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

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 home page 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

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

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 when using Safari?

1. Select the link or URL for the RSS feed needed. In Safari, the Miller county feed will display automatically:
2. In Safari, selecting the RSS feed URL or entering it manually into the web address box will display the items in the RSS feed. At the right-hand section of the screen, in a gray bar, is a link for “Actions” (circled in red above). Select “Add Bookmark”. Another box is displayed to “Add this page to”. Select “reading list”, and select the ADD button. This adds the RSS feed to the bookmarks in Safari. Now, when Safari is opened, select the bookmark icon (like an open book - circled in blue above), select All RSS Feeds, and on the main screen, a list of all subscribed feeds will be shown.
Selecting the “Miller County News Article” bookmark will take the user to the list of titles. Selecting the title of the article will open the article.

**How do I subscribe to the UACES Calendar of Events using Safari?**

The same idea can be used to subscribe to the Extension Calendar of Events.

1. Using Safari, go to the calendar of events ([http://calendar.uaex.edu](http://calendar.uaex.edu)).
2. If a subscription to all events is needed, select “upcoming” next to **Start date** and then select the Export/Subscribe link at the top of the calendar:
3. On the Export/Subscribe screen, select the following options:

![Export/Subscribe screen](image)

4. A URL link will then be created at the bottom of the page. Copy and paste this link into the Internet Explorer browser address line, or just select the link and the RSS feed will open in the browser.
5. Select the “Add bookmark” in the gray box on the right-hand side.
6. The subscription box will appear.

7. Select the “Add” button to add this page to the reading list.
8. If the reading list is not currently displayed on the left-hand side of the screen, select the menu icon at the top of the page and select the option to “Show Reading List.”
9. The list of subscribed feeds appear on the left-hand side of the screen. Selecting a feed will display all items on the screen. Selecting the title of an item will display the details of the item.

10. To filter calendar events so that events for a particular county can be viewed in a feed, select the filter on the calendar before selecting the “Export/Subscribe” option.

   a. To filter events for Pulaski County, go to the calendar (select Event Calendar from [http://www.uaex.edu](http://www.uaex.edu)) and select “upcoming” link next to Start date. This displays upcoming current events rather than just events for the current week.
b. Select **Pulaski** from the list of locations on the left-hand menu of the calendar. To do this, select the “+” sign beside the “Counties P to Y” link. A list of all counties which begin with the letters P to Y will be displayed. Select the link for Pulaski, and all events will be filtered to include only events that have been tagged for Pulaski County. If there are no events for this county in the calendar, no events will be displayed.

13. This causes only events from Pulaski County to be displayed on the calendar.
14. Select the Export/Subscribe link at the top. Notice that the current filter on the Export/Subscribe page now shows Location: Pulaski (red arrow).
15. Copy or select the URL link at the bottom of the page to open the page with the events from Pulaski County being shown.

16. Select the “Subscribe to this feed” link in the yellow box.
17. Change the name from “Bedework Events Calendar” to “Pulaski County CES Events Calendar”, and check the “Add to Favorites Bar” box.

18. Select “Subscribe.”

19. The subscription is confirmed, and a link to “Pulaski County CES Events” is added to the tool bar. When a new event is added to the calendar for Pulaski County, the typeface for this link will be **bold**. Selecting the title of the event will display the details of the event in the calendar.
You've successfully subscribed to this feed!
Updated content can be viewed in Internet Explorer and other programs that use the Common Feed List.

View my feed

Bedework Events Calendar
Today, July 24, 2015, 3 minutes ago

**2015 Pulaski County Master Gardener Fall Class**
Tuesday, September 29, 2015, 11:00:00 PM
Wednesday, September 30, 2015 (all day)
Where: TBA
Cost: 100.00
Description: The Master Gardener volunteer program provides an opportunity for individuals interested in gardening from a wildflower demonstration garden at Pinnacle Mountain State Park, to a vegetable garden at Historic Arkansas Museum. Contact: Pulaski County Extension Office

**2015 Pulaski County Master Gardener Fall Class**
Tuesday, September 22, 2015, 11:00:00 PM
Wednesday, September 23, 2015 (all day)
Where: TBA
Cost: 100.00
Description: The Master Gardener volunteer program provides an opportunity for individuals interested in gardening from a wildflower demonstration garden at Pinnacle Mountain State Park, to a vegetable garden at Historic Arkansas Museum. Contact: Pulaski County Extension Office

**2015 Pulaski County Master Gardener Fall Class**
Tuesday, September 15, 2015, 11:00:00 PM
Wednesday, September 16, 2015 (all day)
Where: TBA
Cost: 100.00
Description: The Master Gardener volunteer program provides an opportunity for individuals interested in gardening from a wildflower demonstration garden at Pinnacle Mountain State Park, to a vegetable garden at Historic Arkansas Museum. Contact: Pulaski County Extension Office

**2015 Pulaski County Master Gardener Fall Class**
Tuesday, September 08, 2015, 11:00:00 PM
Wednesday, September 9, 2015 (all day)
Where: TBA
Cost: 100.00
Description: The Master Gardener volunteer program provides an opportunity for individuals interested in gardening from a wildflower demonstration garden at Pinnacle Mountain State Park, to a vegetable garden at Historic Arkansas Museum. Contact: Pulaski County Extension Office

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20. This same process to be used to select events from a particular county or counties (multiple filters) or, a category within the calendar, such as Pest Management. Simply filter the calendar first (from the calendar home page) to the desired events, then select the “Export/Subscribe” button, use the newly created URL at the bottom of the screen to display the RSS feed, and subscribe to the feed.

21. To unsubscribe from a feed in Internet Explorer, view the feed in the Explorer Bar (by selecting View > Explorer Bar > Favorites). Right-click the feed to be unsubscribed, and select the “Delete” option.