

Harvesting History: Discovering Arkansas's Agricultural Heritage

To celebrate this year's Arkansas Heritage Month theme, Come to the Table: Celebrating the Flavor of Arkansas, the UALR Anthropology Club has partnered with the Center for Arkansas History and Culture (CAHC)—part of the state's largest facility dedicated to the study of Arkansas history—to encourage research into Arkansas food and agricultural, past and present. The state's history takes many forms: photographs, manuscripts, and recipes, including digital and print formats. Below are several activities to familiarize students to Arkansas foodways and the role of foodways in the development of culture and tradition within the state.

Activities include:

- Creating your own recipe
Using plants and animals native to Arkansas develop a recipe based upon archival material found in CAHC's archives or adjust an old family favorite to include local Arkansas foodstuffs.
- Designing a poster
Research and report on a historical or current aspect of Arkansas agriculture, local and regional foodways, and customs. Primary and secondary sources are available in CAHC's holdings. Posters should include a 2-3 typed double spaced essay (500 words) describing how the student chose the topic, conducted research, created the project, and how the project related to Arkansas foodways.
- Touring a local garden or farm
Become familiar with heirloom Arkansas varieties of florae and natural and organic methods of cultivation. Write a report on the achievability of small-scale agriculture.
- Interviewing a grandparent or neighbor
Talk with an older relative or member of society about what it was like growing up in Arkansas and how food availability and variety has changed over time. An audio recording, transcription, photograph of interviewer with the interviewee, and oral history release form are required for this activity.

Activities may be completed as an individual or in a group and may be presented as a website (such as Weebly), slide show, or a short documentary film.

Submit completed activities, including photographs, to cahc@ualr.edu. A virtual exhibit will display student work generated as part of the 2014 Arkansas Heritage Month theme. Join us to promote and preserve the unique heritage that affects all of Arkansas's communities.

Curriculum frameworks include:

Arkansas History Grades 7-8: EA.2.HA.7-8.2, WWP.9.AH.7-8.1, WWP.9.AH.7-8.2, WWP.9.AH.7-8.3, WWP.9.AH.7-8.6
Social Studies Grades K-8: G.1.1.7, G.2.1.1, G.2.2.3, G.2.4.1, H.6.3.19, H.6.4.22, E.7.K.3, E.7.1.2, H.6.5.7, H.6.6.7, H.6.8.21