

Women's Connection

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

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

The Arkansas Farm Bureau women's committee met in October for two days of activities. We cooked for the Ronald McDonald House residents and served them a complete spaghetti dinner. These children and parents always enjoy the hot meal. This activity is one that the

women's committee is so thankful to participate in and gives us the opportunity to talk about food sources and eating fresh products grown in Arkansas.



Janice Marsh
chairwoman

The committee judged the annual State Fair rice recipe contest. This is a fun activity that we enjoy each year and the participants always prepare lots of new, tasty rice dishes.

The theme of Arkansas Farm Bureau's 81st convention was "Growing for Tomorrow." Roberta Golmon from Baxter County was named our Diamond Award winner. She has worked tirelessly for her county and I really do admire her endeavors.

The American Farm Bureau convention will be my last duty as state chair. I have enjoyed meeting so many people who love our agricultural industry. Farm Bureau has been a part of my life for more than 50 years. My parents, grandparents, and siblings have served Arkansas Farm Bureau with pride. I want to thank everyone and especially the staff for helping make this a very special time for me. I also want to thank Peggy Miller for her outstanding support as vice chair and congratulate her on being named chairwoman of the state committee for 2016. I know she and the new committee will do a great job promoting agriculture!

Remember the date for the 2016 Statewide Women's Conference will be March 4 and 5. Have a blessed New Year!



KEITH SUTTON photo

ArFB State Women's Committee members served as judges for the annual State Fair Rice recipe Contest. Left to right: Sandra Kemmer, Sonya Harrell, Laurie Richardson, Peggy Miller, Roberta Golmon, Donna Bemis, Angie Hodges, Benita Drew and Janice Marsh.

COUNTY ACTIVITIES

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

Arkansas: The committee had a display at the county annual convention. The committee also donated to the local Backpack Program to provide meals for hungry school children and donated \$600 to the local CASA program.

Baxter: The committee participated in a 4-H sponsored cookout at the Norfolk Dam Site Park. Committee members donated food and drinks and interacted with 4-Her's and parents discussing where their food comes from. The committee also participated in the 4-H Council Food Booth meeting and engaged in a discussion of food safety tips. Committee members also manned a booth at the county fair and set up a display with a variety of Ag in the Classroom materials and Value Plus brochures at the county annual convention.

Benton: Committee members attended the Foodie Friday event at the Arkansas Women Bloggers Conference in Hot Springs. Susan Anglin participated in a panel discussion about agriculture and food. Susan Anglin also hosted a

dairy Farm tour for 35 Helen Tyson Middle School students. The committee conducted a petting zoo at the Benton County Fair and at the Bentonville Farmers Market, and conducted a wheat program for students at Sugar Creek Elementary.

Boone: Committee members helped plan, decorate and serve food at the county annual meeting and served on the Gold Star Committee. The committee also distributed books to county school libraries, participated in a county-wide safety days program for all fourth-graders, and worked in the booth for the District Fair.

Bradley: The committee assisted at the county fair setting up exhibits and handing out bottled water to fairgoers.

Carroll: The committee sponsored a booth on ag safety at the county fair. Committee members discussed food safety regulations with visitors and the responsibility of consumers regarding food preparation, cooking and storing. Committee members read the book, "The

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COUNTY ACTIVITIES

2016 ArFB STATE WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

As 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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MONROE CO. FB photo

Children at the Monroe County Human Development Center in Brinkley got to milk the Farm Bureau dairy cow. Matt Jackson, ArFB education coordinator, told about the cow and assisted each child in milking it. One of the Monroe County Farm Bureau Women's Committee members is the speech pathologist at the center and she taught visitors how to say cow and milk using sign language.

Pumpkin Circle-The Story of a Garden" to 504 Berryville students and arranged for the Ag Experience trailer to be a part of a program for students in grades 5-7 in Eureka Springs, all fourth-grade students in Berryville and third-grade students in Green Forest.

Chicot: The committee set up and manned an educational booth and exhibit at the county fair.

