Welcome to a New 4-H Year

Boy oh boy how the last few months have flown by. Here we are in the middle of the summer and getting ready for District O-Rama. Many things have happened since our last newsletter including the BBQ contest, Dairy Foods contest, the formation of a new club, and County O-Rama.

This edition of the Monroe Minders highlights these events and those youth who participated. Also check out up-coming events and dates.
BBQ

Charcoal smoke and the smell of BBQ filled the air Saturday, March 28 as Monroe County 4-H youth came out to show off their cooking skills in the 4-H Broiler BBQ Cook-Off. This year’s Monroe County Farm Bureau Women’s Committee sponsored event was held in the Clarendon Church of Christ parking lot.

Four 4-H members 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 member Sandra Kemmer served as judge along with County Extension Agent Valerie Turner. First through fourth place ribbons were presented along with monetary awards provided by Monroe County Farm Bureau Women’s Committee. All four contestants earned the privilege to compete at the 4-H District Broiler Barbeque Contest in Little Rock. This year’s county winners are: 1st Place Zamara J., 2nd Place Sue Y., 3rd Place Zackery G. and 4th Place Mae Y.

Dairy Foods Contest

Have you ever tasted Brownie Cheesecake Bars or Mississippi Sin? These were just two of the wonderful dairy dishes served to the judges of the Farm Bureau Dairy Foods Contest Friday, May 1, 2015. The contest was open to Monroe County youth in fourth through twelfth grades. Youth could enter a dish in two categories; main dish and party ideas. Six Monroe County 4-H’ers entered a total of eleven dishes to be judged.

There were six entries in the party ideas category. First place and $30 was awarded to Mae Y. with her Double Layer Lemon-Lime Bars. Second place and $20 was awarded to Sue Y. for her Cherry Cream Cheese Pie. Third place in the party ideas and $10 was awarded to Gracelyn C. for her Chocolate Mousse. Other participants in this category included Brownie Cheesecake Bars by Lee Y., Cheese Cake by Zackery G. and Banana Pudding by Zamara J.

There were five entries in the main dish category. First place and $30 was awarded to Mae Y. with her Chicken Alfredo. Second place and $20 went to Zamara J. for her Cheese Tortellini with Cheesy Alfredo Sauce. Sue Y. won third place in the main dish category, and $10, for her Hashbrown Casserole. Other entries included Gracelyn C. Mississippi Sin and Lee Y. Ham and Corn Chowder.

All of the youth did a wonderful job cooking and presenting their dishes. A special thanks goes to the judges for a job well done, given such a difficult task. Diane Cunningham, Clarendon City Council calculated results. Mr. and Mrs. Kirby Meacham, Farm Bureau members and Sandra Kemmer, Farm Bureau Women’s Committee were the judges. Farm Bureau Women’s Committee donated prize money.
**County O-Rama**

The 4-H O-Rama programs provide an opportunity for 4-H members to exhibit the skills which they have developed through their project work in a variety of competitive activities.

There are three levels of 4-H O-Rama competitive programs; County, District, and State. At the county level, 4-H members of all ages can try their hand at many different O-Rama events. This year’s Monroe County 4-H O-Rama outdoor events included Bicycle, Bait Casting, and BB/Gun Safety. Our indoor events included Sport Fishing, Horticulture, and three new events Talent/Vocal, Crop & Weed ID, and Illustrated Talks. Events were held on two different days. We had an increase of member participation this year with a total of 13 Monroe County 4-H’ers participating over the two days, three of which were Clover buds.

Junior and senior 4-H members will advance to the Delta District 4-H O-Rama held June 18 in Forrest City. Congratulations to all those who competed in the County O-Rama and good luck to those who will advance to District O-Rama.

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**Circuit Board New Club**

We would like to welcome our newest 4-H club from Brinkley; the Circuit Board 4-H Club. The club started meeting in May and focuses much of their project work on electronics and robots.

On June 5, 2015 the members of the Circuit Board 4-H Club elected officers. 4-H members were allowed to volunteer for their choice of offices. Each person wanting to be elected to an office had to stand before the group and tell why they wanted to run for office. Jada M. was elected as President and Elizabeth W. as Vice President. Sara J. was elected as Club Secretary. These youth look forward to fulfilling their roles as club leaders.

Adult leaders for the Circuit Board Club include: Katie Jacques, Katrina Chunn, Kara Dockins, Carrie Grizzle and Alicia Shelton.

The Circuit Board 4-H Club meets every Friday at 4 p.m. at the Argus-Sun Newspaper office in Brinkley.

New members are always welcome!!
Nine Monroe County 4-H youth members and their coaches competed at the 2015 State BB Match held February 6 & 7 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 and a written test.

The team started practices in October and practiced two nights a week. This was the first shooting competition for all of these youth and they did a fantastic job! All of them out did their practice averages and many doubled their scores in most positions. Their coaches and parents are very proud of them.

The nine Monroe County 4-H youth competed against 130 other shooters making up 23 teams. Team Monroe Shootin’ Clovers, comprised of Ashley M., Mae Y., Lee Y., Cal L., Harlee M., coach Robert Jarrett and spotter Chad McLain, took ninth place. Team Clover Bud Shooters, comprised of Sidney S., Haygen H., Brannon M., Cooper L., coach and County Extension Agent Valerie Turner, and spotter Sue Y., took 22 place.

The first two matches of the year for air rifle and air pistol are in March. Monroe County 4-H Shooting Sports Team started practicing air rifle and air pistol in February after competing in State BB Match. On March 14, Harlee Malone, Sidney Simpson, Lee York, and Mae York competed in their first Junior Olympic PTO and PPP Air Pistol Match. Harlee, Sidney and Lee shot in the basic supported position. They made up a three person team, taking third place at the match. Mae shot as an individual in the standing non-supported position and took eleventh.

Air rifle shooters Harlee Malone and Sue York competed for their first time at the 2015 Arkansas American Legion Junior 3-P Air Rifle Championship. Eighty-one competitors from 15 shooting clubs across the state competed at the match held Saturday, March 21. The Monroe County Shooters made a great showing and learned a great deal.

4-H State Range events will take place July 9-11. Harlee Malone and Haley Smith will represent Monroe Shootin’ Clovers in the air pistol event. Best of Luck Girls!
Leaders always needed.

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.

Shooting Sports Adds Archery

Our newest member to our Shooting Sports Team Leaders is Ken Simpson. Ken successfully completed his State 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Training in March for the Archery Discipline.

Archery is one of five disciplines taught in the Arkansas 4-H Shooting Sports Program.

Ken is hoping to get things started this fall. Anyone interested in shooting archery can contact Ken Simpson or the County Extension Office.

4-H Events Packet

For information regarding upcoming 4-H state camps and events check out the 2015 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

Monroe County is always on the look out for More Adults and More Clubs!

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4-H Record Books will be due February 1, 2015 to the State Office. We will have a record book training in November. Be Watching for Announcements! All members need to decide on a 4-H project area.

Junior member Gracelyn C. entered four pictures in the Ross Photography Contest. The Ross Photo Contest is open to all 4-H members 9-19 every year. There are four categories: color living, color non-living, B&W living, and B&W non-living. Winners for this state contest have not bee announced yet, but we wish Gracelyn the best of luck.

Say Hi to Daisy! Gracelyn’s entry for the B&W Living Category.
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?

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