



# Newsletter

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[www.howard4-h.org](http://www.howard4-h.org)

## 4-H Cloverleaf



# January/February 2007

Dear 4-H Families,

This note is coming to you at a time when I have made a very important decision in my life that will affect the Maryland Cooperative Extension and 4-H program tremendously in Howard County. January 1st will be my last official day employed with the University of Maryland, College Park. I have decided after 30 years and 9 months that I need to close one of the most important chapters in my life and focus more on myself and my family. Looking at my decision in a positive way I feel it will benefit the possibilities for the future.

This has been a very painful decision for me to make, but after the tears have shed and shed some more I will be happy and satisfied that I have made the right choice. I will miss the many times that we have shared together, but the most important thing is that I have the memories, letters, pictures and much more that I have saved over the years to keep me in high spirits.

I am not planning to move so I will be just around the corner. so every once in a while we may see each other. I will always keep my door a jar, so don't hesitate to visit. When 4-H is your life it's hard to give it up totally. My volunteer form has been completed and turned in for 2007. (smiles)

You will never know the significant part you each have played in my life.  
Keep on" Making the Best Better" for the Howard county 4-H program.

Always know I care!

Hope

## OFFICER TRAINING

Officer Training has been rescheduled for January 18, 2007 from 7:00 p.m. at the Howard County Fairgrounds Dining Hall. ALL CLUB OFFICERS for 2007 should attend. Training will be offered for President, Vice President, Secretary, Historian, Reporter, and Treasurer. Every club should send at least one adult to each session to assist the officers in your club. If weather causes us to cancel after school hours, we will notify club organization leaders. **HISTORIANS**: Please bring the books from past years to share. **REPORTERS** - please bring any articles submitted and any that got published.

## 4-H ACHIEVEMENT NIGHT

Wow! What a wonderful evening Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> turned out to be! Nearly 400 people were in attendance at Circle D Farm to enjoy Achievement Night. It was a fun evening where 4-Hers were recognized for their vast and many accomplishments. Congratulations to all! Circle D Farm was extremely generous and we were able to rent the facilities for a substantially reduced cost. Also, the food was provided at cost. We are asking individuals and clubs to please thank Circle D Farm by writing a thank you letter. The letters can be sent to the following address:

Circle D Farm  
c/o Mr. Tim Dowd  
15535 Carrs Mill Road  
Woodbine, Maryland 21797

We would also like to congratulate Emily Buckley for completing a Clover Record Book in 2005. We apologize for not recognizing her at Achievement Night.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER

**SCHOOLS CLOSED** - When schools are closed. **ALL** 4-H programs are canceled. This includes closing early due to weather. **SNOW EMERGENCY PLAN** - If a Snow Emergency Plan for Howard



County is in effect at 7:00 a.m. on either Saturday or Sunday, ALL programs/activities, 4-H, school and community will be canceled. Should the Plan go into effect after 7:00 a.m., programs in progress may be completed at discretion of the activity leader.

## 4-H INFORMATIONAL MEETING

In coordination with the new Glenwood Senior/Community Center, the Howard County 4-H program will be hosting a 4-H informational meeting for families in Howard County. If you know of someone who may be interested in learning more about the 4-H program, please share this opportunity with them. The program will be held on Wednesday, January 17, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the Glenwood Senior Center in Glenwood. For more information contact Sheryl at 410-313-1912 or [sherylb@umd.edu](mailto:sherylb@umd.edu).

## HOWARD COUNTY 4-H ALL STAR BASKET BINGO

The Howard County 4-H All Stars are currently planning a basket bingo fundraiser. It is scheduled for Friday, March 30th at the Mt. Airy Volunteer Fire Department Activities Building. 4-H All Stars sponsor many 4-H awards and activities throughout our county. If you would like to make a donation for the fundraiser or would like tickets, please contact Sheryl Burdette at 410-313-1912 or [sherylb@umd.edu](mailto:sherylb@umd.edu). More information will be provided in the March Cloverleaf.

## RECORD BOOKS

Record books for the January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006 are due in the 4-H Office by February 2, 2007. Records are judged on project achievements, leadership development, participation and growth. All record book forms are available on the 4-H website:

[www.howard4-h.org](http://www.howard4-h.org)

4-Hers should have all the necessary project record sheets they need. If you do not, see your club leader. The leader has a list of the projects you need in the record book. Even if your club does not require record books and you choose not to do the record book, you still **MUST COMPLETE** project records for **ALL** projects carried in 2006. These need to be turned into the club leader and they will forward them to the 4-H Office with record books from the club by **February 2, 2007**.