Clark: The committee participated in local rice promotion activities and had a winner in the state rice recipe competition at the State Fair. The committee also purchased and distributed water, cookies and grapes to those attending the summer reading program, conducted an Ag in the Classroom poster, coloring book and essay contest, had numerous displays at the Clark County Fair on rice, safety and dairy products, and assisted with the Farm Bureau milking cow activity.

Clay: The committee made a food donation to each elementary school's Backpack Program in the county, with items donated associated with crops grown in the county. Committee members promoted local crops grown in the county at the county annual convention through the food served and decorations. The committee also promoted the use of hand sanitizer by giving everyone attending the county annual meeting a small bottle with the Farm Bureau logo as well as a tube of lip balm with a soybean base.

Cleburne: The committee conducted a Sew with Cotton contest and provided information on Arkansas crops at a county fair booth. Committee members also helped fifth and sixth-grade classes plant a fall garden at a local school and provided

information on what plants need to grow. They also provided information to more than 500 youth at the Cleburne County Fair school bus day on the importance of agriculture and Arkansas crops and also learned about dairy farming and were able to milk the Farm Bureau dairy cow. The committee donated \$100 to a local soup kitchen and a non-profit assistance program for low income individuals.

Columbia: The committee delivered 25 gallons of Coke can tabs to the Ronald McDonald's House and contacted schools in Emerson and Taylor and the Columbia Christian School about the coloring book, poster and essay contest. Committee members delivered 202 coloring sheets and will pick them up in November. Committee member Deborah Dooly attended the State Health and Safety tour of the River Valley Christian Clinic at Dardanelle.

Conway: The committee donated \$100 to the Nemo Vista School Backpack Program and discussed the nutritional value of Arkansas Grown Foods with students. The committee also assisted with the annual 4-H Fishing Derby and promoted the importance of Arkansas Grown catfish to the young people who participated. Students from the Conway County School District were taught the importance of livestock safety and the food industry in Arkansas during the county fair. Students toured the livestock barns, took part in hands-on learning activities and toured displays of locally grown fruits and vegetables.

Craighead: State Women's Committee member Angie Gibson attended the state women's

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Newton County, (Food Donation)



Clay County, (Food Bank Donations)

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



Sharp County, (Poster Contest)



Monroe County, (Sew with Cotton)



Van Buren County, (Farm to Market)



Independence County, (ICU Food Basket)

COUNTY ACTIVITIES

committee meeting, volunteered and helped serve meals at Ronald McDonald House and helped judge the rice recipe contest at the State Fair. Committee members organized and then hosted a county Sew With Cotton contest. Letters were mailed to area gins asking for donations to help with the promotion. Past participants were sent letters and contest rules so that they could be aware of the new contest. Several participants were awarded cash prizes and will compete at the state level. A photo with the details was sent to the local media for their publication. Also, photos of the event were posted online through social media outlets. The committee also provided ag teacher, Casey Wells at Westside High School a classroom set of various AG readers and 9 Billion Changes Everything booklets. Committee member Emily Gairhan posted a photo of her farmer husband and daughter in front of his corn crop with the #corntraditionpicture #farmersdaughter. It received 149 likes on Facebook and Instagram.

Crawford: The committee had a display at the county fair that showed what the committee has done throughout the year. Committee members also served lunch for the volunteers and judges at the fair.

Cross: The committee arranged for the Farm Bureau dairy cow to be a part of the Three Trees Fall Round-Up. The committee also conducted a poster and essay contest, a 4-H farm safety program, made a donation to the Wynne Friends of Animals, and participated in the Back to School bash raising money for school supplies.

Dallas: The committee emphasized child safety awareness by displaying a child safety seat in the county office and promoting it on the county's Facebook page. The committee also conducted a coloring book, poster, and essay contest and sponsored a tornado and fire safety program at the local elementary school.

