

Arkansas 4-H Outlook

May 2011

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The Arkansas 4-H Outlook is a way to advise county Extension agents about youth and 4-H opportunities. The 4-H Outlook is sent electronically each month. The information is collected from county Extension agents, extension specialists and national publications. The newsletter is e-mailed to all extension employees, volunteers, and 4-H members. On the county level, agents are encouraged to forward this information to volunteers and to 4-H members without e-mail addresses. It is posted on the extension web site:

<http://www.kidsarus.org/go4it/newsletters/Outlook/default.asp>

State Leader’s “On the Desk...”

Anne Sortor, PhD- Associate Director –Family Consumer Sciences & 4-H Youth Development

In the Pursuit of Public Value

Suddenly the phrase "public value" is everywhere. It is the new "media" buzz word. The basic premise of public value is being able to articulate to your taxpayers and funders that your programs are of value to them and their communities. The question that many funders and supporters what to know is "Why should I give you money for your programs and activities? How does what you do impact and benefit me?"

For those of us whose blood runs GREEN this may seem like a personal affront. How could anyone not want to support 4-H. Whereas there is a long tradition of support for our programs, we exist in an environment where funds are tight, and there are multiple contenders for the limited funds available to agencies, higher education, non-profits, and other worthy organizations. As such, we must be able to articulate our public value in meaningful ways.

We as an organization must work diligently to help our legislators, community partners, schools, agencies and business partners understand that our programs are relevant, science-based and important to the economy, health and sustainability of Arkansas.

Therefore it remains a part of our charge as employees and believers of the program to consistently highlight its value and impact.

Staff and volunteers are encouraged to make it a practice to showcase your 4-H'ers and the outcomes of your program efforts. However, showcasing your program does not mean simply reporting your participation in activities or the trips 4-H offers. In today's environment of accountability it is essential that we talk about things that resonate with community leaders, funders, school partners, business leaders, and parents. Our stakeholders want to know what difference we made through our programs and activities. So, when we visit with supporters and potential funders we need to talk about the difference we have made through skill development, knowledge enhancement, behavior change, and the programs practical application.

So, how are your programs impacting communities, the county and/or state economy? I invite you to take the opportunity to tell the real story about 4-H! Do it now and do it often. Remember 4-H builds outstanding leaders with marketable skills that allow youth to compete in [today's](#) global society!!

4-H News

4-H Beekeeping Essay Winners **Glenn Studebaker, Extension Entomologist**

Each year the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees sponsors a national essay contest on a specific topic about honey bees. The topic for this year's 4H Beekeeping Essay Contest was **“U.S. Honey: A Taste for Every Preference.”** Each state is allowed one entry into the contest. In Arkansas, 4H'ers submitted their entries in February for judging and the winning essay is submitted to the national contest. There were several very good entries this year. **Congratulations to the winners!**



First Place
Second Place
Third Place

Grace C. - Washington Co.
Clare D. - Carroll Co.
Claire H. - Sebastian Co.

Grace's essay has been entered in the National Contest to compete against other state winners. The winning essay in the National Contest will receive an award of \$750. Good luck Grace!

4-H Members Attend National 4-H Conference

Priscella Thomas-Scott, 4-H Youth Development Associate

A delegation of Arkansas 4-H youth representing several local Arkansas communities attended the 84th annual National 4-H Conference in Washington, D.C. The Arkansas delegation returned home from a week in which more than 300 youth and adults representing 4-H programs across the county gathered to exchange ideas, gain knowledge to share back home and develop recommendations to help guide the future of 4-H programs nationally and in their communities.

Arkansas delegates who attended the conference from April 2-5, includes: Amanda B., Washington County, Janee S., Benton County, Boone S., Pope County, and Meredith W., White County. Rachel E. of Madison also served on the National 4-H Conference program committee.

This year's theme "***ELEMENTS 4 UR FUTURE***" focused on citizenship and youth civic engagement. Through various conference sessions and facilitated discussions, delegates learned and shared information on current trends and/issues relevant to 4-H and youth, building partnerships, and creating innovative 4-H programs, expanding the use of technology, working with diverse groups, and impacting community needs.