**Special Note:** 4-H ers must submit the skill level projects (paid publications) with the record book (not in it). The record sheet for that project will be placed in the project record section of the record book.

**Reminder:** Senior members who plan to submit their portfolio to be considered for National 4-H Club Congress need to submit their portfolios to the Extension Office by January 10, 2007.

## CLUB BOOKS

Program Planning and Secretary Books for 2006, and 2007 Program Planning Books are due in the 4-H Office by February 2, 2007.

Remember, this is the same planning book you filled out in January 2006 with club plans for that year submitted to the office in February 2006 and entered in the 2006 Howard County Fair. The Secretary's Book records events as they occur during the year. Program Planning and Secretary's Books are compared to see how well you planned and carried out the 4-H program. We realize some dates and plans change, but these changes are noted throughout the secretary's records.

The best books are nominated and judged for the Maryland Outstanding Club Award. Your club cannot be nominated for the Maryland Outstanding Club Award unless both the 2006 Program Planning and 2006 Secretary's Books are submitted.

2007 Program Planning Books are also due in the 4-H Office by February 2, 2007. This includes "Tentative Monthly Plans" and "Special Meetings Planned" for 2006. We review your plans and return this book to your club by the end of February. A club plan reflecting these plans should be given to each 4-H'er in your club.

Treasurer's Book - Submit the 4-H Club Audit Report, Treasurer's Book, and all financial records (bank statements, canceled checks etc.) by February 15, 2007. This is available on the web at [www.howard4-h.org](http://www.howard4-h.org)

Treasurers - Please note!!! - When making out checks to the Howard County 4-H Department, please make them payable to Howard County 4-H Foundation effective February 15, 2004.

## 4-H CLOVERLEAF CAN BE SENT BY E-MAIL

As we look at continuing budget restrictions, we are looking at sending the Cloverleaf via email to those who have web access. If you do not have web access, we will still mail a copy. Contact Rick Hodiak at [hodiak@umd.edu](mailto:hodiak@umd.edu) and let him know if you would like to receive the Cloverleaf by email. All Cloverleaf newsletters are available on our 4-H website.

## 4-H CALENDAR - 2007

The 4-H Calendar for 2007 is included with this Cloverleaf. It is also available on the 4-H web site at [www.howard4-h.org](http://www.howard4-h.org) If you would like to have items included, please send them to Rick Hodiak at [hodiak@umd.edu](mailto:hodiak@umd.edu)

## 4-H COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS CONTEST

This year Howard County will be holding its Communications Contest on Saturday, March 3, 2007 at the George Howard Building. Registration is due by February 20, 2007. Registration forms and rules are on the 4-H website. The State Communications Contest has been scheduled for June.



## HOWARD COUNTY 4-H T- SHIRTS

Last year, for the first time, all Howard County 4-Hers received a t-shirt to wear at the fair. At the 4-H office, we feel that this was a huge success and the shirts were enjoyed by all. Therefore, we would like to start planning for the 2007 shirts now. In 2006, several businesses/community organizations were generous and made contributions to help defray the cost of the shirts. In 2007, our goal is to have enough contributions to cover the entire cost of the shirts. Enclosed with this newsletter you will find a sponsorship form. If you know of a business or organization that may be interested, please pass along the letter and form enclosed with this copy of the Cloverleaf. If you need additional forms, they can be found on our website [www.howard4-h.org](http://www.howard4-h.org).

## REMINDERS FOR YOU!

**YOU MUST REGISTER** if you want to attend workshops. We need to know the amount of materials to have available. From time to time, workshops are canceled, locations and times are changed, etc. and if you do not register, you will not be notified!!

## 4-H FOUNDATION CHECKS

Checks issued by the Howard County E.A.C and or 4-H Foundation. **MUST BE CASHED WITHIN 60 DAYS.** We cannot honor checks submitted 6 months to 3 years after issue. Our bookkeeping system has to balance on a yearly basis. Also, please be sure you have cashed all checks issued by the Howard County Fair. Even if the check has expired, check with your bank to see if they will still be honored.

IF YOU HAVE NOT TURNED IN AN ENROLLMENT FORM FOR 2007 TO YOUR CLUB LEADER,  
GUESS WHAT? THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST CLOVERLEAF!



## HORSE INFORMATION

### HORSE BOWL - 2007

It is time to start preparing for our 2007 program. Coaches for 2007 are:

**Seniors:** Darryl-Ann Buschling 301-854-2102

**Intermediates:** Al Starr 410-442-5810

**Juniors:** Joan Bosmans 410-531-2370

**Please contact the appropriate coach if you would like to participate.** Beginners should practice with their appropriate age group. Our county contest will be **February 10, 2007** in the **Dining Hall** at the Fairgrounds at 1 p.m. **Marcie Barnard** is coordinating the County Horse Bowl Contest. The State Horse Bowl Contest is scheduled for **March 10, 2007** at the Animal Science Building in College Park. There is not a division for Clovers.

