Record books
Just a friendly nudge...project record books are due in the County Extension Office on or before January 22, 2016. Ms Pam is available to help you get started or update existing book. Call her at 870-448-3981.

Quilt Guild to meet with sewing students on June 13, 2016
Ms. Bonnie from the Searcy County Quilt Guild has contacted the Extension Office and informed us that the ladies have set June 13, 2016 at 10:00 am as the date to have a sew-in with the kids to learn more sewing techniques. Each youth (girls & boys) that wish to participate should bring either 4 or 9 patch blocks. Probably be easier if they bring 4 patch blocks.
Each unit should measure 4 1/2 inches so the finished 4 patch block will measure 8 1/2 inches unfinished square. They can be scrappy or use same colors in all blocks.

The quilt guild will bring a neutral material...precut which is why we want the blocks to measure 8 1/2...and we will teach the youth how to square up a block.

Also they will teach and help them set together the lattice work and show them how to pin the blocks so as to keep the lattice work straight. We won't do corner stones in the lattice work. Don't want to get too complicated.

Then we will also provide a border material and again do the quilting. Hopefully they can finish a quilt top that day. They will need to bring between 9 and 25 blocks depending on the size quilt they want to make. 9 will make a nice sized baby or lap quilt. Also if they would like they can bring half of the number in the 4 patch and half in a solid material and we can space them every other one. This gives them some choices.

We will also do sack lunches again. That seems to work out really well.
Know of someone that might be interested please let them know of the date and time.

More info to follow as the time gets closer, or call the Extension Office at 870-448-3981.
University of Arkansas Livestock Judging Placing Workshop and Contest

The University of Arkansas Intercollegiate Livestock Judging Team is excited to invite you to attend the fourth annual University of Arkansas Livestock Judging Placing Workshop and Contest. This event will be a fundraiser to support the travel and training of the University of Arkansas Livestock Judging Team. This year’s competition will be held at the Pauline Whitaker Arena in Fayetteville which provides a professional atmosphere for the best workshop and contest presentation. The workshop/contest will be held on Friday, February 26th starting at 4:00 p.m. after the Beef Quiz Bowl. Check in will begin at 3:30 p.m. at the Pauline Whitaker Arena. Cost is $5.00 per person.

Contact your Extension Office for a registration form. There are no limits on the amount of contestants that you may bring to this event. There will be an old timers division in this contest so agents and instructors this workshop and contest is for you too. Please mail your entry form and check to Dianna Watson to arrive by February 19, 2016 or fax your entry to her at 479-575-2154 and bring the money with you. Entry fees should be made payable to the University of Arkansas. The University of Arkansas Intercollegiate Livestock Judging Team and the Animal Science Department are proud to invite you to this competition. We are making every effort to make this a great learning experience for you and you students. Contact the Searcy County Extension Office at 870-448-3981 for entry form.

University of Arkansas Intercollegiate Livestock Judging Team Bryan Kutz Judging Coach

Beef Quiz Bowl
The Beef Quiz Bowl will held beginning on Friday, February 26th at 9:00 am at the Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Arena in Fayetteville. The Beef Quiz Bowl is designed to challenge and educate Arkansas high school students about the beef industry. Teams must be composed of four members; all of which must be enrolled in an Arkansas high school or home school program (grades 9-12) during the fall term of 2015. There is no limit to the number of teams one county can enter. However, all registration applications must be received by January 22, 2016. ONLY THE FIRST THIRTY-TWO (32) TEAMS ENTERED WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE IN THE CONTEST. There will be prizes awarded to the top three teams! In addition, the top three teams will be awarded trophies, and members of the top three teams will receive individual awards. PLEASE NOTE: THE TEAMS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL MEALS AND LODGING EXCEPT FOR LUNCH THE DAY OF THE CONTEST. If you have any questions regarding any aspect of the competition, or are interested in participating please contact the Searcy County Extension Office at 870-448-3981 and for entry form. Skip Armes, Agriculture Agent is interested in starting a team.

Beef Quiz Bowl and Livestock Skills Team
We are in the process of forming teams for the Beef Quiz Bowl and Livestock Skills Team. Skip Armes, Agriculture Agent will be leading the team. If you are interested in joining either or both teams contact the Extension Office at 807-448-3981.
State Fair Livestock Committee Meeting Updates
Chelsey Ahrens, Ph.D.
*I just wanted to update y’all on some things decided in committee meetings pertaining to the 2016 Arkansas State Fair Market Hog and Market Lamb shows.

Here are some major show changes that were voted on at the Arkansas State Fair Livestock Committee meeting at the beginning of this month. Mind you, things may change between now and the fair, but for the most part these are it:
*Only animals to be mouthed will be commercial sheep and Arkansas Bred Wethers
*Market sheep, market goats, market steers (currently in place), and commercial heifers will no longer have a baby teeth requirement
*Market shows by breeds
*Market sheep and market hogs will show by breeds. Committees have been formed to discuss logistics.
*No divisions in steer show
*Since there are so few market steers, there will no longer be divisions. The class winners will all come back for grand drive and sale order.
*Division winners will not automatically be in the Sale of Champions
*All class winners (may be different among market shows) will come back for sale order that way the best animals are picked for the sale.
*There was talk that division winners might automatically win a scholarship, but nothing was decided.