The conference delegates were addressed at an assembly with Tom Vilsack, Secretary of U.S. Department of Agriculture and Arne Duncan, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education. Both spoke to the group about community service, valuing education and healthy living. The delegates also had the opportunity to meet with their legislators on Capitol Hill Day to represent youth from their state and discuss state 4-H programs with congressional members and their staff.

Hickory House 4-H Club Hosts Flag Ceremony Shea Wilson, CEA- Prairie County

After recognizing the need for a new American flag for the park, the Hickory House 4-H Club in partnership with the Busy Hands Extension Homemakers Club planned a flag ceremony. The Busy Hands Extension Homemakers sponsor 4-H clubs in their community as part of their community service work and used this opportunity to teach local 4-H members the importance of patriotism. Over sixty members of the community assembled at the Hickory Plains Park on Monday, April 4 to retire a battered U.S. flag that flew there for many years.

The flag ceremony was led by Sergeant First Class (SFC) Mitch White, SFC Joe Monday and Staff Sergeant Billy Sheets (4-H Alumni) of the U.S. National Guard. Everyone gathered at the flag pole where 4-H member Ryan C. opened the ceremony with prayer. The Guard lowered the flag, demonstrated proper folding of the flag, and raised the new American flag. Once the new flag was raised, 4-H members Mason and Dalton J. led the Pledge of Allegiance and 4-H Pledge.



Michelle P. followed with the National Anthem. The old flag was taken to the VFW to be burned.



Following the ceremony, guests were invited to the Hickory Plains United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall for refreshments and a question/answer session with the Guard. 4-H members Cara and David N. presented Dora Holloway, a local Extension Homemaker and member of the Hickory Plains community, with flowers and a plaque which will be placed on the flag pole in memory of her late husband Alta Holloway and the work he did in raising the money to purchase the flag pole.



Shining Stars 4-H Club Participate in Community Service **Kim Palmer, Saline County Volunteer Leader**

Saline County Shining Stars 4-H Club's youth came together and collected eye glasses and cell phones from family members and neighbors. They participated in *CONNECT TO THE CURE* which is the official cell phone recycling program of Susan G. Komen for the Cure and the Lions Clubs International *RECYCLE FOR SIGHT*. The project provides slightly used eye glasses to underserved people.



The Shining Start 4-H Club members that participated in the Community Service were Keyona A., Tiffany A., Richard S. Dajche D., Jessica B., Baley F., Labreyont M., Evelyn M., Felicia M., Lazanee M.

The community service projects were sponsored by A.A.C.E.S

Afterschool Best Practices Academy **Jessica Street, CEA-4-H, Benton County**

A 4-H STEM workshop was presented at the Arkansas State University Best Practices Academy on April 16 at the Donald W. Reynolds Boys & Girls Club in Fayetteville. 14 participants learned about the importance of S.T.E.M. in their programming and how to use 4-H activities and the experiential learning model to teach these concepts. The following activities were conducted and participants were sent home with a CD that contained instructions how to conduct these and several additional activities. CD was compiled by Erica Harris, CEA – 4-H, Pulaski Co.

- Hydrogels
- High Speed Mystery Foods – Dehydration
- Balloon Rockets
- Non-Newtonian Glop
- Film Canister Rockets
- The Magic Bottle

Afterschool Academies aim to build the capacity of afterschool educators to create and provide learning experiences that build children's knowledge and skills for success in school, and to support positive social and personal growth. The target audience was directors, front line staff, youth leaders, college students, afterschool educators, licensed school age care providers and other community-based providers.

AmeriCorps Vista Joins State 4-H Office Jenne' Richardson

AmeriCorps VISTA is the national service program designed specifically to fight poverty. Founded as Volunteers in Service to America in 1965 and incorporated into the AmeriCorps network of programs in 1993, VISTA has been on the front lines in the fight against poverty in America for more than 40 years.

It is such a privilege to be a part of something so dynamic and full of social change. Jenne' Richardson is serving her second year and is a VISTA associate with the Arkansas 4-H Afterschool program under Ida Collier. She is a graduate from Philander Smith College with a B.A. in Psychology/Philosophy & Religion with Distinction in Field. Currently, she is attending Walden University progressively working toward a M.S. in Mental Health Counseling. With a passionate disposition about the youth, Jenne' seeks to bridge the generational gap so that youth can get a clear idea of how to set attainable goals in life. She has been a tutor for the Little Rock School District in the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade at Mabelvale Middle School. Her years of service to her community precede her in that she was also a part of Big Brother/ Big Sister and Girl Scouts. "Youth need to see a visual of what life will be like later in life. It makes it more realistic to have a person who just experienced what they are going through be there for guidance. I intend to continue working with the youth to help them build positive relationships and life skills. It is an honor to be able to give back to my community."

