

# Women's Connection

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

## COMMITTEE COMMENTS

I hope everyone has had a great summer. Facebook postings have shown many beach trips and some were lucky enough to go on cruises. Now it's back-to-school time and we have to settle back into our routines.



**Peggy Miller**  
chairwoman

Although chores and housework never stop, sometimes it gets put on the backburner during the summer. With

school back in session, it's time for us to get busy doing our Farm Bureau activities again! My desire is that our Women's Committees are excited about promoting Ag in the Classroom, and all the other promotions that you may choose to get out information about agriculture and its importance to your county and the state. Don't forget to take advantage of matching funds for art programs and the backpack program for your local schools. Good luck in all your endeavors and I look forward to seeing you at the state convention in Hot Springs!



Members of the **Miller County Farm Bureau** volunteered their time July 7 to assist with the annual Miller County 4-H Fishing Derby at Dieffenbacher Lake in Texarkana. They gave out t-shirts, baited hooks, repaired fishing rods and helped serve lunch alongside volunteers from the University of Arkansas and Master Gardeners. More than 100 4-H kids caught fish during the derby.

## COUNTY ACTIVITIES

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

**Arkansas:** The committee donated to the Food Pantry and participated in the county annual meeting. A dinner was held to reach new women and promote involvement with the committee.

**Benton:** The committee conducted dairy promotion activities at the quorum court and Rotary Club by handing out pens and recipe books. The committee also participated in Dairy Days and provided SKill-A-Thon awards, donated and served refreshments at the Farm Family media day and served at the legislative appreciation dinner. Committee members were also involved in the Farm Expo's Farm 2 You program and Children's Shelter Ag Camp.

**Boone:** The committee hosted a Dairy

Recipe contest, secured judges and took photos of the winners and submitted them to the local newspaper. The committee also read to students in kindergarten and first grade at Lead Hill and presented a book to the library.

**Carroll:** The committee promoted beef, dairy, rice, soybeans, cotton, corn, and poultry during Wagonmasters presentations in Berryville and Green Forest. The committee also participated in the Million Hearts Initiative and had information and a blood pressure machine at Agri Days and placed a blood pressure machine in the Berryville Library. Committee members also helped with the Farm 2 You program for K-2 students in Berryville and read the book "A Chicken in Patrick O'Shanahan's Kitchen," then donated the book to the school library.

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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.

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CLAY CO. FB photo

The Sara House in Corning, which provides services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, was the recent recipient of a \$500 Outdoor Classroom Garden Mini-Grant. Clay Co. FB Women's Committee member **Susan Hancock** (second from left) presented the check to directors **Alice and Dewayne Crouse** (right) and board member **Pat Miller** (left).

**Chicot:** Committee members worked at the opening day of the local farmer's market and handed out samples of healthy produce and garden vegetables to visitors. The committee conducted four programs for the "Get Fit" and "Walk Across America" programs which reached 245 children and 375 adults. Committee members also delivered art and school supplies to Eudora Elementary School and attended a Producer's Rice Mill meeting to discuss the market outlook for the county and learn about different types of rice. Rice bags were collected and donated to the local food pantry.

**Clark:** The committee prepared two cookouts for the district and state Farm Family judges and provided healthy treats of grapes, water and cookies for the summer reading program. Committee members also participated in two different Library Summer Reading Programs and read the book "The Cow in the Kitchen."

**Clay:** The committee arranged for the Farm Bureau milk cow and ag simulator to be included in programs at Piggott, Rector and Corning Elementary Schools. Ag in the Classroom coloring books were distributed afterward in the classrooms. The committee also presented scholarships to graduating seniors who plan to pursue an agricultural major.

**Cleburne:** The committee presented information at the Cloverbud Day Camp on "Where your Food Comes From." Committee members taught the children at the camp how the ingredients in their sandwiches all came from a farm.

**Cleveland:** Committee Chairwoman Kelly

Swinney and member Bonnie Gavin checked with teachers in local schools to determine which Ag in the Classroom materials they are interested in using during the upcoming school year.

**Columbia:** The committee purchased gifts for the 4-H poultry barbecue competition and supplied cookies and potato chips for the 4-H Project Fair. The committee also donated a meat tray and water for the local M\*A\*S\*H program. Committee member Deborah Dooly assisted five youth with their entries in the Sew With Cotton project, while Deborah Reynolds presented certificates to students at Columbia Christian School for their safety posters.

**Conway:** A total of 335 students took part in the 2016 Farm Safety Day. Students engaged in safety practices for home and the farm. They learned about ATV safety, tractor safety, bicycle safety and the safe handling of livestock. 4-H members attended an educational session on the importance of field crops grown in the Arkansas River Valley and in state. They learned how to properly identify seeds, planting times, and harvesting methods. They then took part in a crop and weeds identification contest.