### MODEL HORSE SHOW

The Model Horse Show is scheduled for **February 24, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. in the 4-H Activities Bldg. at the Fairgrounds.**

A copy of the classes will be also available on the 4-H website in January. Model horses are plastic, ceramic, wood, etc.

A well known brand is Breyer. This program is being coordinated by 4-H by volunteers Angela Long and Linda Wilson.



## HORSE AND PONY PROJECT REGISTRATION SHEETS

### ***ALL 4-H HORSE AND PONY PROJECTS MUST BE UPDATED FOR 2007***

Please work with your leader to update your Horse and Pony Project Registration Cards. Each animal must go on a separate form. Animals being leased must have a completed 4-H Lease Application in addition to the registration sheet. Use the animal's name that will be used on entry blank, leases, etc. Horses going to State Fair or County Fair must be registered with the 4-H Office by **June 1, 2007**. The registration sheet and lease information are available on-line at [www.howard4-h.org](http://www.howard4-h.org).

## HORSE JUDGING 2007

This program teaches you how to judge conformation of horses as well as judging the different groupings like hunter, etc. Coaches for 2007 are **Bud & Diana Cullum**. Practices will be held at the **4-H Office** on **March 19, 26, April 2, 9, 16, & 23** and **May dates will be announced later**. To register for this exciting program, call the Cullums at **410-442-5849**. ***IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU CALL AND REGISTER!!!***

## NATIONAL 4-H HORSE COMPETITIONS

**We would** like to congratulate Laura Bradley on her 1<sup>st</sup> place in the written phase of the National 4-H Horse Hippology Contest. She place 9<sup>th</sup> in the stations portion of the contest. Overall, Laura was the 4<sup>th</sup> high individual in the contest. Super Job!

## DATES TO REMEMBER



Some additional dates to remember for 4-Hers carrying the Horse Project.

**Horse World Expo** - January 18<sup>th</sup>- 21<sup>nd</sup> Maryland State Fairgrounds (for more information-  
[www.4-hhorse.umd.edu](http://www.4-hhorse.umd.edu))

**County Horse Bowl Contest** - February 10<sup>th</sup> -Howard County Fairgrounds.

**Model Horse Show** - February 24<sup>th</sup> -Howard County Fairgrounds.

**Horse Bowl Contest** - March 10<sup>th</sup> -Plant Science Building University of Maryland.

**Horse Judging Clinic** - April 21<sup>st</sup> -Carroll County Ag Center.

**"Behind the Scenes" at the Races** - June 2<sup>nd</sup> Pimlico Race Track

**State Horse Judging/Hippology Contest** - June 23<sup>rd</sup> Montgomery County Fairgrounds.

**Horse Jamboree and Communications Contest** - July 9 & 10th Frederick County 4-H Camp Center

## LIVESTOCK INFORMATION

### LIVESTOCK RATE OF GAIN REQUIREMENTS

Beef Steers, Market Lambs, and Market Pigs will have minimum rate-of-gains required to show in 2007. This means that market animals will have to gain a certain amount per day from Tag-In Day to the County Fair:

<b>SHEEP</b>	-	<b>.40 lbs. per day</b>
<b>SWINE</b>	-	<b>1.50 lbs. per day</b>
<b>BEEF</b>	-	<b>2.00 lbs. per day</b>
<b>MARKET GOAT</b>	-	<b>.20 lbs. per day</b>

### LIVESTOCK QUALITY ASSURANCE

The Livestock Quality Assurance class dates have already been selected and are listed below. Please mark the dates on your calendar NOW! Remember, in order to be able to show livestock at the County Fair, you **MUST** attend the training **every other** year. In order to show swine at State Fair you **MUST** attend the training **every** year. If you have questions or aren't sure if you need to attend this year, contact Sheryl at 410-313-1912 or [sherylb@umd.edu](mailto:sherylb@umd.edu).

Wednesday, **April 18**, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. -First Year/Junior/Intermediate

Wednesday, **May 16**, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. - Senior

(All classes will be held in the Dining Hall at the Howard County Fairgrounds.)

### POULTRY TESTING



All poultry to be shown at exhibition will need Pullorum Typhoid and Avian Influenza Testing in 2007. Contact the Animal Health Lab nearest you for testing. Frederick (301) 694-1548 or College Park (301) 314-1870.