Resources & Opportunities

District 4-H O-Rama Priscella Thomas-Scott, 4-H Youth Development Associate

The District 4-H O-Ramas are right around the corner! The theme for 4-H O-Rama is "*Leading the Way Through 4-H.*"

The 4-H O-Ramas provide an opportunity for 4-H members to exhibit the skills they have developed through their project work in a variety of competitive activities. The events are open to both junior and senior 4-H members. 4-H'ers can register at <https://arkansas.4honline.com>.

The District 4-H O-Rama dates and locations are:

District	Date	Location
Ouachita	June 14	Malvern High School
Ozark	June 15	Ozark High School
Delta	June 16	EACC- Forrest City



Specific guidelines for each activity, rules and regulations can be found in the O-Rama Packet. The O-Rama Packet is located at the following link

http://www.kidsarus.org/go4it/Activities_Events/event_packet/default.htm.

If you have questions about O-Rama, please contact Priscella Thomas-Scott at pthomas-scott@uaex.edu.

Operation Military Kids Preparing for Major Statewide Mobilization Maureen Rose, Arkansas 4-H Military Liaison

Operation Military Kids, the 4-H Partnership supporting children from all branches of services, is looking ahead to 2012, when 3,000 members of the Arkansas National Guard's 39th Infantry Brigade will again deploy. In preparation for the deployment, there will be weekend Yellow Ribbon Events for the families of the 39th. It will be very important to have extension staff and volunteers engaged in planning and conducting these events. The military will also look for qualified (registered with the military) day care providers to give care to children infant – age 5 at these events. 4-H programs may partner with other youth organizations in your communities, including Boys and Girls Clubs and Scouting groups.

The commitment of OMK is to assist in serving youth age 5 – 18 at these events in several ways:

- Hero Pack assembly, storage and transportation
- Hero Pack letter writing (4-H members or other youth organizations)
- Volunteers to assist with youth activities (training can be provided)
- Games and Activities that help prepare children for deployment of loved ones
- Volunteers to assist with Mobile Tech Lab, supervise I Pad use, Wii Sport
- Collecting items for hero packs (small stuffed toys, small games, color books, crayons, small puzzles, photo albums and other items for youth age 5 – 18)
- 4-H Teens and older youth to assist in Hero Pack Presentations
- Local support to provide snacks and beverages for children during the weekend events

Tentative Locations: (the dates will likely be late January through early March) are sites in or near Morrilton, Conway, Little Rock, Eldorado, Pine Bluff, Monticello, Newport, Arkadelphia. The specific locations and dates will be available later this year. The number of children will vary by location.

For more information, contact Maureen Rose, Arkansas 4-H Military Liaison.

Upswing in 4-H Club Enrollment by Military Families **Maureen Rose, Arkansas 4-H Military Liaison**

Last year, 50 4-H members who participated in state 4-H Camps, District and State O-Ramas indicated through 4-H Online that they are military families. This year, the Military Partnership Camps are using the 4-H Online program to register kids for the camps. Since that process began, we are getting more phone calls about children of active duty, guard and reserve members wanting to join 4-H clubs.

At the same time, the 4-H Club in a Tub program is rolling out for Military 4-H Clubs. Any 4-H Club in the state can gain designation as Military by inviting 5 or 6 military youth age 5 – 18 to join your club. Once they enroll, you can receive the Club in a Tub kit to do one of three project club programs:

- 1) **Iron Skillet** – Perk up your kitchen skills, learn about the STEM presence in food and nutrition, and gain information about healthier eating. The twelve lessons / meeting guides will give you a great start. Can be a year-round club or summer only. Look at partnering with your local Expanded Food and Nutrition Program to expand your outreach. No military kids in town? You can download the Iron Skillet materials and print them to use in any 4-H club. They are in a PDF format at www.kidsarus.org. Click on the OMK dogtags to find the military 4-H club information.
- 2) **Junior Master Gardener** – Get a tub with the Junior Master Gardener curriculum for youth and leaders, some gardening tools, seeds, and meeting guides. Another great way to help kids to learn to eat more healthy foods. Also a great tool for young entrepreneurs wanting to break in to the local farmers market industry.
- 3) **Photography and Videography** – Get a digital camera and video camera for your club to use as long as the members work on the project. Also project lesson guide and 4-H photography project books.