**Craighead :** The committee posted a video of a local member with her pet rooster, with the hashtag #everybodycanbeafarmerandrancher, on the county's Facebook page and it has received more than 1,300 views. The committee also participated in the county's 4th of July picnic, which included city and county officials, Congressman Rick Crawford and other special

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Van Buren County, (Member Appreciation Day)



Independence County, (Food basket donations)

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



Independence County, (ER donations)



Van Buren County, (Ag Education)



Van Buren County, (Dairy recipe contest)



## COUNTY ACTIVITIES

dignitaries. Miss Craighead County Rice Madison Gibson was introduced and shared her crispy rice cookies and recipe with the attendees. Photos from the event were posted to her Facebook page.

**Crawford:** Committee members conducted a poultry incubator program at Mulberry Elementary School and Central Elementary in Van Buren. Students learned about poultry and got to watch 20 baby chicks hatch. Mulberry 4th graders were also taught how to make ice cream in a bag.

**Cross:** The committee conducted a Bake-off contest at the annual Wynne Farm Fest, and committee members volunteered at the local food pantry. The committee arranged to have the Farm Bureau milk cow at the Wynne 4th of July event and presented scholarships to graduates from Wynne and Cross County.

**Drew:** The committee recruited students to attend Teen Challenge and the local M\*A\*S\*H camp and assisted in planning for the county's annual meeting.

**Faulkner:** The committee participated in the Pizza Ranch event, which educated students about ingredients in a pizza and reached 2,100 youth. The committee also conducted taste testing and school garden programs at Wooster and Greenbrier elementary schools and met with consumers and passed out information at an information booth at the local farmers-market. Committee members also assisted with lunch at the 4-H District O'Rama.

**Garland:** The committee conducted an ice cream in a bag activity for 315 students and taught a lesson on good root system establishment and how to plant bulbs at a 4-H event. The kids transplanted the bulbs at home afterward. The committee is also working in conjunction with county extension staff on the Sew with Cotton contest which will be conducted during the county fair. A committee member hosted and several others helped with a Special Needs Rodeo, which involved 100 kids who were allowed to ride horses, rope, and interact with various animals.

**Grant:** The committee participated in the 4-H day camp which had 8-10 members in attendance each day. The committee also conducted senior health presentations in May, June and July and also conducted a fishing derby that had 80 in attendance.

**Hempstead:** The committee helped get the County Membership Drive ready by getting condiments and putting the face painting stand together. The committee was also in charge of Customer Appreciation Friday and in honor of the 40th Hope



JACKSON CO. FB photo

**Carey Robertson** along with **Mandi Lassiter** from the Jackson County Farm Bureau Women's Committee visited the local schools allowing the children to witness the hatching of ducks.

Watermelon festival the women provided watermelon and water for members who came in that day.

**Howard:** The committee volunteered in the Farm To Plate demonstration that was held at the Nashville elementary school. The program was available to approximately 300 students who received hands-on instruction on the foods they consume, where they come from, their uses and benefits. The committee also hosted a luncheon in honor of the Joel Whisenhunt family for receiving Howard County Farm Family of the Year. Lunch was served in the family's home to approximately 40 people who were present for the media and judging program.

**Independence:** Committee members assisted in a 4-H sewing workshop where 12 students made pillowcases out of cotton. The committee also donated a fruit and veggie basket to the local intensive care unit waiting room each month that includes healthy snacks for people under a large amount of stress. Committee members also assisted with the "Kids in the Kitchen," program which had eight students in the 3rd-6th grade.

**Izard:** The committee provided cash prizes for an egg photo contest in conjunction with the Arkansas Poultry Promotion Program.

**Lee:** A committee member participated in the summer time, story time at the Marianna library. Traci Beene read to children and donated cookies and t-shirts to make Superman capes.

**Lonoke:** The committee conducted the "How did that get in my lunchbox?" program for 36 students. The committee also conducted a Farm Safety Day for the Lonoke 5th grade, which included 122 students, as well as an ATV Safety Riders Course and Shooting Sports Day Camp for 26 young people.

**Miller:** Committee members attended the Gateway Farmer's Market Overseer Committee meetings, the City Beautiful Commission meetings, Miller County Conservation District meetings and helped plan and serve dinner at the U of A Extension flood meeting. Committee members also helped plan an appreciation dinner for state legislators and attended a Back To Nature and Fishing Derby planning meeting.

**Monroe:** Members of the committee accompanied Miss Monroe County Rice as she appeared at the Monroe County Library Summer Reading Program in Clarendon. She spoke about rice, read a book to the children and gave out treats and Rice Ag Readers. Committee members assisted the children in making a healthy soup mix in a jar to take home. The mix contained barley, rice, lentils, peas, pasta, etc. layered in a plastic jar with the recipe. The committee also participated in a four-hour ATV Safety course for local youth at a committee members farm. It was an Extension Service 4-H Youth Development program which offered students an opportunity to practice basic riding skills in a controlled environment under the direct supervision of a licensed instructor.

