



4-H Happenings

- January 20 - Extension closed for MLK Jr. Holiday
- January 22 - sign-up deadline for 4-H Public Speaking Workshop
- January 23 - 4-H Life Skills Club Mtg. (NEW CLUB), 5 pm
- January 25 - 4-H Public Speaking Workshop, 10 am
- January 27 - February 6 - Dixie National Jr Round Up
- January 31 - Deadline for the following ...
 - Valentine Art entries due by 3 pm
 - 4-H Community Service Project Items due
 - MVLA Conference registration due by 1 pm
 - MVLA Officer Nomination and Outstanding Volunteer Leader Applications due by 1 pm
- February 2 - Nothing Bundt Cake Orders due to Linda Laudadio via email
- February 3 - Sign-up deadline for the 4-H Public Speaking Contest
- February 3 - Volunteer Leaders Meeting, 5 pm
- February 4 - Eagle 4-H Club Meeting, 4-6 pm
- February 5 - Sign-up deadline Visual Presentation Workshop
- February 5 - Clover Kidz-West Club Meeting, 3:30 pm at Tishomingo Chapel Baptist Church
- February 7 - Clausel Scholarship 4-H Soup Luncheon Fundraiser, 11 am - 1 pm
- February 8 - 4-H Public Speaking Contest, 10 am
- February 8 - 4-H Visual Presentation Contest Workshop, 12:30 pm
- February 11 - STEM/Robotics 4-H Meeting, 5:30 pm
- February 12 - Nothing Bundt Cakes Pick Up Day
- February 13 - Crafty Critters 4-H Club Meeting, 5 pm
- February 18 - State 4-H Award Applications due in county office for review
- February 21 & 22 - MVLA Annual Conference
- February 25 - Extension Meet & Greet, 2-4 pm
- February 27 - 4-H Life Skills Club Meeting, 5 pm

If you plan to attend or would like more information about any of these activities/programs, please contact the Alcorn County Extension office at 662-286-7756.



*"The time is always right to do what is right."
- Martin Luther King Jr.*

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
January 20, 2025

4-H LIFE SKILLS CLUB

Thursday, January 23 - 5:00 p.m.

Life skills are important for youth to develop into healthy, productive humans. A new life skills 4-H club is being organized under the leadership of 4-H Volunteer Leader, Mrs. Allison Beene. This club is open to ages 8-18, and will teach youth skills they can use for a lifetime, with a large focus on cooking and sewing. Other topics may include manners, decision making, basic first aid, basic auto care, and more.

The first meeting will be held **Thursday, January 23, at 5:00 p.m.** at the Alcorn County Extension Office. Contact the Extension office at 662-286-7756 for more information or to say you will come.



Public Speaking Workshop

A 4-H Public Speaking Workshop will be held on **Saturday, January 25, at 10:00 a.m. at the Extension office.** Dr. Julie Sims will share with youth the rules for the 4-H Public Speaking Contest, tips to help you develop your speech, how to present and how to make 4-H public speaking fun! You do not have to sign up for the contest in order to participate in the workshop. **Please call to say you will attend by Wednesday, January 22.**

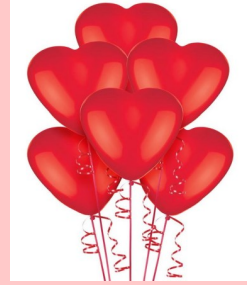


Overcome the fear of Public Speaking!

State 4-H Valentine Art Contest

Rules for the contest are as follows:

Open to all Mississippi 4-H members and youth willing to join 4-H. Youth are allowed to use any media necessary to complete the artwork but are asked to not copyright images or phrases. All submissions must be 4-H appropriate. Entries need to be at least sized at 8 x 10 in order to replicate into a card. **Participants must submit original artwork along with MSU Extension 4-H Creative Arts Entry and Release Form to the county Extension office by January 31, 2025.**



Entries will be submitted to the MSU Extension agent. The agent will submit the entries for the county to the MSU Center for 4-H Youth Development for judging on February 5th. Original artwork from the selected entries will need to be reproducible. Agents will be notified of winners on or before February 7th and arrangements will be made to get those to the State 4-H Office.