**October 14-23, 2016 are the dates for the Arkansas State Fair
**The market hog show will remain the same. Market hogs will show by weights only. There will not be breed classes.
*The market lamb show will remain the same. Market lambs will show by weights only. There will not be breed classes. There is a new hair sheep division for the market lamb show. Hair sheep will show separately from wool sheep. As more information is available, I’ll pass it along.

Arkansas 4-H Livestock Leadership Academy
The academy will be held March 24-26, 2016 at the 4-H Center in Ferndale. The final agenda is incomplete for this and exactly how much the cost will be ($100 or less), but here’s what will for sure be happening:

**Thursday, March 24  
  *Leadership activities ***Fun evening activity

**Friday, March 25  
  *Guest speakers and workshops on Agvocacy and timely topics in animal science
  *Lunch – Wes Ward, Arkansas Agriculture Department Secretary will speak and donors will be invited to attend
  
  • Donors for the academy thus far--
  * Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas * Arkansas Livestock Show Association
  * Arkansas Agriculture Department * Farm Credit Services of Western Arkansas (committed)
  **Career opportunities in Animal Science and College Fair
  *Colleges and universities who have responded that they will attend
  *Arkansas Tech University * University of Arkansas * Arkansas State University * University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton
  
  o Industry or Farm Tour ***Fun evening activity (dance)
  
  • Saturday, March 26 ****The importance of a thank you.
Spring Livestock and Broiler Show 2016

Arkansas State Fair Spring Livestock and Broiler Show to be held on Saturday, April 30, 2016 at the Arkansas State Fairgrounds.

Boilers 2016

Interested in entering the Broiler competition? Broiler orders are due in the Searcy County Extension office by February 25, 2016. Fee for this project is approximately $15 (still to be determined) and must be paid with order. You will receive app. 15 broiler chicks to raise and enter three in the competition. Contact the Searcy County Extension Office at 870-448-3981 for more information.
Camp deadline dates;
Please remember these upcoming camp deadlines:

**High Adventure - Arkansas** - Registration due Jan. 15. Fee is $350. Training weekend is April 16-17. Trip is June 19-25. Some of the tentative activities include hiking, rafting, spelunking, rock climbing, and rappelling. Youth 13 (as of Feb 1) and up. We have 21 youth spaces and 1 adult space still available.

**Career Camp** - Registration due Feb. 1. Fee is $75 for the first 81 youth. Fee for adults and any youth over 81 is $200. We only have 33 spaces left at the reduced rate. Camp dates are Feb. 19-21. Career tracts are Ag/Natural Resources, FACS, Health Care, and Trades. JR and SR members.

**Career Camp Scholarship** - Application due Feb. 1. This is a separate application from the Camp/TLC Scholarship.

**Camp/TLC Scholarship** - Application due Feb. 1. This due date is so we can get some of our early events selected. We will open it back up for scholarships for the later events.

**Livestock Deadlines:**
- January 22 – Dixie Nationals Open Entry Deadline, Premium book online @ www.dixienational.org
- February 1 – Dixie Nationals Barrow Show Entry Deadline, Premium book online @ www.dixienational.org

**Dates:**
- **January 5** - Country Kidz 4-H Club, 5:00 pm fairgrounds
- **January 7 & 21** - Exemplar 4-H Club, 4:30 @ Dogwood Hills Farm
- January 9 – Mr. Bill Dorough Birthday Celebration – Little Rock Ar State Fairgrounds
- January 9 – Willow Springs Classic Judging Contest – Prairie Grove – flyer enclosed
- **January 11** - Marshall Lucky Clover 3:30 pm Elementary School
- **January 11** - Flintrock Aggies
- January 9-24 – National Western Stock Show – Denver, Colorado
- January 11 – 28 – San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo – San Antonio, Texas
- January 15 – February 6 – Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo – Fort Worth, Texas
- **January 22** - Project Record Books due in Searcy County Extension Office
- **January 28** - Sewing Club, 3:30 pm at Extension Office
- January 30 – February 23 – Dixie Nationals – Jackson, Mississippi

**Upcoming Events:**
- February- TBD Order due for Poultry Chain
- February 26 – Arkansas Beef Quiz Bowl Competition – Fayetteville (see above)
- February 26 – UA Livestock Judging Placing Workshop and Contest – Fayetteville (see above)
- March 24-26 – Arkansas 4-H Livestock Leadership Academy – 4-H Center

**March 14**-- Bicycle Training and Safety, 3:30 pm at Extension Office

**April 2**-- Searcy County 4-H O’Rama Day
- April 28-- Poultry BBQ in Batesville
- **April 30**-- Searcy County Health Fair
For more information regarding post in this newsletter contact the Searcy County Extension Service at 870-448-3981. 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 origin, religion, gender, disability, or any other legally protected status.

Skip Armes– CEA, Agriculture