Faulkner: The committee assisted with the annual corn maze at Schaefer's Farms, which attracted 2,300 visitors. Committee members also participated in a planning meeting about annual fruit and vegetable conferences and provided input on healthy snacks. The committee conducted a Sew with Cotton contest, judged entries and prepared them for the state competition. The committee also sponsored an Etiquette luncheon for county 4-H youth and it attracted 30 participants.

Garland: The committee was very active at the county fair. Committee members assisted with a farm to table demonstration showing 4-H kids where cotton, soybeans, and other commodities come from and what they are used for. The committee also conducted a Sew with Cotton contest during fair week. A committee member wrote an article for the

local newspaper promoting the junior livestock show. Committee members manned the Farm Bureau booth at the fair and handed out ag promotion brochures and coloring sheets to children.

Grant: The committee helped man the Farm Bureau booth at the county fair and conducted a class on living wills and diabetes, assisted with the Senior Center nutrition program and conducted a Sew with Cotton contest.

Howard: The committee conducted a food drive to benefit all area schools that participate in the Backpack Program. The committee also made additional food purchases to deliver and stock the pantries of each of these schools. Our schools reported they provide Backpacks to as many as 20 students each week on average.

Independence: The committee assisted the county extension office with the Sew with Cotton contest. Snacks were served and awards were given to the participants and judges. Each winner receives a \$100 stipend to attend the State Contest. Committee members also participated in a workshop where 15 4-Hers made pillowcases. The committee provided \$120 worth of materials for their projects. Each month a food basket is provided for the ICU waiting room including fresh fruits and vegetables and whole grains. This helps those who are making decisions under great stress. Packets containing valuable farming information and coloring sheets are also provided to help pre-school and kindergarten students in the ER waiting room.

Izard: The committee presented the IZARD County Farm Family of the Year with a plaque created by a local artist at the annual meeting. The committee also awarded cash prizes and certificates for the 4-H gardening project winners and presented them at the county annual meeting.

Jackson: The committee conducted a tour and activity at a local farm for home school children where they learned about and were able to ride a combine. Committee members also read books about rice to children at the Newport library. The committee donated ag placemats to Newport and Tuckerman schools and delivered rules for the poster and essay contests, along with 530 coloring books. The committee sponsored a health and safety program and arranged for Farm Bureau Safety Coordinator Jason Kaufman to conduct a fire prevention program.

Jefferson: The committee presented Charles "Jake" McNulty with the \$1,000 Jefferson County Farm Bureau scholarship.



KEITH SUTTON photo

Washington Co. FB's Women's Committee won its eighth consecutive **Outstanding County Women's Program award**. Querita Faddis accepted the award from President Randy Veach at the ArFB convention in Little Rock, Dec. 3.

Lafayette: The committee concluded its first annual School Supply Drive. All of the supplies donated were distributed to county elementary schools. The committee also supported and assisted in the membership campaign held during the county fair.

Lee: The committee participated in the local tri-county safety fair in Marvell and donated auction items to the local healthy women's fair at East Arkansas Community College. The committee also had a mobile booth at Autumn On The Square at Marianna and a mobile booth at the Moro Homecoming to promote membership awareness and to say thank you to farmers for a bountiful harvest.

Little River: The committee donated crayons and coloring books to the elementary students and discussed animals on the farm. Committee members also helped set up booths at the "It's All About Kids Health Fair" at Ashdown Junior High School and helped serve food that was donated by local restaurants. The committee also set up and decorated tables at the county annual convention.

Lonoke: Committee members taught Arkansas agriculture lessons at a 4-H Cloverbud and Junior Camp and for students at Lonoke Elementary School. They also assisted Carlisle 5th graders with planting a school garden and held a livestock petting zoo for Lonoke HIPPIY students; assisted with eight training practices for the 4-H dairy & livestock judging team, sponsored \$250 toward the Lonoke 4-H Dairy Judging team's trip to the World Dairy Expo and donated \$2,000 to the Backpack program at Lonoke, Carlisle, and England schools.

