Center in Little Rock. The competition is open to all youth ages eight to 15 who have completed the Daisy Shooting Education Program or an “equivalent” safety course of instruction. The match consists of 40 shots for record fired at five meters in four stages with a 10 minute limit for each stage. The four positions or stages are prone, standing, sitting, and kneeling. There is also a written test. Each stage and the test are equal to 100 points for a total of 400 points possible.

The team started practices in October and practiced two and sometimes three nights a week. The youth did a fantastic job many of them out doing their practice scores by as much as 15 points per position. Their coaches and parents are very proud of them. The team took 15 out of 19 teams (127 competitors). In October we will start practicing again for the Daisy BB Match. Our next 4-H Shooting Sports Event is called Range Events. This competition is held July 10-12 at the 4-H Center. We will start practicing Air Rifle and Air Pistol by the first of May. All 4-H youth interested in participating in Air Rifle and Air Pistol should contact the County Extension Office.

Members of the team include Ryan G., Zamara J., Zachery G., Piper G., and Lauralee J. Coaches are Robert Jarrett, Wendy Garrett, and County Extension Agent Valerie Turner.
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
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All meetings and activities announced in this newsletter are open to all youth between the ages of 5 and 19 without regard to race, color, national religion, gender, disability, or any other legally protected status. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information should notify the Monroe County Extension Office as soon as possible prior to the activity.