

Neeley joins Mississippi County Extension as 4-H agent



Pictured at the 2021 Manila Christmas in the Park event at a 4-H Promotion Booth making wildflower "seed bombs" is Kamella Neeley, 4-H agent with Mississippi County Extension. Kamella joined the Extension team Sept. 1, 2021. She is a graduate of Arkansas State University with BS in Biology and a Masters in Agriculture, also from Arkansas State University. Family and Consumer Sciences Agent, Pamela Pruettt said, "Ethan Brown, Ag Agent, and our whole staff are delighted to have Kamella join our team. She brings an enthusiasm, great work ethic, collegial personality, and a background knowledge and experience that is perfect for building the 4-H youth programs in Mississippi County. She has hit the ground running establishing working relationships in the community and ensuring ongoing programs are moving forward. Creative and innovative, Kamella is an asset for youth and adults interested in 4-H in Miss. Co." Contact Kamella Neeley at kneeley@uada.edu or by phone at 870-563-0236. "I am extremely happy to be working with the other agents here in Mississippi County. I am excited to get to know more members of the communities here and create impactful, enjoyable and lasting programs for our 4-H Youth. It's an exciting time to be a 4-H Agent!" said Kamella.

Smith selected to AR 4-H Video Crew

A nine-year member of Mississippi County 4-H, Macie Smith is pictured with a certificate of achievement for the honor of being selected to serve as a member of the Arkansas 4-H Video Crew. This is a prestigious appointment with significant responsibility for the 4-H youth participant. The purpose of the Arkansas 4-H Video Crew is to train elite 4-Hers in professional video production. The basis of the training begins with learning how to setup and operate equipment for livestreaming Arkansas 4-H State O-Rama events. Macie said, "The 4-H Video Crew has been a wonderful opportunity for me. We are expected to perform our duties in a professional way. Being a part of the Video Crew has been a great door opener for me for other career opportunities." Macie is from Manila and is currently enrolled in Union University in Jackson, Tenn., where she just completed her first semester of college and made the President's List with a 4.0 grade point. She is the daughter of Greg and Lauren Smith of Manila. Her brother, Davis Smith, was a 4-H video crew member of the first crew in the state. For information on 4-H, contact 4-H Agent in Mississippi County, Kamella Neeley at kneeley@uada.edu or at 870-563-0236.



Comfort foods can warm up a winter's day

When the weather turns cold, most people start craving something warm to keep out the chill. Through the years, the two most common comfort foods for winter have been casseroles and soups.

Casserole is a French word referring to the dish in which the casserole is made. It is derived from French and Medieval Latin words meaning "ladle", and both those words imply it was a pot in which a food was cooked and then everyone in the home ate from that same pot. It was a way of combining food items into one dish in order to make a meal for several people from very few food ingredients.

The earliest recipe for a casserole was found in the Latin cookbook familiar with the court of Charles II of Anjou, who lived from 1254 to 1309, and was for, believe it or not, something very similar to macaroni and cheese.

Pasta and rice-based casseroles were popular in the poorer populations of Europe and Asia for several centuries before Thomas Jefferson brought a pasta making machine back from Italy in 1787. But while casseroles were popular in other parts of the world, they did not really catch on in the United States until the 1950s, when fast convenient dishes really started to be popular with American housewives. The fact that food was more accessible after the Second World War would also have encouraged women of that time to experiment with different combinations of food.

Soup, on the other hand, has pretty much always been with us for as long as there have been human-like species. Evidence of soup making by Neanderthals has been found in a cave in China dating back to 20,000 BC.

Back then, in order to boil ingredients to make soup, they would have put everything in a hole lined with animal skins, heated rocks in a fire pit, and then dropped the rocks into the soup.

Soup has always been the ultimate famine food. One potato, one onion and some greens and herbs boiled in a pot of water can feed an entire family if that is all that is available.



Pat Ivey
Columnist


Today, soup remains the best way to use up leftovers. While I do have some really good recipes I drag out now and again, most of the time I just wait until I have a lot of different leftovers and throw it in the pot, as our ancestors have done for centuries.

If you are a gardener, you should have things like various vegetables (green beans, corn, carrots) either canned or in the freezer, along with many containers of tomatoes or tomato sauce and various soup stocks. I have talked about making stock before; it is the easiest thing in the world. It just takes time.

I generally dedicate an entire day to making the stock, do the two or three clarifying strains, and put it in the fridge overnight. That way you can strain out the solid fats the next morning heat it up while you are sterilizing your jars and can it that day. Or strain it and put it in freezer containers. And then, when you are ready to make soup, everything is right there waiting for you. Just dump the broth or tomato sauce, or both, in the pot, dump in the vegetables, meat, and starches, bring to a boil, and then simmer until everything in the pot is cooked and the flavors have had a chance to combine.

Casseroles are a little heavier, and as I tend to avoid heavy eating for health reasons, I don't make those. But if you have a family to feed, once again, it is a quick and easy way to feed a lot of people quickly. Just prepare whatever starch you are using (boil rice or pasta, etc.), then mix everything together in a pan or casserole dish and stick it in the oven until it is done.

Whichever you prefer, these winter favorites have been the favorites of those feeding families for literally centuries, and that is not ever likely to change!



REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS

RFQ'S WILL BE OPENED AT NOON, JANUARY 26, 2022
LOCATION: MISSISSIPPI COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COUNTY JUDGE'S OFFICE
822 PLANTATION ROAD, BURDETTE, AR 72321

RFQ 2022-01 Federal Government Relations (Lobbyist)

IMPORTANT DATES

Solicitation Issue Date	Wednesday, January 12, 2022
Response Deadline	Noon on Wednesday, January 26, 2022

Qualifications shall not be accepted or reviewed after the designated response deadline. It is the responsibility of vendors to submit qualifications at the designated location on or before the response deadline.

1. Brief Description

Mississippi County is located adjacent to the Mississippi River in the extreme northeastern corner of Arkansas. Created in 1833, the county currently has a population of 40,685 and a total area of 920 square miles. The county is located within Arkansas' First Congressional District and has a total operating budget for FY2022 of \$34,911,960.58

This document is a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) issued by the Mississippi County Government to vendors who are authorized to do business in the State of Arkansas and are qualified to provide federal advocacy.

The county seeks federal government relations services [lobbying] including representation and advising to county officials regarding federal legislation and federal funding opportunities that could assist in the acquisition of certain grants and funding to meet county goals and needs. Organizations are invited to submit proposals expressing interest in providing such services in accordance with the terms and conditions outlined herein.

2. Scope of Services

Goal

Mississippi County seeks federal government relations services [lobbying] including representation and advising of County officials regarding federal legislation and federal funding opportunities that could assist in the acquisition of certain grants and funding to meet county goals and needs. This includes issues involving infrastructure, transportation, public safety, quality of life, environmental cleanup/rehabilitation and economic development.

Terms of Award

The term of this agreement will be for one (1) year from time of award, but may be ended at any time by the County. Upon mutual agreement the contract may be extended for additional terms or a portion thereof. The award will be made to the most qualified, responsive, responsible vendor that provides the best value for the County.

Outcomes Desired

- To alert the County regarding federal legislation that will impact the County significantly, including issues related to infrastructure, transportation, public safety, quality of life, environmental cleanup/rehabilitation and economic development;
- To identify and pursue federal funds that further the mission, goals and/or needs of the County;
- To be knowledgeable about federal funding opportunities and what opportunities align with the goals and needs of the County and to help navigate the pursuit of such federal funds.
- To regularly update all parties on issues of importance.
- To use existing relationships to influence outcomes to the benefit of the County.
- To ensure that the County is informed and positioned to pursue opportunities at the federal level.

Minimum Qualifications

- ✓ Vendor should have a proven track record of working with federal officials in the legislative and executive branches of government on behalf of local, county or state governments;
- ✓ Vendor should have experience in federal government relations; and
- ✓ Vendor **must** have three (3) references regarding the likelihood of successfully providing federal government relations to their client(s).

Joint Ventures

A joint proposal submitted by two or more vendors is acceptable.

4. Selection of Vendor

The successful vendor will be selected by the County based upon the entire "body of work" submitted by the applicant. Some of the qualifications to be taken into account include, but are not limited to:

- a. Qualifications of the vendor;
- b. Past relevant experience;
- c. Understanding of multiple levels of government and the ability to work well with government personnel;
- d. Availability and ability to prioritize multiple tasks; and
- e. "Pre-Interview Questionnaire" answers submitted by the vendor.

All applicants must answer the entire "Pre-Interview Questionnaire" on the next page and submit supporting documentation when appropriate.

"Pre-Interview Questionnaire"

1. List of all persons who will provide services to the County and the role each would play, including who will serve as the primary point of contact and all relevant training or work experience for each.
2. Provide a brief history of the firm, including date established, total number of staff and office location(s).
3. Describe an instance in which the vendor was not successful in meeting a goal for a government relations client. What was the approach? What was effective? What was ineffective? How can the vendor's experience help the County?
4. Describe an instance in which the vendor was successful with federal legislation. What was the approach? What was effective? What was ineffective? How can the vendor's experience benefit the County?
5. What experience does the vendor have with working with members of Congress, the Executive Branch and/or navigating federal agencies with issues of infrastructure, transportation, public safety, quality of life, environmental cleanup/rehabilitation or economic development?
6. Provide a statement to acknowledge vendor's intent to comply with State and Federal law.
7. Please submit any and all relevant resources available to the vendor not mentioned elsewhere.

5. Instructions for Submitting Responses

A total of one (1) signed submission by a person authorized by the Company to execute contracts shall be provided to the County for consideration.

Responses delivered by U.S. Mail:

Mississippi County
 County Judge's Office
 c/o Tom Henry, Public Affairs Director
 PO Box 629
 Blytheville, AR 72316

Responses delivered by carrier (USPS, FedEx, etc.) or hand delivered:

Mississippi County
 County Judge's Office
 c/o Tom Henry, Public Affairs Director
 822 West Plantation
 Burdette, AR 72321

NOTE: Only paper submission will be accepted; USB flash drives, CDs, DVDs, emails, or any other electronic file shall not be accepted.

6. Questions and Clarifications

All requests for clarification or additional information shall be submitted in writing to the County by emailing publicaffairs.director@mississippicountyar.org. Written questions shall be submitted by 4:30 p.m., no less than seven (7) calendar days prior to the submission deadline.