Mississippi: Committee members filled treat bags with items promoting rice, beef and fruits. They delivered the bags, along with 780 coloring sheets to Rivercrest, Gosnell, Blytheville and Armorer schools.

Committee members gave information to those same four schools on the poster and essay contest. The committee purchased ads in the local papers promoting child safety and booster seats.

Monroe: A committee member took Miss Monroe County Rice to Clarendon for the Chamber of Commerce meeting and assisted her as she served her rice dish and spoke about rice and her activities. One of our committee members spoke to the chamber about the Miss Rice program. The local newspaper published photos of the meeting. And the committee also sponsored the Brinkley Fall Fest at the Convention Center. The event featured the portable rice gin and combine simulator. Throughout the day committee members distributed brochures, rice, soybean and dairy ag readers, and coloring books. Students from UALR assisted with setting up the dairy cow and running the combine. They were quite interested and were not aware of the ag education aspect of Farm Bureau. The *Central Delta Argus Sun* published photos of the event.

Newton: The committee made an "Amazing Arkansas" exhibit and displayed it at the county annual meeting promoting Arkansas grown commodities. It was also on display at area Extension Homemakers Clubs and at all four county schools. The committee purchased and delivered non-perishable food for the Backpack program at Deer and Mt. Judea Schools. Committee members also worked on crocheting baby blankets, afghans and quilts to be donated to Arkansas Children's Hospital.



ROB ANDERSON photo

Janice Marsh (right), chair of ArFB's state women's committee, presented the committee's **Diamond Award** to Roberta Golmon of Baxter Co. FB during the women's luncheon at the ArFB State Convention Dec. 3.

COUNTY ACTIVITIES



KEN MOORE photo

Members of the **ArFB State Women's Committee** and a couple of their spouses filled bags of cheesy rice and vegetables during a "Pack Shack" Feed the Funnel event Oct. 13 at the Arkansas Rice Depot. The committee filled 648 bags, enough to feed 5,000 individuals. The Rice Depot will distribute the meals to needy families and organizations in Arkansas.

Perry: The committee assisted with the policy development process and displayed written information on the ValuePlus benefits at the county annual meeting. The committee also made Ag in the Classroom information available to county grade school teachers and answered any questions they might have. Committee members displayed written information on safety and ValuePlus benefits in the booth at the county fair and assisted in gathering information on the Backpack Program and made a contribution to a representative of Perryville Elementary School at the county annual meeting.

Poinsett: The committee participated in the county booth and other activities at the Poinsett County Fair, in addition to the Arkansas Rice Festival. The committee also donated "The Apple Orchard Riddle" to local elementary schools and public libraries.

Polk: The committee assisted with the Jr. Livestock Auction and the Farm Bureau milk cow exhibit at the county fair.

Pope: The committee had the Farm Bureau dairy cow and Ag Experience Trailer at the Pope County Fair and at Dover's Ozark Memories Day Festival, where approximately 1000 people attended. Committee members demonstrated how to make butter. The committee fed the judges at the county fair and had two members attend the Membership Breakfast Rally. A committee was invited to attend a meeting at Arkansas Tech University of former ag students and agriculture business on how the school can improve the program and things they would like to see happen with the program in the future. The committee gave out coloring books on farm products, and dairy coloring books and crayons at Ozark Memories Day and at Zion Fall Fest.

Pulaski: Committee members Kathy Ratcliffe, Pam Bredlow and Libbie Dougan participated in a breakfast and farm tours for Congressman French Hill. Pam Bredlow visited with State Rep. Dave Hillman and Congressman Rick Crawford regarding agriculture issues. The committee also conducted a county Sew with Cotton contest. Kathy Ratcliffe worked with Toltec State Park on a program about "Arkansas's First Farmers," and facilitated a workshop for the Master Gardner Program on "First Tomatoes."

Saline: The committee donated books to the FFA at Glen Rose High School and manned a booth at the Saline County Fair, where members handed out material on Farm Bureau membership benefits.