Mississippi 4-H Volunteer Leaders Association Annual Conference

The annual 4-H Volunteer Leaders' Association (MVLA) Leadership Conference will be held **February 21-22, 2025**. MVLA Board members are working hard to make this conference special. This conference is open to current and potential volunteers. It is packed with exciting activities and educational workshops. If you are interested in attending the conference, contact the Extension office for a registration packet. **The deadline to register for the conference is January 31, 2025.**

During the conference, twelve outstanding volunteers from across the state are recognized each year. Please take a moment to think about the 4-H volunteers in our county that are deserving of one of the outstanding awards. If you would like to nominate a volunteer, contact the Extension office for an application. **The deadline to submit Outstanding 4-H Volunteer nominations is January 31.**



The MVLA Board is also accepting nominations for Vice President, Treasurer, Parliamentarian and Assistant Coordinators for each region. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else please contact the Extension office. **The deadline for officer nominations is also January 31.**

Nothing Bundt Cakes Fundraiser

The Alcorn County 4-H Volunteer Leaders will be conducting a fundraiser now through February 2. They will be taking Nothing Bundt Cakes orders. Options include: Bundtlet (individual size cake) for \$7 each, pre-assorted Bundtini's (bite size) for a price of \$28 a dozen, 8" Bundt cake frosted in the box (serves 8-10) for \$35, and 10" Bundt cake frosted in the box (serves 18-20) for \$45.

You can choose from the following flavors: chocolate-chocolate chip, red velvet, white chocolate raspberry, confetti, classic vanilla, snickerdoodle, lemon, carrot, or strawberries & cream. **Cakes will be available for pick up at the Extension office on Wednesday, February 12, just in time for Valentine's Day!**



If you would like to support our volunteers and place an order, come by the Extension office. Profits from this fundraiser will be applied toward volunteer trainings and youth scholarships. **Orders are due to Linda Laudadio by Sunday, February 2. They can be emailed to Linda at paololindalaudadio@gmail.com; or turned in to the county Extension office by Friday, January 31.**

4-H COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

Alcorn County 4-H has chosen to put together “Comfort Bags” for children in crisis as our first community service for 2025. When children have to enter a shelter or foster care, they leave behind everything from their favorite stuffed animal to their toothbrush. This is where a “Comfort Bag” can make a difference: providing these children with basic necessities and comfort items when they need it most.

If you would like to participate in this project by donating items for the bags, please see the list of items list below. Our goal is to complete at least 40 bags. Items should be brought to the Extension office by **Monday, February 3**. (The items with a check mark, are already being provided.)

ESSENTIALS:

- * Coloring book
- * Crayons ✓
- * Colored pencils
- * Non-perishable snacks
- * Toothbrush ✓
- * Toothpaste ✓
- * Socks ✓
- * Small flashlight with batteries
- * Underwear
- * Drawing pad ✓

EXTRAS:

- * Small stuffed animals ✓
- * Small dolls
- * Toy cars
- * Card games
- * Books

ARTS & CRAFTS:

- * Stickers
- * Play dough ✓
- * Bead sets
- * Pens or pencils
- * Word search

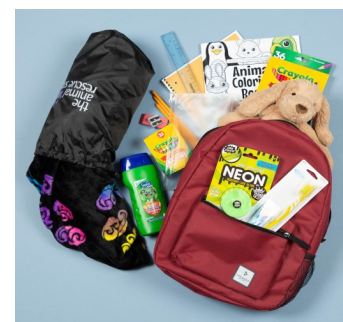
HYGIENE:

- * Brush/comb ✓
- * Fun band-aids
- * Chap stick
- * Bath gel
- * Travel size toiletries ✓

OTHER:

- * Small blanket ✓
- * Books
- * Water bottle
- * Gum
- * Mints

- * Gift cards
- * Hair accessories
- * Small bag to put their things in ✓



4-H Public Speaking Contest

The annual 4-H Public Speaking Contest will be held **Saturday, February 8, at 10:00 a.m.** at the MSU Extension Exhibit Hall. You may select your topic of choice for the contest, but remember it must be a speech not an illustrated talk, which means no props of any kind. Please remember your 4-H age is the age you are on January 1, 2025. Extension Publication 3128, *Preparing for 4-H Public Speaking Contests* can be picked up at the Extension office.

Age Categories :

Cloverbud (5-7)	participation only
Cloverleaf (8-9)	2-3 minutes
Junior I (10-11)	3-5 minutes
Junior II (12-13)	3-5 minutes
Senior I (14-15)	5-7 minutes
Senior II (16-18)	5-7 minutes



(Speeches exceeding the time limit will be penalized five points.)

The deadline to register is Monday, February 3. We need at least 10 participants signed up to justify conducting the contest. Call, email, or message us on Facebook to sign up.

4-H Soup Luncheon (Clausel Scholarship Fundraiser)

Mark your calendar for **Friday, February 7**, for the annual 4-H Soup Luncheon Fundraiser. Dine-In, Carry-out or delivery will be offered from **11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.** Tickets are \$10.00 each, and include choice of taco soup, vegetable beef soup, or chili with crackers/corn chips, dessert, and drink. Delivery is available within the city limits for orders of five or more.