The first training for 4-H Agents and volunteer leaders for Club in a Tub will be May 13 in Drew County at the Courthouse Club Room in Monticello. This training is open for neighboring counties and will be conducted by Maureen Rose, Arkansas 4-H Military Liaison. To register, contact Hazelene McRay at the Drew County Extension Office, 870-460-6272, hmcray@uaex.edu.

**P. Allen Smith to be Honored at Celebration of Excellence Gala
Brad Davis, Ed.D., Executive Director –Arkansas 4-H Foundation**

P. Allen Smith, Arkansas' celebrity home and garden expert, will be the honoree at the Arkansas 4-H Foundation's Celebration of Excellence event Oct. 11 at the Peabody Ballroom in Little Rock. The event will carry an "Art of Farming" theme, and is the 4-H Foundation's largest annual fund-raising event. Last year's inaugural event honored Sens. David and Mark Pryor.

Smith was involved in raising livestock (cattle, pigs, poultry) with 4-H while growing up in Tennessee and Arkansas, and continues those pursuits today on his 650-acre Moss Mountain Farm. He attributes his love of farming to his family's deep agrarian roots and the projects he was involved with as a 4-H member.

"4-H played an important role in my life at a formative time, introducing me to many of the things I now surround myself with every day," said Smith. "The opportunity to help the Arkansas 4-H Foundation stirs a deep emotion for me. Helping others is what I am called to do, and I am honored to help celebrate the Art of Farming with the Arkansas 4-H Foundation."

Smith has written six best-selling books. His latest, *P. Allen Smith's Seasonal Recipes from the Garden*, was inspired by the abundance of food from his farm and a family of great cooks. He is the host of three national television programs on outdoor lifestyle and cooking, the public television programs "P. Allen Smith's Garden Home" and "P. Allen Smith's Garden to Table," and the syndicated "P. Allen Smith Gardens." He is a regular contributor on NBC's top-rated morning program, the Today Show, as well as the Weather Channel. In 2009 he founded the Heritage Poultry Conservancy, an organization dedicated to the preservation and support of all threatened breeds and strains of domestic poultry.

A graduate of Hendrix College, Smith is a certified fellow of the Royal Horticulture Society and currently serves on the board of the Royal Oak Foundation, the American affiliate of the National Trust for England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The Celebration of Excellence event allows the Arkansas 4-H Foundation to recognize distinguished leadership and service in Arkansas that meshes with the 4-H mission of providing opportunities for youth to acquire knowledge, develop life skills, form attitudes, and practice behavior that will enable them to become self directing, productive, and contributing members of society.

"Allen is the embodiment of the mission and purpose of 4-H," said Charlie Conklin, president of the Arkansas 4-H Foundation board of directors. "4-H helped him develop his life's passion, and people across the country now enjoy the benefits of his talents and gifts. We are delighted to spotlight Allen in our Celebration of Excellence, because it is just that, a celebration of the excellence he brings to his many fans, viewers and readers."

The Arkansas 4-H Foundation was founded in 1951, to serve the Arkansas 4-H program that was established in 1908. Today the 4-H program serves all 75 Arkansas counties, through the county offices of the University of Arkansas, Division of Agriculture. The 4-H program serves Arkansas youth ages 5-19. Local clubs are led by 4-H volunteers who coordinate their efforts with the Cooperative Extension in their county.

“There are more than 130,000 students enrolled in Arkansas 4-H programs today,” said Dr. Brad Davis, executive director of the 4-H Foundation. “Anything we can do to expand those opportunities is a worthwhile effort. We owe a debt of gratitude to Allen Smith for his willingness to help today’s members get as much out of 4-H programs as he received.”

Tickets to The Art of Farming celebration, including corporate tables, are available by calling the Arkansas 4-H Foundation at 501-492-3309.

