

# Women's Connection

Promoting the volunteer work of Farm Bureau Women's Committees across Arkansas

## COMMITTEE COMMENTS

The State Women's Conference had a record attendance this year! One hundred and sixty Farm Bureau women from across the state took time away from their farms to attend our annual event at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Little Rock. Everyone enjoyed dinner at the Governor's Mansion. One of the highlights was Farm Bureau's continued support of the school backpack program.



**Peggy Miller**  
chairwoman

County committees were challenged to do more to support this hunger relief program which provides food for students identified as not having sufficient food to eat to take home with them on weekends. The state

committee is working to increase its share of matching funds to complement that donated by the counties.

Some of those attending the conference had the opportunity to visit the Ronald McDonald House which provides housing for families with children being treated for serious illnesses at area hospitals. Your state committee made its annual donation to the RMDH board which staff will use to purchase easy-to-prepare food and meals for the residents. The committee has plans to cook and serve an evening meal for the residents Oct. 18. A new, larger house is under construction and we hope it is ready for occupancy by then. When complete it will house twice the number of families as the current facility adjacent to Arkansas Children's Hospital.

I hope to see many of you at the Officers and Leaders Conference July 18-19 in Springdale. Until then have a safe and enjoyable 4th of July!



KEITH SUTTON photo

Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge was the keynote speaker at the State Women's Conference, March 4-5 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Little Rock. A record attendance of 160 women also participated in a variety of workshops on topics including how to utilize social media to promote their county activities and participate in the Farm Bureau Ag-tivate program. They also enjoyed dinner and a tour of the Governor's Mansion.

## COUNTY ACTIVITIES

The following activity summaries were submitted by the county Farm Bureau Women's Committees:

**Arkansas:** The committee promoted agriculture at local schools on National Ag Day and donated \$200 to the local food pantry. The committee also conducted a safety poster contest in all local elementary schools.

**Benton:** The committee conducted dairy tours for two local families and organized and conducted a dairy recipe contest. Committee members also conducted a session on food safety at Pea Ridge Elementary and participated in the Farmers Feeding Families program by providing funds to help fill backpacks at local schools. The committee also helped plan and sponsor a National Ag Day event at Northwest Arkansas Community College in Bentonville.

**Boone:** Committee members assisted at

the junior beef show at the fairgrounds and planned a Farm to You event for students at Bergman and Lead Hill Elementary schools. The committee also arranged for the Farm Bureau milking cow and Ag Simulator to be a part of an Easter event March 28, which reached more than 450 children.

**Calhoun:** The committee helped arrange the mobile ag trailer for agents for Hogskin Holidays and conducted a safety poster contest at Hampton Elementary School. The top posters in each category were submitted to the statewide contest. Committee members also worked with county agents to plan and conduct a workshop on estate planning.

**Carroll:** The committee conducted the Wagonmasters economic and history program for students in Eureka Springs. The students

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### 2016 ARFB STATE WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

**A**s your state women's committee, we are here to be a resource and assist you in your ag promotion activities. Please feel free to contact us at any time.

**PEGGY MILLER**

*Chairwoman*  
Chicot County, District 7  
870-265-5151  
peggymiller2@gmail.com

**DONNA BEMIS**

*Vice Chairwoman*  
Pulaski County, District 6  
501-897-4931  
donna@bemistreefarm.com

**ANGIE HODGES**

Craighead County, District 1  
870-935-2191  
hh88@windstream.net

**SANDRA KEMMER**

Monroe County, District 2  
870-734-2481  
kemmer@att.net

**ALECHIA MEADOR**

Carroll County, District 3  
870-438-5160  
meadorcpa@windstream.net

**LAURIE RICHARDSON**

Scott County, District 4  
479-207-3954  
lrichardson555@gmail.com

**BENITA DREW**

Pope County, District 5  
479-858-9272  
benitakay@centurytel.net

**KELLY SWINNEY**

Cleveland County, District 6  
870-357-8755  
swinneyk@yahoo.com

**CARLEE HELMS**

Clark County, District 7  
870-451-3316  
farmerhawg@yahoo.com



INDEPENDENCE CO. FB photo

The Independence County women's committee held a commodity promotion fashion review. Judges were (left to right) Julian Carpenter, Pearlean Mohlke and Helen Williams.

learn about bartering for needed goods in the 1800s and international trade. Sessions on the importance of rice, beef and poultry were included. The committee also conducted a media appreciation luncheon where it promoted the "Million Hearts" campaign and the purchase of blood pressure machines to place in local libraries. The Farmers Feeding Families program was supported with an article in the local newspaper and donation to a food pantry.