## COUNTY ACTIVITIES

**Montgomery:** The committee assisted Mt. Ida High School students who taught the "Serving Up My Plate" program to elementary students using Arkansas-grown foods. The committee distributed beef and poultry ag readers to students during the county Ag Day program. The event featured eight sessions which students rotated through including: Wild Edibles, Bike Safety, Gun Safety, Beef gives you Zip, Smoking is not Cool, Yoga for Kids, and Fighting Fire with Fire.

**Newton:** The committee conducted a county dairy recipe contest and a committee member accompanied the winner to the state competition. Committee members also made quilts that were donated to local charities and helped the elderly attend a community event by transporting them there and back. A committee member sent out letters to all 4-H members regarding the registering of livestock at the county fair.

**North Logan:** A committee member read the book "The Apple Orchard Riddle" to 4th-grade students at St. Joseph Elementary, then donated the book to the school library. They learned about the nutritional value of apples and she showed the students how the seeds make a star. The committee also conducted a food safety program to 19 ladies at an Extension Homemakers meeting. The program illustrated the dangers of reheating foods in certain plastic containers in the microwave.

**Perry:** Committee members assisted with providing refreshments for the board meetings and made information about local agriculture available for county grade school teachers and answered any questions they had.

**Polk:** The committee donated agriculture-themed books to the Hatfield and Cove libraries.

**Pope:** Committee members continued to work on the Outdoor Classroom Garden Program with local 4-H club members by assisting in building the water stand which holds the self-flow tank for the drip irrigation system. The committee also worked with 4-Hers by teaching them how to care for different kind of vegetables and how weather can affect how the plants grow. Several committee members attended the Officers and Leaders Conference and other meetings during the period.

**Scott:** The committee hosted six classes of third graders from Waldron elementary school at the Davis Angus Farm. The students rotated through the following stations: Beekeeping, Beef Cattle, Goats, Horse Roping, wild animals you see on the farm, the History of Farming and a snack station. The children were given



CRAIGHEAD CO. FB photo

**Nicole Cornes and Laura Madden** from Families Inc. at Bay School District with Backpack program donations from the Craighead County Women's Committee.

backpacks which included ag readers on beef cattle and bees. The committee also participated in a farm safety day and fishing derby.

**Sharp:** The committee assisted with the county fair booth which promoted beef and other commodities. They distributed recipes and activity sheets to children. Committee members also promoted and supported the local M\*A\*S\*H program at the White River Medical Center which included two students from Sharp County.

**South Mississippi:** Committee members attended a number of meetings during the period including commodity division meetings in Stuttgart and Marianna, the Policy Development Videoconference in Jonesboro and Officers and Leaders Conference. The committee also provided food, set up and served students graduating from the M\*A\*S\*H program and conducted a customer appreciation day promoting Farm Bureau member benefits.

**St. Francis:** The committee promoted Arkansas commodities with handouts and samples for K-4th grade students and assisted Miss St. Francis County Rice in passing out her recipe cards and serving her dish at the local soup kitchen. Committee members also read to elementary students about agriculture in our area and gave out coloring pages to the students before school let out for the summer. The committee conducted a safety program for K-4th grade students at Palestine Elementary on fire and internet safety.

**Stone:** Several committee members attended important meetings throughout the summer

including the commodity division meetings, policy development videoconference, Cattlemen's board meeting, Officers and Leaders Conference, and Master Gardner's workshop. The committee arranged for safety coordinator Jason Kaufman to present a program on dairy farming at the Bethany Missionary Baptist Vacation Bible School. The theme was "Cowabunga Farm" and Jason brought the Farm Bureau milk cow and shared with the children about the differences between modern-day milking with milking a cow years ago.

**Union:** The committee conducted a program on cotton in high school sewing classes to make drawstring backpacks. Students were instructed in the parts of the machine, making French seams, and casing. Another class was provided for youth in constructing an apron. There were 24 participants. A committee member read the book, "First Peas to the Table" to a 2nd-grade class. The children planted peas and monitored their growth.

**Van Buren:** Committee member Becky Wood and her husband Danny, a member of the county board of directors, are retired dairy farmers. They submitted a news release to a local newspaper on the benefits of dairy products in recognition of National Dairy Month. Also in June, the committee participated in a Membership Appreciation Day. The county Farm Bureau had an open house with food and drinks for all visitors. The committee arranged to have the Mobile Ag Education trailer and Farm Bureau milk cow on site, as well as a table of child car seats and posters showing our programs on child car seat safety in the high schools.