The 4-H Advisory Council is giving two monetary awards to encourage youth to presell tickets. The 4-H member who sells the most tickets (must sell at least 15) will win a \$50.00 cash prize. The same monetary award will be given to the club who sells the most tickets (must sell at least 25). Please contact the Extension office if you are willing to: sell tickets, help prepare soup, work the day of the luncheon, or donate a dessert.



4-H Scholarships & Awards

Graduating 4-H members with at least two years of active participation are eligible to apply for county 4-H scholarships and State 4-H Awards. Scholarship packets are available in the county office.



State 4-H Award applications are due in the county office for review by **Tuesday, February 18**.

County Scholarship Applications are due in the county office no later than **Tuesday, April 1**.

The following 4-H scholarships are offered through the county:

Jesse & Bryan Clausel Memorial 4-H Scholarship (\$250.00), 4-H Volunteer Achievement Scholarship (\$500.00), Volunteer Leaders' Association Scholarship (\$250.00), Annalisa Laudadio Love & Encouragement Scholarship (\$500.00), and Norbert Coleman Memorial 4-H Scholarship (\$500.00).

Visual Presentation Workshop

A 4-H Visual Presentation Workshop has been planned to help youth prepare for the upcoming Visual Presentation Contest. The workshop will be held **following the 4-H Public Speaking Contest Saturday, February 8, at 12:30 p.m. at the Extension office**. Mrs. Lisha Hopper, Volunteer Leader, will incorporate the 4-H Community Service project while sharing tips to help participants develop and present a visual presentation. (Youth do not have to sign up for the contest in order to participate in this workshop.) **Please call the Extension office by Wednesday, February 5, to say you will attend.**



Call or email the Extension office to sign up to receive the monthly 4-H newsletter electronically.

WELCOME DR. JULIE SIMS!

Alcorn County Extension - 4-H is excited to welcome Dr. Julie Sims as the new Extension 4-H Agent. She is originally from Booneville, MS where she grew up on a family farm and began her journey in 4-H along with her older sister and younger brother before becoming an official 4-H'er at the age of eight. Dr. Sims' main 4-H project area was livestock, but she participated in other areas such as community service, leadership, clothing selection and construction, livestock judging, interior design, visual presentations, and public speaking. She was fortunate to attend Citizenship Washington Focus, National 4-H Congress, and National 4-H Conference, as well as serve as a page during her tenure in 4-H. Dr. Sims attributes her success throughout her career to the many skills and abilities gained as a 4-H'er. Throughout her career, she has served as the membership and communications director for the Georgia Cattlemen's Association and advisor to the junior cattlemen, worked in early childhood in MS assessing the quality of classrooms and training childcare workers, been an entrepreneur as owner of a small bakery, and served as a project manager and deputy director of research for international development projects. She is the proud aunt of two nieces who show livestock in 4-H, loves the outdoors, and enjoys serving in her church and community. She is looking forward to building relationships with volunteers, 4-H'ers, school administrators, local county officials, and the community-at-large in Alcorn County to ultimately build the 4-H program and make a positive impact on the lives of youth in this county.



Please help us welcome Dr. Sims by joining us for a **Meet and Greet on Tuesday, February 25, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the Alcorn County Extension Office.**

4-H SHOOTING SPORTS

The registration deadline for the 2025 4-H Shooting Sports year is **February 17**. Youth must register each year if participating in the Shooting Sports program.

Upcoming safety/practice dates ...



4-H AIR PISTOL

Tuesday, February 21, & Monday, February 28, 6:00 p.m.



4-H AIR RIFLE

Sundays, January 19 & 26, February 2, 9, 16, & 23

3-Position shooters - 1:30 PM, Table Shooters - 3:30 PM



4-H ARCHERY

Thursdays, January 23 & 30, February 4 & 13, 5:30 PM at the Arena Livestock Barn

2025 Competitive Event dates:

- **Northeast Invitational - Saturday, March 22**
- **NE District Event - Saturday, April 26**
- **State Championships (SR's only) - July 18 & 19**

Registration information for these events will be shared as soon as it becomes available.



4-H'S IN ACTION

Find a way to use your **HEAD, HEART, HANDS, and HEALTH**
for your club, your community, and your country!

**INCLEMENT
WEATHER
REMINDER**



*When the schools close due to inclement weather, 4-H events will be cancelled.
If in doubt, please call the Extension office to confirm.*

For more information about any of our programs and activities, please contact the Alcorn County Extension office.

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