### WILLS FAIR NEEDS HELP

The Wills Fair Livestock Show is in need of financial support. Clubs who would like to contribute for the 2007 show should send their donation to:

Wills Fair  
c/o Judy Lager, Treasurer  
8115 Murphy Road  
Fulton, MD 20759

### ANIMAL HEALTH INFORMATION

There are a few changes to the health paper process. The State Animal Health Department is in the process of finalizing a few details. All 4-H'ers enrolled in livestock will receive information in January.



## STEER REGISTRATIONS

All beef and dairy steer exhibitors should have received a steer registration packet for 2007. The ownership deadline for all steers is January 1, 2007. The registration form, signed code of ethics form and ear tag money needs to be received in the Extension Office by January 2, 2007. The Beef I.D. Day is scheduled for Saturday, January 6 between 7:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. at the fairgrounds. Due to the change in health paper regulations, no vet work will be done at the identification day.

## ATTENTION 4-H SHEEP MEMBERS



The National Scrapie Eradication Program went into effect in November 2001. It applies to you. All market lambs and breeding sheep ARE REQUIRED to have scrapie tags in the ears at all shows, fairs etc.. Make sure your market lambs are tagged when you purchase them even if purchased from out-of-state. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS. If you want to find out more information look at: [www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/scrapie](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/scrapie) or [www.animalagriculture.org/scrapie](http://www.animalagriculture.org/scrapie)

You ARE REQUIRED to list SCRAPIE NUMBERS for each animal on your health papers.

# MARYLAND 4-H SHEEP TAIL DOCKING RULE

There have been a few changes to the sheep tail docking rule this policy is listed below please read carefully.

## Maryland 4-H Sheep Tail Docking Policy

Maryland 4-H Youth Development, Maryland Cooperative Extension December 1, 2006

### **Brief Background**

Following the past year's show season, the Maryland 4-H Youth Development Program, with leadership from the 4-H Animal Sciences Curriculum Committee, has reviewed the tail docking policy. The Curriculum Committee has conferred with numerous staff and faculty, volunteers and youth, Extension faculty in others states, and with the Maryland Sheep Breeders Association. A state-wide listening session was held in Timonium in early November with over 70 participants.

The current policy based on valid research and science will continue with several amendments as explained below. The educational training program will be strengthened. Breeding sheep will be treated separately from the current policy. There will be an appeal process in 2007. Most importantly, the 4-H program in Maryland will strive diligently to apply the policy and rules fairly and consistently in all venues and with all youth.

### **The Policy**

This revised policy will apply to all 4-H youth exhibitors in Maryland beginning in January 2007.

The revised policy for all youth sheep projects and for exhibition of animals by 4H youth at 4-H Activities, 4-H weigh-ins and taggings, and 4-H Shows in Maryland is as follows:

*"Market Lambs exhibited after January 1 of the current calendar year will be accepted for 4-H participation only if tails are not docked shorter than the level of the distal end of the caudal tail fold. Market Lambs that are properly docked will have a minimum tail length of .7 inches at the 4-H Activities, 4-H weigh-ins and taggings, and 4-H Shows, measured by the approved measurement device, which will be placed against the base of the tail and pin bones. Breeding sheep shall have NO evidence of surgical docking, prolapses, purse strings, sutures, etc. If any of these are evident in Breeding Sheep, the Breeding Sheep in question will be sent home immediately by the Extension Educator, Sheep Superintendent, or the appropriately deemed individual. There is no appeal process for Breeding Sheep."*

Maryland 4-H and MCE have invested numerous resources (both human and financial) to develop this policy and ensure that it will be applied as fair and consistent as possible. We can all be proud that Maryland has been on the cutting edge of this issue. Our colleagues in other states are also examining this and other unethical livestock showmanship practices. Hopefully, a national policy will soon be adopted that addresses these issues and ensures the future of these important youth livestock educational programs.

### **Expectations**

All employees of the University of Maryland – Maryland Cooperative Extension have the responsibility to follow and enforce policies and procedures, including the tail-docking rule. You may disagree with the policy personally, yet you should not let your personal feelings interfere with your professional obligation. Be active in helping our clientele understand and comply with the policy, and take the actions necessary to enforce it at shows and fairs. Importantly, use every opportunity available to educate volunteers, youth, parents, and breeders about the various management practices which impact animal health and welfare.

## **The Sheep Tail Measurement Protocol**

The Sheep Tail Measurement Protocol lists the following steps for implementation of the policy.