Deadlines & Upcoming Events

June Calendar of Events

June Due Dates:

TBA State Camp Paperwork & Fees Due (\$TBA per camper late fee after this date)
1 National 4-H Congress Youth Deposits (\$100) due, LRSO
1 District O-Rama County Registration via 4-H Online
3 Ross Photo Exhibit Entries TO LRSO COMMUNICATIONS
10 Forestry & Wildlife Camp Applications
10 Forestry & Wildlife Camp Adult Leader Applications
27 4-H Shooting Sports / Range Events Registration

June Activity Dates:

TBA Dairy Days, Bentonville
3-4 State Camp Counselor Training, 4-H Center
4 Southwest (aka Ouachita) Regional Horse Show, Hope, Southwest District Fairgrounds
7-8 Mid-America Grassland Evaluation, Springfield, MO
9-11 4-H YHEC / State Shooting Sports Competition, 4-H Center
13 North Arkansas (aka Ozark) Regional Horse Show, Harrison
13-17 Operation Military Kids Movie & Arts Camp, 4-H Center
14 Ouachita District O-Rama, Malvern High School
14 Northeast (aka Delta) Regional Horse Show, White County Fairgrounds
15 Ozark District O-Rama, Ozark High School
16 Delta District O-Rama, East Arkansas Community College, Forrest City
16 Upper Arkansas River Valley (aka Ozark) Regional Horse Show, Clarksville, Hurley Arena
17-18 State 4-H Poultry Broiler BBQ Contest, The Poultry Festival, Rogers

19 Forestry & Wildlife Camp Counselor Training, 4-H Center
19-24 Operation Military Kids Camp – Movie and Arts Camp, 4-H Center
19-24 National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational, Kerrville, TX
20 Teen Leader Conference Pre-Conference Meeting with Ambassadors, 4-H Center
20-22 State Livestock Judging Camp, Fayetteville, Pauline Whitaker Animal Sciences Bldg. (Tent)
20-23 Forestry & Wildlife Camp, 4-H Center
21 Ambassador Interviews, 4-H Center
21 Teen Star/Hall of Fame Banquet, 4-H Center
21-23 Teen Leader Conference, 4-H Center
23-24 Tech Team Workshop #3: Media Tour – KKPT 94.1 FM &

July Calendar of Events

July Due Dates:

1 Pumpkin & Watermelon Contest Participation Forms due to LRSO
1 State O-Rama 2011 County Registration via 4-H Online
1 Southern Region 4-H Volunteer Forum Applications
6 Last Day for O-Rama 2011 Changes with 75% refund
13 Last Day for O-Rama 2011 Changes with 50% refund

July Activity Dates:

TBA Youth Poultry Conference, Fayetteville, U of A Poultry Science
2-9 Citizenship...Washington Focus, Washington, D.C.
5-7 Junior Camp 1 & Adventure Challenge Camp 1, 4-H Center
8-9 4-H State Cloverbud Camp, 4-H Center
11-13 Junior Camp 2 & Adventure Challenge Camp 2, 4-H Center
12-14 State 4-H Horse Show, White County Fairgrounds, Searcy
13 State Horse Judging, White County Fairgrounds, Searcy
14-16 4-H Shooting Sports State Competition – Range Events, 4-H Center
20 Awards of Excellence Banquet, Northwest Arkansas Convention Center
20 State 4-H Foundation Board Meeting, U of A
20-22 State 4-H O-Rama, Fayetteville
24-28 National 4-H Forestry Invitational, Jackson's Mill, W Virginia
24-29 Canon National Envirothon, Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada
24-29 International YHEC, Raton, New Mexico
26-31 Southern Regional Horse Championships, Tunica, Mississippi
26-August 3 High Adventure Backpacking Program, Pecos Wilderness Area, New Mexico
27 Southern Regional Public Speaking & Horse Judging, Tunica, Mississippi
31-8/3 Operation Military Kids Camo Camp, 4-H Cen

The State 4-H Newsletter, prepared from national and state sources, is edited and compiled by Priscella Thomas-Scott, 4-H Youth Development Associate. For more information about the news and opportunities found in the Arkansas 4-H Outlook, please contact Priscella Thomas-Scott at 501-671-2271 or pthomas-scott@uaex.edu.

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

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