

# SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT SCIENCE AND FOOD

Shakira Zachary, a 16-year old student at Marvell-Elaine High School, did her version of Carl Sagan or the science show *Nova* in June. She filmed an interview that she did with a Phillips County farmer on the future and challenges of farming in the Delta.

Zachary was only one of a number of area youngsters who performed on-camera interviews about the science and rising issues that involve farming - food production, hunger, climate change, evolving technology, agricultural economics, and the vital issue of education. It was a project of the 4-H Clubs, a community partner of the Boys, Girls, Adults Community Development Center. The videos were part of a national contest called Farmfluencer, conducted in partnership with the agricultural division of DowDuPont. The object is to educate and excite young people about the future of farming and its vital importance to the future of the planet.

Zachary interviewed Van Banks, a local farmer, about the changing technology of farming in the Delta, issues involving food shortages and nutrition, and the importance of farming in the economy of east Arkansas. Banks emphasized the importance of the educational system in the region and the need to recognize farming's importance to the local, regional and national economies.

Multidisciplinary competitions like the video contest allow children to expand their knowledge of agriculture while learning and competing with others in matters ranging from fashion to fishing.



LaVern Sims, 4-H leader in Phillips County, said 4-H provided "the life of old-school magic" that allows children to see miracles happen in the soil after planting and cultivation.

"Agricultural learning has to do with their lives, the clothes they wear, the food they eat, the environment in which they must live, and the better future they can build for themselves by getting involved in science, math, and reading."



**Shakira Zachary interviews farmer Banks**