- 1) Only a measurement device designated as an official device by Maryland Cooperative Extension will be used to make the measurement.
- 2) Market Lambs: A committee of three designated individuals appointed by the responsible show officials will measure each Market Lamb one time only. The committee of three will be comprised of MCE Extension personnel and MCE Volunteers. These individuals must be trained on an annual basis by the State 4-H Animal Science Extension Specialist in the proper use of the measuring device. Each Market Lamb show or event will appoint a committee from the approved state list for the purposes of measuring the tail at check-in. It is highly recommended to utilize the same committee at weigh-in and tagging and at the show.
- 3) All Market Lambs will be measured at check-in at the fair (weigh-in and market time). The process:  
Market Lambs must stand squarely. Market Lambs are not to be braced and/or have the front feet lifted off of the ground. Market Lambs must be in their natural standing position.  
Gently raise the tail and place the measurement instrument firmly under the tail and against the pin bones.  
Adjust the measurement instrument so that the trough, under the tail, maintains contact with the pin bones.
- 4) The committee of three will determine if the length of the tail is acceptable by confirming that the distal point of the tail (excluding wool) meets the line in the trough designating .7 inch.
- 5) All docks (tails) MUST be sheared at both weigh-in and fair time.
- 6) If the market lamb fails, that market lamb is ineligible for show in any future Maryland 4-H market lamb shows, 4-H events or 4-H activities. The tags will be removed immediately and sent directly to the State 4-H Animal Science Specialist.
- 7) Breeding Sheep: breeding sheep shall have NO evidence of surgical docking, prolapses, purse strings, sutures, etc. If any of these are evident in Breeding Sheep, the Breeding sheep in question will be sent home immediately by the Extension Educator, Sheep Superintendent, or the appropriately deemed individual.

### **Appeal Process**

If a market lamb fails by the committee's ruling, the youth and one adult (family member, legal guardian, 4-H leader or FFA advisor) will have five (5) minutes to use the approved measuring device and attempt to prove to the committee that the animal meets the .7 inch standard. If this is not accomplished, the market lamb is disqualified. If the youth can prove to the committee within the 5 minute limit that the market lamb does pass the .7 inch standard, the animal will be permitted to exhibit at that particular 4-H show, activity, etc.

At this point there is NO further appeal process.

THE DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE IS FINAL.

The ethical treatment of animals and the elimination of unethical practices in the show ring are critical to the success of the Maryland 4-H Youth Development Program.

It is to be expected that all 4-H youth and volunteers strive to promote educational programming based on research and science with life skills attainment, and always exemplify ethical treatment of animals and utilize quality management practices. Everyone involved with 4-H youth livestock shows is expected to understand, practice, and teach the youth to be responsible stewards of livestock. The focus must be on positive youth development outcomes at all times.

If you have further questions you may contact J. Willard Lemaster, 4-H Animal Sciences Specialist, by email at [Lemaster@umd.edu](mailto:Lemaster@umd.edu) or telephone 301-314-7187. Thank you for your support and cooperation in this matter.

## COUNTY ACTIVITY VOLUNTEERS 2007

Help us make 2007 a great year by volunteering to plan and assist with an activity listed below. The activities will take place between January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2007. WE NEED YOUR HELP!!! Check off those programs and activities you are interested in volunteering for and we will contact you. Youth and adult help is needed.

ADULT COORDINATORS ARE NEEDED FOR SOME ANIMAL ACTIVITIES.  
DUE - FEBRUARY 2, 2007

	Officer Training (Adults -January)		Clothing Committee (Adults & Youth)
	Beef I d Program (January)		Consumer Judging
	Horse Bowl		Bicycle Program
	Office Assistant (Day Only) Adults & Youth		Camp Adult Assistance, Bus Departure & Return
	Livestock Weight Checks (June & July)		Dog Obedience Workshops
	Livestock Judging (Summer)		Fashion Revue Committee
	Market Lamb Selection (March)		Food & Nutrition Committee
	Breeding Sheep Workshop (February)		Horticulture Program
	Officer Training (January)		Howard County Fair (I ndoor Building)
	Rabbit Judging		Photographers for 4-H Events
	Sheep/Swine/Goat I D Program		Communications Workshop& Coordinator
	Sheep Showmanship (June or July)		Visual Presentation Day
	Swine Showmanship (July)		National 4-H Week Committee
	Livestock Sale Committee		Sewing Workshops Instructor
	Model Horse Show		Junior Leaders Speaker Bureau
	Livestock Quality Assurance Program		4-H Volunteer Recognition Dinner
	Adopt-a-Highway		Achievement Night Committee-Adults/Youth
NAME (initial next to activities you are interested in helping with)		Phone Number & E-mail	

Maryland Cooperative Extension programs are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, gender, disability, religion, age, sexual orientation, marital or parental status, or national origin.