Scott: The committee participated in the local Celebrating Farm Families festival, which featured the Farm Bureau dairy cow and a germination station for children to enjoy. The committee also hosted Waldron Middle and Elementary school students at the county fair which featured six educational stations. These included a canning station, the Farm Bureau Ag Experience trailer, and the Farm Bureau dairy cow where members talked with students about how we can milk more efficiently. There were also stations on cotton, drones, and the history of agriculture in Arkansas.

Searcy: The committee delivered coloring books to Marshall Elementary school for the contest, while committee members entered exhibits in the county fair and talked with fairgoers promoting agriculture at the Farm Bureau booth.

Sevier: Committee members set up and manned an information display and assisted with the premium sale at both the county and state fair and attended the Arkansas Cattlemen's convention to learn

COUNTY ACTIVITIES

more about cattle promotion in the state. A committee member is working with an area physician on the development of local health fairs and gave a presentation to the county board on the Backpack program for area schools.

Sharp: In honor of Rice Month the committee gave rice ag readers to 4th, 5th and 6th graders at Cave City School. In October the committee gave poultry ag readers to the same classes and later gave them ag readers on the importance of corn. The committee arranged for safety coordinator Amanda Williams to present a program on "Where does our food come from?" to 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders at Cave City.

South Logan: The committee distributed information to teachers at Booneville and Magazine Elementary Schools regarding the poster and coloring contests. The committee also donated \$50 to both schools for their Backpack programs and \$100 each for art supplies. Committee members also prepared and served meals to judges for the South Logan County Fair.

St. Francis: The committee helped our Miss Rice prepare for the state contest. Committee members assisted her with perfecting her recipe as well as handing out recipe cards and rice samples. They also promoted rice in September by reading to 3rd-grade students at two different elementary schools about rice and giving out rice krispy treats. The committee also assisted 4-H in the annual fishing rodeo. Committee members handed out information to the kids on all of Arkansas' commodities. The committee finished up its "How a seed grows" project by giving out coloring pages and educating students about Arkansas commodities and the nutritional value of each.

Stone: Dan and Pat Stewart held a Farm to Table discussion at the Ozark Folk Center and conducted a tour of their farm. The Stewarts also initiated and participated in the antique tractor parade and show during AG Appreciation Day. Pat Stewart and Vicki Smith are committee members and served during the Appreciation Day. Committee members helped work, serve food and set up decorations at the county annual meeting. The committee also promoted agriculture at the county fair by having the Ag Experience Trailer there and distributing brochures and information. The committee handed out "Grow Smarter" books at the annual meeting and donated 160 to first-grade classes at Mountain View, Rural Special & Timbo schools.

Union: Committee members made and presented brunch dishes for the Union County EHC Achievement Day. Poultry, pork, and dairy dishes were featured with 50 ladies in attendance. Members placed 300 pumpkins in the arboretum to prepare it for fall activities, which included the Master Gardeners' bulb sale and a Fall Festival for county children. Members set up "Eating

Your Way Through Color" booths, as well as, a Farm Bureau benefits booth at the Union County Fair. An Arkansas Foods luncheon featuring rice, poultry, fruits, and vegetables was held for workers at the fair. Committee members also table taught etiquette to 15 young people. They were taught place settings, how to eat properly and how to carry on a conversation.

Van Buren: The committee creates a free barnyard exhibit at the county fair annually, called "Farmer For A Day." A newspaper ad was created to encourage parents to bring their children. The committee creates the exhibit focusing on activities that will attract interest in farm life such as gathering eggs, picking fruit, watering ducks, fishing in the pond, riding a horse and milking a cow. The children are taught the chores of a farmer, how the farmer markets his crops, and are given the opportunity to have a fun interactive time inside the exhibit. Committee members met with science teachers and others at schools throughout the county informing them of the many resources Farm Bureau has to offer. The committee has embraced social media and use it to not only promote our county Farm Bureau but all forms of agriculture. A Facebook page has been created and committee members send photos and articles to administrators Melanie Fosko and Cindy Wilson and they update the site several times a week to keep it fresh and interesting. With all the photos of county fair activities our site had more than 5,000 views during fair week.