**Chicot:** Committee members attended the Farm Policy Summit and State Women's Conference in Little Rock. The committee also purchased \$250 worth of food products to donate to the local backpack program at Lakeside and Eudora elementary schools.

**Clark:** The committee supported a county 4-H barbecue and dairy cookoff by donating prize money for the events. Committee members also judged the southwest district poultry and turkey barbecue cookoff. The committee conducted a safety poster contest in local schools and supported a Stroke Awareness campaign by putting up displays across the county.

**Cleburne:** The committee planned and conducted an Outdoor Classroom Garden program at a local school.

**Cleveland:** The committee conducted an incubator project with a local kindergarten class and helped 5th- and 6th-grade students research topics on ATV, swimming pool, and pesticide safety for 4-H projects. The committee also donated money to two local food banks and assisted students at Woodlawn Elementary in collecting and donating pop tops to the

Ronald McDonald House.

**Columbia:** The committee donated cash gifts totaling \$300 to the Compassions ministry, Emerson Elementary backpack program, and Southern Christian Mission. The committee also conducted poultry barbecue, dairy recipe and Sew with Cotton contests and awarded prizes to the winners. The committee also arranged for Amanda Williams and Jason Kaufman to conduct safety programs at Emerson and Taylor schools and participated in the McNeil Festival on the Rails with the Farm Bureau milking cow and Ag Simulator.

**Conway:** The committee participated in the Farmers Feeding Families program by setting up displays within the community and donating \$200 worth of food to the local youth backpack program. The committee also sponsored a Dairy Foods Contest for local 4-H members and county 4-H Broiler barbecue contest. Participants gained information about the poultry industry and proper cooking techniques.

**Craighead:** The committee hosted a gathering at a local farm shop where guests were provided information about cattle, lambs, goats, chickens and row crops. The committee also conducted its annual rice queen contest. Madison Gibson was named Miss Craighead County Rice for 2016. The committee assisted her in setting up a booth at University Heights School during its "Arkansas" night. Madison created a "RICE FACTS" bulletin board and gave a lesson on different types of rice. She passed out mini bags of rice along with her rice recipe cards, then posted photos

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Carroll County, (Farmer's Feeding Families)



Craighead County, (Milking cow)

# C O U N T Y C L O S E - U P S



Cross County, (Blood pressure machine)



Van Buren County, (Make it a Meal soup contest)



Monroe County, (Bicycle safety)



Pope County, (Busy Beavers 4-H club school garden)

## COUNTY ACTIVITIES

on the Craighead County Facebook page. The committee also arranged for the portable cotton gin to be demonstrated at this promotion, which attracted 300 students.

**Crawford:** Committee members judged the 4-H barbecue contest and sponsored the county 4-H dairy recipe contest. The committee also conducted a poultry incubation project for Mulberry 4th grade students and assisted with the annual "Fun day at the Farm" hosted by board member Randy Arnold where students learned about cattle, bees, strawberries, sheep, goats, dairy, and ATV safety.

**Cross:** The committee conducted the Miss Cross County Rice contest, passed out coloring books at Wynne Primary School, had a member volunteer at the local food pantry and arranged for a safety program to be conducted at Wynne Intermediate School.

**Drew:** The committee helped promote the Farmers Feeding Families program with the Nursing Program from the University of Arkansas at Monticello. Committee members also organized supplies for the coloring contest in local elementary schools and helped recruit students for the Teen Challenge program.

**Faulkner:** The committee assisted with outdoor gardens at Greenbrier, St. Joe's and Wooster schools. The committee also planned and conducted the annual Faulkner County Farm Roundup Ag in the Classroom event. Committee members conducted teaching garden community education workshops and participated in the "Locals Board," a committee that provides local food for limited access individuals.

**Garland:** Committee members volunteered at the FFA Career Development Enrichment Day which is a district event and the committee members served as group leaders and worked different livestock stations. The committee also began a seven week FACES (faculty and community enriching students) program at Fountain Lake Elementary. This included an ATV safety program led by Farm Bureau safety coordinator Jason Kaufman. 4-H members brought livestock including goats, rabbits, donkeys, calves and talked about the responsibilities of owning livestock.

**Grant:** The committee presented the program "Serving Up My Plate" for 3rd and 5th graders and the "Pick a Better Snack" program for 4th and 6th graders at Sheridan Intermediate School. Committee members also conducted a nutrition program called "Eating Right When Money is Tight" for 28 people at the Senior Citizen Center. The program focused on increasing fruits and vegetables in your diet. Committee members also took two teams to the Beef Quiz Bowl in Fayetteville and gave a talk on Chronic Wasting Disease in deer and elk at the Cattlemen's Association meeting.



