What is RSS and How Do I Use It in Firefox?

What is RSS?

RSS stands for “Really Simple Syndication” and it is an easy method to get information out to users. It is denoted by an orange RSS symbol.

As a familiar example, the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service uses RSS to display news articles on homepage [http://www.uaex.edu](http://www.uaex.edu). The UAEX Calendar of Events also provides an RSS feed to display event information. Instructions for subscribing to each of these feeds will be shown below.

With the amount of information being dispensed by our county agents and state specialists each week, we have developed specific RSS feeds for each county so that our clientele can have information delivered directly to their browser without having to go to individual county web sites to see what is new. With RSS feeds and RSS subscriptions, the information is delivered automatically to the subscribed users’ web browsers when it is posted.

What is a News Feed Reader?

When information comes across in an RSS feed, it is not always in a format easily displayed by certain browsers. A feed reader is a piece of software that acts a transition between the RSS feed code and the browser to display and manage the feed correctly. Some browsers have Feed Readers built in; some have to be added to the browser.

How do I subscribe?

Each browser (Internet Explorer, Safari, Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox) has a different method of subscribing to an RSS feed. To begin, each RSS feed has a unique web address, also known as a URL. Here are three examples of RSS feeds that are currently used by Extension:

- Miller County News Articles: [http://uaex.edu/counties/miller/news/miller-news-all.xml](http://uaex.edu/counties/miller/news/miller-news-all.xml)
- Extension Calendar of Events (all events): [http://calendar.uaex.edu/feeder/main/eventsFeed.gdo?f=y&sort=dtstart.utc:asc&fexpr=(categories.href!=%22/public/bedework/categories/sys/Ongoing%22)&%20and%20(entity_type=%22event%22%7Centity_type=%22todo%22)&format=text/calendar&count=200](http://calendar.uaex.edu/feeder/main/eventsFeed.gdo?f=y&sort=dtstart.utc:asc&fexpr=(categories.href!=%22/public/bedework/categories/sys/Ongoing%22)&%20and%20(entity_type=%22event%22%7Centity_type=%22todo%22)&format=text/calendar&count=200)

Each type of browser has a unique method of subscription. Some browsers, such as Chrome, require that the user install an “add-on” to see the RSS feed correctly. Other browsers, such as IE, have the feed reader built in. Instructions for particular browsers are outlined below.

What does an RSS Feed look like using Mozilla Firefox?

1. Open Firefox and enter the URL for the Miller County News RSS feed.
2. A subscription box will automatically appear.
3. Select subscribe.
4. To see available RSS feeds, select the bookmark icon to the right of the URL, shown with the blue box around it.

5. Select “View Bookmarks Sidebar”.

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New year,

2015 meant much more to the University of Arkansas for Agriculture and Extension Services (UA-FES) than just another calendar year. It was not only a year of successful project completions, but also new challenges and opportunities.

With the start of the new year and the arrival of spring, our university reaped the benefits of the hard work of our Extension Service and Extension agent team. We began the year with a bang and continued to move forward.

The team was focused on the right solutions and worked hard to ensure that the focus remained on providing quality extension programs that benefit the citizens of Arkansas and the nation.

Extension Service's primary mission is to ensure that the people of Arkansas receive the research-based information they need to make informed decisions. As we move into 2016, we are poised to carry on with the success we experienced in 2015.

Feral hog

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All subscribed RSS feeds are listed, including the Miller County News Articles, as shown by the blue arrow.

Select the “Miller County News Articles” link, and it will expand to show the titles of all recent articles.

Select the link to the title of the article, and the article will be displayed.

As new articles are added to the feed, these titles will appear at the top of the feed.

Subscribing to a feed notifies the user of new information by displaying it in the browser without the user having to check individual pages.