Newsletter

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MESSAGE FROM THE 4-H STAFF

As we being the 2009 year, we once again will be faced with some challenges regarding our staffing. All 4-H clientele received a letter from Christine Lothen-Kline, regarding staffing changes in our office. The letter shared that the 4-H position previously filled by Meredith Myers, will not be filled as a 4-H position. Therefore, the 4-H staff is looking at this new staffing challenging with the realization that there will be some programs that we will no longer be able to support. As a 4-H staff we remain committed to providing a top quality 4-H program, however, it will be difficult since Sheryl is the only full time 4-H staff person in the office. Although, Rick is employed full time, he has job responsibilities for the entire office and not solely 4-H. Maria will continue working three days each week (Monday, Wednesday, Friday) and Chris will continue working two days each week (Monday and Thursday). If you have any concerns or questions, I would recommend talking with the Howard County 4-H Extension Coordinator, Christine Lothen-Kline. She can be reached at 410-313-1911 or clothenk@umd.edu.

We are committed to keeping you informed and in subsequent newsletters there will be further information. The 4-H staff has evaluated our individual job responsibilities and each 4-H team member has specific responsibilities. For you information, we have included details regarding the staff member you should contact regarding your specific questions.

General Enrollment: Rick or Maria
Animal Science: Sheryl
Camp: Rick or Maria
Cloverleaf: Maria
Workshop Registrations: Maria
Human Science: Chris
Publications: Maria
Changes to Enrollments: Rick

IMPORTANT! IMPORTANT! IMPORTANT!

IF YOU HAVE NOT TURNED IN AN ENROLLMENT FORM FOR 2009 TO YOUR CLUB LEADER, GUESS WHAT? THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST CLOVERLEAF!

In observance of Martin Luther King Day, the Howard County MCE Office will be closed on Monday, January 19th.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

SCHOOLS CLOSED

When schools are closed. **ALL** 4-H programs are canceled. This includes closing early due to inclement 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 and 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 the discretion of the activity leader.

2009 CALENDAR

The 4-H Calendar for 2009 is available at the 4-H web site at www.howard4-h.org. You will notice the 2009 calendar has a new look! You just need to click the link on our website to view. Please remember there will be changes and additions throughout the year. If you do not have internet access and need a printed copy, please contact Maria Gordon at 410-313-1906 or mgordon@umd.edu.

FASHION REVUE

The 2009 4-H Fashion Revue Planning meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 15th at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will take place in the Howard County Fairground in the Dining Hall. Any 4-H'er carrying Clothing or Fashion Revue projects can participate in the Fashion Revue Show. There are several other opportunities for 4-H'ers carrying Theater Arts or Public Speaking projects to help with the show. Come out and help plan the 2009 Fashion Revue. There will be sub-committees (Food, Narrations, Decorations, and Entertainment) that will need plenty of assistance to make this year's show the best yet!

The 2009 Fashion Revue is scheduled for Friday, June 5th and Saturday, June 6th at the Glenwood Community Center.

COMMUNICATIONS CONTEST

The 2009 Communications Contest is scheduled date will be Saturday, March 7th. The location of the contest will be announced shortly. This is an opportunity to come out and give a speech from four categories: Extemporaneous, Prepared, Radio Spot, and Interpretations. All first year 4-H'ers and Clovers are invited to come out and do the 4-H Pledge. Champions will move on to this year's State competition. Registration forms will be due Friday, February 20th. Forms, rules, and guidelines will be available on our 4-H website soon. Mark your calendars now!

SENIOR PORTFOLIOS

ATTENTION all senior 4-H'ers. It is time to begin thinking about applying for the Out of State Trips. These are wonderful and rewarding opportunities for senior 4-H members. They are "once in a lifetime" experiences! Please think about submitting your senior portfolio by January 9th. If you have any questions, please contact Sheryl at 410-313-1912 or sherylb@umd.edu. Specific information about the portfolios can be found at:

http://www.agnr.umd.edu/Extension/4H/Programs/Portfolio%20Program/index.cfm or on our website www.howard4-h.org.

