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County Agent's Notes:

December 27, 1999

By: Dr. Ernie Flint, Area Agent/Agriculture

Livestock show was a big success!

Christmas 1999 has passed now, and we are waiting for the New Year. We have all been fed so much hype about Y2K that we can't avoid being just a little apprehensive, but personally I feel the day will come and go much as any other New Year's Day. By this time next week, we will know if my apathy was wrong or right, but somehow we will endure this challenge just as we have so many others in the past.

I did not have a chance to get a column into the Star Herald last week so I want to tell you a little about our recent livestock show. This is something that all of us with Extension are very proud of. The credit for this event should go to our two agents working with 4H, Mrs. Karen Benson and Ms. Tony Beatty. Tony is actually an agent-in-training, but we hope that she will soon be a full-time agent on our staff here in Attala County. She has an agricultural background in working with livestock and this experience has really paid off for us.

The two weeks prior to the Central Mississippi Holiday Classic were hectic for all of us at the Attala Extension office, with seemingly endless work in preparation for the show. This was the first show of this kind in at least eight years, and the facility had to undergo an extensive upgrade.

The ribbon cutting ceremony for the show barn on Friday morning December 17<sup>th</sup> was well attended. Mr. Eddie Womble, President of the Attala County Board of Supervisors did the

honors by cutting the ribbon for opening the newly refurbished facility. Shortly afterward the animals started arriving. 4-H parents and kids from Attala and about a dozen other counties brought hogs, goats, sheep, and cattle to participate. The old barn at the fairgrounds was bursting at the seams with activity, reminding me of the old days when this was such a popular event here.

Several local kids walked away with blue ribbons and championships for their animals and their own ability in showing them. There were also opportunities for little kids to get the feel of the ring, and I don't think I have seen kids have more fun. There were old-timer classes for the adults to show off their skill, but in most cases the children did the best job.

We could not have carried out this program without the support of the Attala County Board of Supervisors. Several individuals donated a lot of time, materials, and money to the project as well, but I had better not try to name all of them for fear of leaving someone out. If I know them as well as I think I do, their efforts were not meant for recognition but for the young people of Attala County. They know who they are, and we thank them all.

This was a real rebirth for 4H Livestock in Attala County, but it is just a part and a beginning for more and better things to come. All of us involved with the program invite you as parents to get your kids in 4H. Livestock is far from being the only project; 4H kids can get involved in just about any worthwhile project from drama to photography to entomology, and many other things.

Happy New Year from everyone at the Mississippi State University Extension Service. We will see you in the next millennium.