KEITH SUTTON photo

*Van Buren County Women's committee members Sheila Brown (left) and Cindy Wilson are pictured here with Chef Don Bingham at the 2016 Women's Conference.*

**Hempstead:** The committee conducted a Farmers Feeding Families activity and purchased \$200 worth of canned foods and delivered it to the Hope in Action ministry, which is a local food bank that distributes food to the needy in our area. The committee also conducted the 2016 Safety Promotion Poster Contest for Agricultural Safety Week. Blevins Elementary submitted 14 posters.

**Howard:** The committee conducted a county dairy foods contest for local 4-H members with competitions in the main dish and party idea categories. The committee also participated in the Farmers Feeding Families program by purchasing \$200 worth of food items that was donated to Mineral Springs and Nashville Elementary schools for their backpack programs. The committee also hosted a Chamber of Commerce coffee event at the county Farm Bureau office, which included office staff and county board members with local business owners.

**Independence:** In conjunction with the County Extension Service the committee provided judges for the 4-H Fashion Review. Some of the 30 students made their outfits from cotton. The Extension Service and women's committee also provided judges for the Dairy Foods contest and provided prizes for the winners. The committee also conducted the annual Nutrition Olympics program for 265 students in the 3rd thru 6th grade. The activity provides fun ways for them to learn about making healthy food choices, while learning the source for their food.

**Izard:** The committee helped judge the county

Dairy Foods contest and provided prizes for the winners and also donated backpacks of food and water to a county school to distribute to students participating in the program.

**Lafayette:** Members of the committee volunteered at the Lafayette County Ag Day event which allowed elementary students to visit different livestock exhibits, a germination station, view a demonstration of a portable cotton gin and milk the Farm Bureau cow. The students who attended received Ag in the Classroom coloring books and Ag Readers along with book marks and crayons. With the Rural Health and Safety committee, the women conducted the annual safety poster contest for all 3rd and 4th graders during Agricultural Safety Awareness Week.

**Little River:** The committee donated crayons to the local pre-school and discussed farm animals with the children on Cowboy Day in April. The committee also sponsored radio ads for the county health fair at the Ashdown City Park and donated money for the local backpack program.

**Lonoke:** Committee members were involved in a number of ag-related classes at local schools. These included: Six veterinary science lessons; a poultry biosecurity meeting; a Farm Financial Budgeting class at Lonoke High; the Farm to You program at England and Carlisle elementaries; and lessons on dairy, forestry, corn and bees at Lonoke Primary school. The committee also conducted healthy living programs at Carlisle and England elementary schools and donated \$200 to the Cabot school's backpack program.

## COUNTY ACTIVITIES

**Miller:** The committee participated in several events. In February, committee members participated in the Agri Expo by manning a booth, handing out brochures and serving lunch. In May a committee member helped with the Monroe Samuels Forestry and Land judging contest in Ashdown. Students were taught to judge trees and learn about the soils. The committee also participated in the Caddo Area Boy Scout Council Scout-O- Rama. A committee member demonstrated how to be safe on their soap box derby cars. The committee also donated backpacks for the Union School backpack program.

**Monroe:** The committee conducted a Miss Monroe County Rice Contest. Libby Wilkison was crowned as the 2016 Miss Rice. The *Central Delta Argus Sun* published photos and photos were posted on the county Facebook page. The committee also conducted an ATV safety program to K-6 grades at Partee Elementary School in Brinkley. Safety coordinator Amanda Williams presented the program, along with local FFA students, who demonstrated and what to wear when riding an ATV. The committee purchased \$300 worth of food products for the local food pantry operated by Broadmoor Baptist Church. The *Central Delta Argus Sun* published a photo of the donation.

**Montgomery:** The committee partnered with High School students from Oden, Caddo Hills and Ouachita River School to conduct the "Serving up my Plate" lessons for elementary school children using Arkansas-grown foods. The committee also conducted the "Spring into Health" exercise program for high school students at all three schools and taught gardening lessons to students at Mt. Ida, Caddo Hills, and Ouachita River schools.

**Newton:** The committee participated in the Farmers Feeding Families program by donating food for the local Christian Food Room. The committee also conducted and judged the county Dairy Recipe contest, in addition to a lesson on apples with students in Mt. Judea. Committee members took apples to the school for children to eat after reading the book, the "Apple Orchard Riddle."