RECORD BOOK INFORMATION!

Record books for the January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008 are due in the 4-H Office by February 2, 2009. 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

4-H'ers 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 2008. 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, 2009.**

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 9, 2009.

CLUB BOOKS

Program Planning and Secretary Books for 2008, and 2009 Program Planning Books are due in the 4-H Office by February 2, 2009.

Remember, this is the same planning book you filled out in January 2008 with club plans for that year submitted to the office in February 2008 and entered in the 2008 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 2008 Program Planning and 2008 Secretary's Books are submitted.

2009 Program Planning Books are also due in the 4-H Office by February 2, 2009. This includes "Tentative Monthly Plans" and "Special Meetings Planned" for 2009. 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 17, 2009. This is available on the web at 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.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES AND VISUAL PRESENTATIONS

The 2009 Healthy Lifestyles and Visual Presentations events will be held together again this year on Saturday, April 4th, at 9:00 a.m. The location will be at the Howard County Fairgrounds. Registration forms, Healthy Lifestyle posters, and menus will be due, Monday, March 16th. This is a terrific opportunity to come out and participate in a county event!

WORKSHOP REGISTRATIONS

It is very important that you register at least **TWO** days prior to any workshop. It is very difficult for the 4-H staff to prepare appropriately if the correct number of attendants is not known. Also, our general rule is to cancel a program if there are not at least **FIVE** people registered. Only those registered will be notified of any cancelations. Thank you for helping regarding this matter.

ATTENTION LIVESTOCK VOLUNTEERS

Sheryl is looking for volunteers who would be interested in helping teach at the Livestock Skillathon practices. If you are interested in teaching any of the following topics, please let Sheryl know ASAP. She can be reached at 410-313-1912 or sherylb@umd.edu.

TOPICS:
Feed Identification
Breed Identification
Equipment Identification
Wool Judging
Hay Judging
Quality Assurance

LIVESTOCK RATE OF GAIN REQUIREMENTS

Beef Steers, Market Lambs, and Market Pigs will have minimum "rate-of-gains" required to show in 2009. This means that market animals will have to gain a certain amount per day from Tag-In Day to the County Fair:

SHEEP
.40 lbs. per day

SWINE
1.50 lbs. per day

BEEF
2.00 lbs. per day

MARKET GOAT
.20 lbs. per day

LIVESTOCK SKILLATHON

Whether you carry a livestock project or not, Livestock Skillathon is a great way to work with other 4-H'ers and learn information about livestock. Practices have been scheduled for every Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. beginning on January 7th through March 4th. In addition, all those 4-H'ers interested can compete at the state contest on Saturday, March 7th. You are welcome to attend practices even if you do not wish to compete at the state contest. We ask that you please register with Maria Gordon at 410-313-1906 or at mgordon@umd.edu to assist with planning.

STEER REGISTRATIONS

All beef and dairy steer exhibitors should have received a steer registration packet for 2009. The ownership deadline for all steers is January 1, 2009. The registration form needs to be received in the Extension Office by Monday, January 5th. The Beef I.D. Day is scheduled for Saturday, January 10th 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. In the event of snow, there will be a message at 410-313-1912 regarding any changes or cancellations.

BEEF FIELD DAY

Mark your calendar now! The Howard County 4-H Beef Field Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 25th. It is mandatory that all 4-H'ers carrying a beef project attend and exhibit one animal at this event. If you have a conflict, please contact Sheryl ASAP. She can be reached at 410-313-1912 or sherylb@umd.edu.

LIVESTOCK QUALITY ASSURANCE

Classes for Livestock Quality Assurance have 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. If you have questions or are not sure if you need to attend this year, contact Sheryl at 410-313-1912 or sherylb@umd.edu.