Washington: Committee members participated in the annual "Moms on the Farm" tour, which attracted approximately 40 women. They visited John and Carolyn Hart's dairy farm in Prairie Grove and Eric Walker's beef farm. The tour included a stop at the Pauline Whitaker Arena where a rice and chicken dish was prepared. An employee of Riceland Foods and her husband presented a promotional program about rice. The committee is also active at the county fair each year and again sponsored a Fun on the Farm booth, the Farm Bureau booth, a Stick Horse booth, and the "Farmers Feeding Families" booth. There were 247 children who came through the Fun on the Farm and Stick Horse booths.

White: The committee prepared and erected an educational exhibit for the county fair. It was called, "Rice Isn't Just for Ducks," and featured a mobile display of ducks flying over a rice field which were actual buckets of rice plants. A display of various rice products and a handout summarizing uses of rice was included. Two committee members assisted with the Youth Livestock Auction at the County Fair and another member bought animals. The committee presented the Pangburn FBLA teacher and club president with a Farm Bureau Garden Grant. The group is expanding a water garden at the back of the high school. The committee also exhibited at White County Hospital's annual "Day of Caring."

More than 1,000 individuals received free services and supplies for children in need. Another member assisted with a Distracted Driving presentation at Beebe High School. Three members consistently add items to the White County Farm Bureau Facebook page. Details of the annual meeting were posted as well as various facts about agriculture and services offered through Farm Bureau. The page continues to attract new "likes."

Woodruff: The committee conducted rice luncheons at the Bank of McCrory and RiverWind Bank. Drawings were held for gift baskets containing rice products at all banks in the county. Janice Marsh also helped judge rice dishes at the state fair. She also participated in a special activity at the Rice Depot. A committee member promoted edamame soybeans on KAIT- Channel 8. The committee donated copies of the book, "The Apple Orchard Riddle" to the McCrory Library, Woodruff County Library and ArCare. The committee also delivered art supplies to local schools for the coloring book and poster contests and hosted meetings with counselors, school principals and consumer science teachers.

Yell: The committee helped sponsor and man a booth at the county fair promoting Farm Bureau and all of its benefits. The committee also had the Farm Bureau dairy cow at the fair which had an attendance of more than 7,000 people. All ages really enjoyed milking the cow. The committee also purchased food, cooked and served 50 judges and workers during the fair. The committee also purchased food for the Backpack program at Dardanelle Schools.

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1. Visit arfb.com and click the AgVocates banner.
2. Select your social networks.
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4. Click "share"! The more you share, the more chances you have to earn points for prizes.

We're giving away prizes every month!

So, what are you waiting for?



ARFB WOMEN'S COMMITTEE CALENDAR

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
					JANUARY 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY FB OFFICES CLOSED	2
3	4	5 <small>2015 Soybean & Feed Grains Producer Conference in Jonesboro</small>	6	7 <small>2015 Soybean & Feed Grains Producer Conference in Dumas</small>	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AFBF Convention in Orlando, Fla						
17	18 <small>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</small>	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	FEBRUARY 1	2 <small>Groundhog Day</small>	3 <small>ARFB Winter Commodity Division Meetings in North Little Rock</small>	4	5	6
7	8	9 <small>Mardi Gras</small>	10 <small>Ash Wednesday</small>	11	12 <small>Lincoln's Birthday</small>	13
14 <small>Valentine's Day</small>	15 <small>President's Day Washington's Birthday Daisy Gaston Bates Day</small>	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	MARCH 1	2	3	4 <small>Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame Luncheon</small>	5
State Women's Conference in LR						
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 <small>Daylight Savings Begins</small>	14	15	16	17 <small>St. Patrick's Day</small>	18	19
20 <small>First Day of Spring</small>	21	22	23	24	25 <small>Good Friday FB OFFICES CLOSED</small>	26
27 <small>Easter</small>	28	29	30	31		