**North Logan:** Committee members read "apple" books to 2nd-grade students at Scranton Elementary and helped them with an apple activity. The books were donated to the Paris, Scranton and St. Joseph elementary schools and to the North Logan Boyd T. and Mollie Gattis Libraries. The committee donated \$100 each to the Community Outreach Services organization and Save the Children program to be used for the backpack program.

**Polk:** The committee promoted the Farmer's Feeding Families program by submitting press releases to the



KEITH SUTTON photo

*Quinton Smith, an Estate Planner for the Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Co. was the speaker at the "Continuing to Farm After the Death of A Spouse" workshop held during the 2016 Women's Conference.*

local media. A member of the committee was the guest speaker at the county Cattlemen's Association meeting and spoke about committee initiatives including the Farmer's Feeding Families program. Attendees were encouraged to become involved and to contribute via an "Extend the Invitation" message, encouraging all farmers to join the efforts that serve our community. Funds were raised and donated to the Louise Durham Elementary School backpack program. The committee also conducted the safety poster contest and selected local artists to judge the entries.

**Pope:** The committee helped the Busy Beavers 4-H Club obtain an Outdoor Classroom Garden Grant in the amount of \$500 with matching funds. On its own the club raised \$4,027 through the month of April. Two committee members and board members are assisting the club with the project. They are turning this into a community project and building raised beds so senior citizens may work in it as well. The committee also had a display booth about exercise and good nutrition at the "Jump Start for Healthy Hearts" event to raise money for the Heart Association. Photos of the event were published in local newspapers.

**Pulaski:** A committee member read to 2nd graders at Daisy Bates Elementary and to a kindergarten class at Miss Selma's School. The committee also presented a program on local agriculture at Mabelvale Middle School's Career Day and sponsored a booth on honeybees at the Arkansas Women in Agriculture Conference.

**Scott:** The committee participated in the annual Forestry Field Day with Waldron Middle School 5th graders. The women manned a booth featuring samples of the many items we get from trees. They informed each class about the importance of the timber industry to our county and how trees are one of our greatest renewable resources. Students received Forestry Ag Readers and a packet of information. The committee also participated in the "Read Across America" program by reading ag-related books at local elementary schools. Some of the books read included, "First Peas to the Table," "Beef Cattle: A to Z," "From Tree to Paper," and, "The Apple Orchard Riddle."

**Searcy:** The committee donated food for the local food pantry and provided a potluck meal for the board members at its February meeting. Committee members also provided lunch for the CASA program.

**Sevier:** The committee assisted in the Cattlemen's Association Spring Conference at DeQueen High School and served more than 250 people. The committee also awarded students from Horatio and DeQueen High Schools with scholarships worth \$500 each.

**Sharp:** The committee participated in the Farmers Feeding Families program by donating funds to the backpack program for Cave City Schools. The committee also partnered with the county extension service in conducting the annual Dairy Foods contest. The contest serves as a great way to promote the use of dairy ingredients in cooking, as well as supporting the 4-H mission of "learn by doing," allowing 4-H members to learn a variety of cooking skills.

## COUNTY ACTIVITIES

**South Logan:** Committee members conducted a program on healthy produce for 3rd-grade classrooms at Booneville and Magazine elementary schools. The students discussed and compared fresh produce and canned vegetables. They also got to make homemade vegetable soup and learned about the parts of plants that are edible and participated in planting cabbage, potatoes, broccoli, beans, and peas in raised bed garden plots. The committee also conducted a forestry program for 2nd-grade students at Booneville Elementary. The students discussed how weather (drought/too much rain) can affect the growth of trees and learned about products made from harvested trees such as lumber, furniture, paper, etc.

**South Mississippi:** The committee bought groceries for the Farmers Feeding Families program promoting beef, dairy, rice, fruits and vegetables, and delivered food products to Rivercrest Elementary for its backpack program. The committee also conducted the annual safety poster contest and sent the winning entries to Little Rock for the state competition. The committee awarded cash prizes and submitted photos of the winners to the three local newspapers.

**St. Francis:** The committee promoted Arkansas commodities through a canned good drive benefiting a local food pantry. A second food drive was held in March and those canned goods were donated to the local soup kitchen. The committee conducted the annual Miss St. Francis County Rice competition. The winner was introduced to the public by participating in a local radio station morning show. Committee members assisted in serving her rice dish to faculty members at her high school. Committee members also spoke to 4th-grade students about bicycle safety.

**Stone:** The committee purchased \$200 worth of food that was donated to the Stone County Food Room in Mountain View for the Farmers Feeding Families program. The committee also donated 29 copies of the book, "First Peas to Table" to each of the 1st-grade classes in Mountain View, Timbo and Rural Special schools. A committee member attended the Stone County 4-H Livestock and Poultry workshop, while the committee participated in the 4-H "Meet the Candidates" chili supper and pie auction in February.