Monday, March 30th-Intermediates and Seniors-7:00 p.m.
Monday, April 27th-First Year and Juniors-7:00 p.m.
Tuesday , May 26, 2009

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

DOG AGILITY CLASSES

Have your dog take the cues from you in the exciting sport of Agility Training. Get a great work out for you both by enrolling in the Dog Agility Classes. These one hour long sessions, for beginners and advanced members, start Saturday, March 21st and will last for 8 weeks. Dogs should be at least 12 months old with no physical limitations. Blue 4-H Dog Identification Cards **MUST** be mailed with your Agility Class registration forms. Classes are free for Happy Hound 4-H club members and you must be a member for three months prior to April 1st. Non-members may take either class for a cost of $25.00. Registrations are due by March 1st. Contact Leah Yancey at 410-788-1847 or via email at Yancey4h@verizon.net for information. Registration forms can be found on the 4-H website at: www.howard4-h.org. Class size is limited so register soon!

HAPPY HOUNDS CLUB

The Happy Hounds Club is beginning registrations for the 2009 Canine Obedience and Fitting and Showing classes. These sessions will be held at the Howard County Fairgrounds. These 8 week classes will start Thursday, March 19th and will end on Thursday, May 14th. All interested 4-H members may contact Leah Yancey at 410-788-1847. Registrations forms are available on the 4-H web site at: www.howard4-h.org. Space is limited so send in your registration forms as soon as possible.

- **Beginner Classes**: For any one who has not taken beginner obedience classes before. (Experience of dog is not the determining factor, we teach handlers how to train their dogs.) These classes will run from 6:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m. The Beginner Fitting and Showing Classes will run from 7:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m. You may choose to take either class or both.

- **Advanced Classes**: For any handlers who have had beginner obedience classes with Happy Hounds. (Experience of dog is not the determining factor, we teach handlers how to train their dogs.) Advanced Fitting and Showing Classes will run from 6:30 p.m. —7:30 p.m. Advanced Obedience Classes will run from 7:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m. You may choose to take either class or both.

Classes are free for all Happy Hound members if you have been a member for three months prior to April 1st. Non-members may take one or both classes offered for $25.00 each. Space is limited!! All forms are due by Tuesday, March 3rd. If you have any questions, please call Leah Yancey at 410-788-1847via email at Yancey4h@verizon.net .

REMINDER-DOG IDENTIFICATION CARDS

The Dog Identification Card is available at our 4-H office. This form, as well as Vaccination Records, and a county dog license MUST be mailed in with your registration form.

POULTRY TESTING

All poultry to be shown at exhibition will need Pullorum Typhoid and Avian Influenza Testing in 2009. Contact the Animal Health Lab nearest you for testing. The phone number for the Frederick lab is 301- 694-1548 and the phone number for the College Park lab is 301-314-1870.

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

or

www.animalagriculture.org/scrapie

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

VOLUNTEER AND TEACH AT THE COLUMBIA TEEN CENTER!

To all our MCE Volunteers, 4-H'ers, and 4-H clubs, there is a great opportunity to show off your crafting and cooking talents by teaching afterschool classes for youth in the Columbia Teen Center. These classes are Wednesdays from 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. The classes will be held at the Columbia Teen Center and sometimes at the Howard County MCE office. If you or your club would like to have a great experience leading these classes, please contact Sheryl Bennett at sherylb@umd.edu or 410-313-1912.

4-H USED TACK SALE

The Spur and Stirrup 4-H club is hosting a used tack sale on Saturday, January 31st at the Howard County Fairgrounds Dining Hall. For more information or to rent table space, please contact Cindi Ousborne at 443-745-5017.

MARYLAND 4-H HORSE LEADERS FORUM

The University of Maryland Cooperative Extension is hosting workshops for opportunities to become more involved in the Maryland 4-H Horse program. This forum will take place on Saturday, February 21st from 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. It will be held in Howard County at the Glenwood Community Center in Cooksville, Maryland. There are several workshops to become involved with such as:

Managing Live Horse Events –the Pitfalls and the Rewards
What's Your Mane Issue… Exhibiting Positive Character in 4-H
Reining in Your Public Speaking Anxiety
Joint Sessions of Horse Health Updates and 4-H Horse Program Updates
and many, many more!