## COUNTY ACTIVITIES

**Washington:** Committee members attended a number of meetings throughout the summer including the President's Leadership Council, commodity division meetings, policy development videoconference, Cattlemen's board meeting, and Officers and Leaders Conference. The committee also made a financial donation to support the "Moms on the Farm" tour, purchased items to continue support of the local backpack program, and participated in the annual "Farm Friends Day" at the Pauline Whitaker Center by manning booths and helping educate children and their parents about animal agriculture.

**White:** The committee made plans for an educational exhibit at the County Fair. The title will be "GMO – InThe Know" featuring information about "truths and untruths" concerning genetically modified foods. Committee members conducted, along with Farm Bureau staff, a "Farm Day" for students in Pleasant Plains. It featured a tour of the Gay farm and included pony rides, the ArFB combine simulator, Farm Bureau milk cow and petting zoo. Committee members continually update the county's Facebook page. Posts explain farming practices and statistics concerning food production are included. The county page has over 200 friends and a typical post generates from 20-50 "Likes." Most of the "friends" are non-farming families.

**Woodruff:** The committee helped with the "Miss Woodruff County Rice" Contest and Dairy Recipe Contest, and donated the book, "First Peas to the Table," to the Woodruff County and McCrory libraries and ARCare office. Committee members also assisted with the 4-H Day Camp, the ARCare summer program, a Youth Food Preservation Class and the Healthy Cooking Class at McCrory High School.



HEMPSTEAD CO. FB photo

Hempstead County Women's Committee helped sponsor the annual Farm Bureau Safety Contest. Board President **Mark Lloyd**, along with Women's Committee Chairman **Beth Lloyd**, presented Blevins students their awards. **Aniyah Muresan** won 2nd place and received \$75. **Dakota Benight** received a participation award.

**45% of all women-operated farms specialize in raising livestock.**

(Source: America's Farmers)



**JILL EVANS**  
H & D Tucker Farms  
Faulkner County

#ArFBFarmFact



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## COUNTY WOMEN'S COMMITTEE FOOD AND ART DONATIONS

The State Women's Committee has raised the amount of the matching money it is contributing to encourage county committees to participate in backpack programs at local schools. The state committee will refund half of the money a county women's committee spends to purchase food for a school backpack program, shelter or food pantry. For example, if you spend \$400, the state committee will reimburse your county \$200. County committees are encouraged to make your food donations in the fall and spring instead of as a one-time gift.

Schools are in need of art supplies and art has a direct correlation to increased learning. Schools have been asked to participate in our Farm Safety poster and coloring contests. The State Women's committee will reimburse half, up to \$150 on the amount county committees spend for art supplies donated to local schools. For example, if your committee spends \$300, the state will refund the county Farm Bureau \$150. The deadline for reimbursement is Oct. 31.



LAFAYETTE CO. FB photo

## SEW WITH COTTON CONTEST DEADLINE OCT. 31

The deadline for Sew with Cotton entries is rapidly approaching! Entries need to be received by Oct. 31 and should be mailed to Brandy Carroll, Director of Commodity Activities and Market Information, P.O. Box 31, Little Rock, AR 72211.

The state contest will be held on Dec. 1 at the Arkansas Farm Bureau Convention in Hot Springs. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. at the Hot Springs Convention Center. The top three winners in each of the six categories will model their garments in the Cotton Fashion Show at the Women's Luncheon that day, and the sweepstakes winners will be awarded at that time.



SUBMITTED photo

# ARFB WOMEN'S COMMITTEE CALENDAR

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
						OCTOBER 1
2	3	4	5	6 <small>Policy Development Kickoff/Video Conference</small>	7	8
9	10 <small>Columbus Day</small>	11	12	13	Arkansas State Fair in Little Rock	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Arkansas State Fair						
	<small>National Boss Day</small>		<small>Deadline for Submitting Resolutions ARFB</small>			
23	24 <small>Early voting begins for General Election</small>	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 <small>Halloween</small>	NOVEMBER 1	2	3	4	5
			State Resolutions Committee Meeting			
6 <small>Daylight Savings Ends</small>	7	8 <small>Election Day</small>	9	10	11 <small>Veterans Day</small>	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 <small>FB Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday Thanksgiving</small>	25 <small>FB Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday</small>	26
27	28	29	30	DECEMBER 1	2	3
		<small>General Election Runoff</small>	ARFB 82nd Annual Meeting in Hot Springs			
4	5	6	7 <small>Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day</small>	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 <small>First Day of Winter</small>	22	23 <small>FB Offices Closed for Christmas Holiday Christmas Eve</small>	24 <small>FB Offices Closed for Christmas Holiday Christmas</small>
25	26 <small>FB Offices Closed for Christmas Holiday</small>	27	28	29	30	31 <small>New Year's Eve</small>