**Union:** Two members of the committee made a video on "How to Make Mayhaw Jelly." The video was used during a festival celebrating mayhaws. One member judged the Mayhaw food contest, while others taught 12 girls how to make mayhaw jelly. The event was featured in the local newspaper. The importance of sanitation and hand washing was also discussed and photos of both classes were placed on the county Facebook page. The committee also conducted a Tomato Project for four area schools. The students planted seeds, watered and

recorded the growth of their plants. The project included separate lessons over a period of six weeks.

**Van Buren:** The committee conducted a "Make It a Meal with Soup" contest at Clinton and South Side High Schools. Contestants were from the Nutrition Class and the main ingredients of the soups ranged from chicken, beef and fish to vegetables. Three winners were chosen and awarded cash prizes. A news release with photos was sent to the three local papers and *Farm Bureau Press* and photos were posted on the Van Buren County Facebook page and on the school's Facebook page. The committee also participated in an "Ag Days" event in April at South Side-Branch Elementary. The committee re-created the "Wow, The Incredible Cow" presentation which educates students on the many products used everyday that come from the by-products of a cow. The school submitted a news release to the local papers and photos were posted on both the school's Facebook page and the county Farm Bureau's Facebook page.

**Washington:** The committee participated in the Farmers Feeding Families program by purchasing and donating non-perishable food items to Jones Elementary and other local schools for their Backpack programs. The committee planned and set the date for the annual "Farm Friends Day" event at the Pauline Whitaker Center on the UA campus. The committee donated 300 Ag in the Classroom coloring books to Farmington Elementary and all six commodity Ag Readers to 3rd- and 4th-grade classrooms in the county. The committee also purchased and donated items to the local women's and homeless shelters.

**White:** The committee conducted an tour of the Gay family farm for 60 preschoolers and 20 parents and teachers. Students learned about milk, dairy cows and cattle. The children also saw and learned about goats, chickens and baby calves. The committee conducted a Dairy Foods contest and submitted the winner's names to the state office to participate in the statewide competition. Several members of the committee collected food items for the local backpack program. More than \$250 worth of non-perishable food items were collected and donated to nine school districts in the county.

**Woodruff:** The committee judged rice dishes and conducted the "Miss Woodruff County Rice" contest. Committee members also donated rice and a cash gift to the Woodruff County Food Pantry. The committee presented cash gifts to the Augusta and McCrory schools for their backpack programs. Committee members attended a safety program and helped conduct a finance workshop at McCrory High School in conjunction with the Woodruff County Extension Service. The committee also assisted with the Woodruff County Expo.



MONROE CO. FB photo

*During the annual Rollin' on the River festival in Clarendon June 4, the Monroe County women's committee sponsored a bicycle safety contest. Extension 4-H members helped along with Miss Monroe County Rice Libby Wilkison. Two bicycles were given away as prizes.*

**Yell:** The committee assisted with activities at the county 4-H O-Rama. Committee members purchased and served pizza to 50 4-H members & their families at the Awards Banquet and presented the outstanding 4-H member award.

### STAFF CONTACTS

• **Harry Willems**, Director of OMP,  
501-228-1247, harry.willems@arfb.com

• **Lori Croy**, OMP Special Programs Assistant,  
501-228-1306, lori.croy@arfb.com

Crawford County Women's Committee



Donnette Spann, Arkansas Beef Council Promotion Coordinator, demonstrates the "When is a Cow More than a Cow?" activity during one of the workshops.

# 2016 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE



Chicot County Women's Committee



Pope County Women's Committee



Baxter County Women's Committee



**At left,** Rob Anderson, Director of Public Relations, leads a workshop on how counties may promote their activities through social media.

**At bottom left,** Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge was a keynote speaker at the conference.



**At bottom right,** State Representative and Sevier County livestock farmer DeAnn Vaught speaks on participation in the "Ag-tivate" program.

# ARFB WOMEN'S COMMITTEE CALENDAR

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
					JULY 1	2
3	4 <b>FB Offices Closed for Independence Day</b> <small>Independence Day</small>	5	6	7 <b>Policy Development Kickoff/Video Conference</b>	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 <b>Officers &amp; Leaders Conference</b> <small>Holiday Inn, Springdale</small>	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	AUGUST 1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	SEPTEMBER 1	2	3
4	5 <b>FB Offices Closed for Labor Day</b> <small>Labor Day</small>	6	7	8 <b>State Women's Committee Meeting</b> <small>State Office</small>	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 <small>First Day of Autumn</small>	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	