The Horse Leader Forum is open to adult volunteers, teen leaders, seniors, and MCE staff. There is a cost of $20.00 per person which includes breakfast and lunch. For more information, please contact Karen Ellis at kellis1@umd.edu or go to: www.4hhorse.umd.edu.

MARYLAND 4-H HORSE ART CONTEST

The 2009 Maryland Horse World Expo will be held from January 15th-18th at State Fairgrounds in Timonium, Maryland. This event will sponsor the 2009 Maryland 4-H Horse Contest on Thursday, January 15th. There are two divisions for each age group: Drawing and Photography. Participants must be 4-H'ers carrying a 4-H project. Entries must be submitted no later than January 7th to:

MCE c/o Karen Ellis,
11975 Homewood Road,
Ellicott City, MD 21042.

For more specification about entries and any other information, got the this link:

http://www.4hhorse.umd.edu/activities/artcontest.html

or contact Karen at 301-596-9478 or via email at kellis1@umd.edu.

WILLS FAIR NEEDS HELP

This year's Wills Fair Livestock Show will be held on May 16th at the Howard County Fairgrounds. The Wills Fair Livestock Show is in need of financial support. Clubs who would like to contribute for the 2009 show should send their donation to:

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

HOWARD COUNTY 4-H T-SHIRTS

We are in the process of planning for the 4-H t-shirts, all Howard County 4-H'ers receive to wear at the fair. Enclosed with this newsletter is the sponsorship form. If you know of a business or organization that may be interested, please pass along the letter and form enclosed within this Cloverleaf. If you need additional forms, they can be found on our website www.howard4-h.org.

DESIGN CONTEST

Are you creative? Computer savvy? Then you may want to read on… The 4-H team is looking for someone to design the front of the t-shirt. We are looking for a black and white computer generated design that includes the official clover. The person who designs the selected shirt design will be awarded $50. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sheryl at 410-313-1912 or sherylb@umd.edu. All t-shirt designs are due no later than Friday, May 1, 2009.

ACHIEVEMENT NIGHT 2009 - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The 2009 4-H Achievement Night has already been scheduled. It is planned for Friday, October 23rd. At this time, we need 4-Hers and volunteers to help with planning the 2009 Achievement Night. The following clubs are assigned to help with planning: Horizons, West Friendship Livestock, Hare Raisers and Spotlight. At least one adult and one 4-Her from each of those clubs is expected to attend the planning meeting. The next Achievement Night Committee Meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 23rd in the Fair Office at the fairgrounds.

OFFICER TRAINING

The 2009 Officer Training Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, January 29th, at 7:00 p.m. It will be held at the Glenwood Community Center. All officers are **EXPECTED** to attend this workshop. Please put this date on your calendar, now! To register for the workshop, please contact Maria Gordon at 410-313-1906 or mgordon@umd.edu.

HOWARD COUNTY 4-H ALL STAR 2009 BASKET BINGO

The Howard County 4-H All Stars are currently planning the 2009 Basket Bingo Fundraiser. It is scheduled for Friday, March 27th at the Mount 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 Marjie Eyler 301-829-1449 or Martin Hamilton at 410-489-6258.

4-H DAY IN ANNAPOLIS

Come spend this President's Day, Monday, February 16th, with other Maryland 4-H'ers and volunteers as we tour our State Capitol. Enjoy the day by meeting with Maryland legislators who will share information about how a bill becomes law in Maryland while meeting new friends. Also, listen as various government officials describe their role and also how we as citizens can become more involved in our state government. If interested in learning more about Maryland state government and your role as a citizen of Maryland, then this program is for YOU! We will need an adult volunteer to chaperone for this event. If you would like to attend this tour, please contact Maria Gordon at mgordon@umd.edu or 410-313-1906. Please submit the names of people wishing to attend this tour and their ages.