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It’s Fair Time!

It’s that time of year again! The one that creates memories for the whole family! COUNTY FAIR! This year’s county fair is August 26-30. All livestock projects should already be pre-entered. Cattle, sheep, hogs and goats should be on the grounds no later than noon on Tuesday. Rabbits and chickens should be on the grounds no later than 6:00pm on Tuesday evening. Remember that all poultry should check in at the health station at the old Yummy’s building on Hwy 71 between 5:00 and 6:00 pm before they can enter the fairgrounds. Other entries are accepted at the educational building on Tuesday, August 26 from noon to 6 pm. Baked goods and fresh cut flowers may be entered on Wednesday morning from 7:30-10:00. Printed Fair catalogs with all rules and entry categories are available at the fair office, various businesses around town and at the county extension office.

4-H Club Educational Booths

All county 4-H Clubs are highly encouraged to enter an educational/promotional tabletop display in the fair. We recommend that the display be made from a “science fair” cardboard trifold and be designed to fit in a 4 foot space. Displays can promote and recruit membership or educate the public about a timely, interesting topic. The top display at the county fair will be invited to participate in the Arkansas/Oklahoma Fair in September. A copy of the rules and the score sheet is available in the Fair Catalog. Extension staff would be happy to assist you with ideas if you just ask!
More Fair Opportunities

Our official district fair is the Arkansas/Oklahoma State Fair in Ft. Smith, scheduled for September 19-27 and the State Fair in Little Rock is scheduled for October 10-19. There are opportunities to enter most of the same things that are eligible to be entered at the county fair in Mena. Items do NOT have to win at the county fair to be eligible to go on to either fair. As a matter of fact, an item doesn’t even have to be shown at the county fair to be eligible to show at the district or state fair. All that is required is that you meet necessary guidelines and get your entries into the fair as required by that fair. Both fairs are now online with all of their entry information. Go to http://www.arkansasoklahomafair.com to learn about district fair and to http://www.arkansasstatefair.com/ to learn about the state fair. It is important to know that our county fair gets “points” that translates into added premium money for our fair for people that take their entries to the district and state fair. Although lots of our exhibitors participate in the Four States Fair at Texarkana, we do not get any points credit for those entries.

4-H New Year is just around the corner!

Arkansas 4-H Online will close down the 2014 4-H year on September 1st. All records in the system will become inactive at that time and will require each and every 4-H member and volunteer to go back into the system and update records. You can start that process on September 2nd. Please make every effort to get your records updated for 2015 as soon as you can. We would like to have all members back to active status no later than November 1.

ONE DAY OF SERVICE

Please mark your calendars for October 4th. This is the date set by Arkansas 4-H for the statewide One Day of Service project. We want every 4-H member enrolled in Polk County 4-H to be involved in some way with the One Day of Service project. We are currently working out details for a countywide project but would encourage each of our clubs to investigate and identify a service project need in their local area and work as a club team to conduct that service. We want the people of Polk County to see us all out there on October 4th making a difference in our community.
New York Say Thank You 2014 Project

Remember in May of 2013 when the EF4 tornado hit Moore, Oklahoma? We collected disaster items and loaded them onto a truck with items from several other 4-H groups in the state. We have another opportunity to help people in that area. The New York Says Thank You team that came to Polk County in 2010 and started the build on our 4-H building will be doing a service project in a community called Bethel Acres near Moore, Oklahoma on September 4-7. NYSTY will be rebuilding a barn for a horse rescue/therapeutic riding clinic called One Day Ranch. The 4-H Lead 4 Life Teen Club is making plans to go and volunteer for the cause. We welcome anyone who can join us to do so. There is a registration process you do online so you can indicate your skill level. You can come for one day or for all 4 days. It is up to you. If you are interested in joining in on the volunteer effort, go to www.newyorksaysthankyou.org and click on the link “how to help” then on the “volunteer” link. You will then find another link that allows you to register for jobs you are qualified to do as a volunteer. Please let us know if you, your club, or your family is planning to get involved. We have some contacts in the area that are willing to help us with a place to stay and food. We just have to let them know how many to expect.

4-H Celebration Banquet

The annual 4-H recognition banquet is set for Saturday, October 25th. We are working out the details on where and what all we need families to bring. A complete letter with those details will be coming to all of you. In the meantime, we need some things from each club and from all of our great members! Here is what we need: We need a group picture of all the members in your club. We also need pictures of club members doing what 4-H members do...working on projects! It can be service projects, leadership activities, or camps or project activities. We would love to have at least one picture of each of our 4-H members. We know you are out there doing things, lets showcase it! Please have the pictures emailed to us at cvaught@uaex.edu no later than October 10th. It always takes LOTS of time to put together a good slideshow!

Help Needed at Fair

Help is needed from 4-H members to “man” the Agriculture promotion display in the commercial building again this year. This is a display designed to educate the public about agriculture. The milk cow will be on hand as well as the Agriculture Awareness trailer.

Leader Meeting

The next volunteer leader training will be held on Monday, September 29th at 6:00pm at Farm Bureau Meeting Room in Mena. Each volunteer leader is required to have 4 hours of training per year.
Are you interested in learning about some basic vehicle maintenance? Changing tires, learning about engines, etc. We would like to offer some classes on these topics for ages 13 and up if there is enough interest. If you would like to know more about these classes, call the office for more information.

University of Arkansas, United States Department of Agriculture and County Governments Cooperating.

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.