MARYLAND COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
COLLEGE PARK • EASTERN SHORE

Newsletter

January/February 2009

4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills.

Hello from the 4-H Educator

Dear 4-H Members, Parents, and Volunteers,

I am excited about the opportunity to work with you and create positive educational experiences for Talbot County youth. My work experience is varied: I have served as a counselor for adults with disabilities, a wildlife conservation project aide, and a science teacher at North Caroline High School where I also helped coordinate the school's service learning program. Most recently I joined Extension as the 4-H educator in St. Mary's County, but I am excited to be home on the Shore again. My main areas of interest include improved home, community, and natural environments; I have a particular interest in environmental science education.

My role as a youth educator will consist of two main parts. First, I plan to support and enhance the existing 4-H clubs. Jayne Fitzgerald has been doing an excellent job of working with volunteers to coordinate Extension's local 4-H program. She attributes her success to your support. Thanks! Our plan is to assess the strengths and needs of the 4-H program and, with your help, figure out ways in which we can make the club experience even better. Second, our mission will be to promote and expand the current 4-H program. We will strive to create new opportunities for members while recruiting youth and adults into the 4-H experience. It will take me a while to become familiar with the workings of Talbot 4-H and to get to know all of you -- thank you in advance for your patience. Jayne and I, along with the rest of Extension's staff, will work together to enhance the lives of local children and families. Special thanks go to those who have made me feel welcome.

Tom Hutson
4-H Youth Development Extension Educator

Would you like to become a 4-H volunteer?

Volunteers are the foundation of our 4-H program. They multiply the efforts of 4-H staff to provide local youth with positive learning experiences. Becoming a volunteer allows adults to lead activities, coordinate projects, and even start a club of their own! You can help the program reach even more kids. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a 4-H volunteer, contact the 4-H Office at (410) 822-1244 and we will be glad to set up a training session that fits your schedule.

Would you like to start your own 4-H club?

It is possible to set up a 4-H club in any community. In fact, all it takes to start a 4-H club is one or more adults who become trained (training is easy!) volunteers, a group of kids who would benefit from fun learning experiences, and 4-H office staff to help you get your club started. The advantages of starting your own club include holding meetings close to home for kids from your local area and tailoring activities to the interests of your club members. Call (410) 822-1244 if you are interested.

How can we let others know why 4-H is important in the lives of kids?

We can talk to people about 4-H!

Modern kids need safe, constructive things to do in their spare time. The mission of University of Maryland Extension 4-H programs is to develop youth to reach their fullest potential as "capable, competent, caring, and contributing individuals." Adult volunteers and teen leaders provide ongoing hands-on learning opportunities for youth. 4-H is a family experience and parents and other relatives are encouraged to get involved. Children learn valuable project, life, and leadership skills that help them grow to become productive citizens. With more than 100 projects to choose from in the areas of human interests, animal studies, and environmental or other sciences there is something of interest to EVERY child. One of the best parts of the 4-H program is community service. 4-H clubs help to improve the local community by performing a variety of service projects!

What goes into creating a 4-H club?

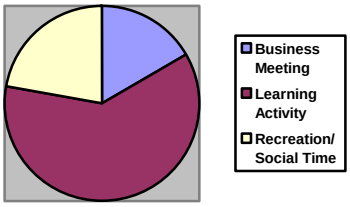
The recipe for a 4-H club is simple. It is always helpful to be reminded of the standards for Maryland 4-H clubs:

1) 5 or more youth members ages 8 to 18
2) Elected officers (president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, etc.)
3) One or more adult 4-H volunteers who provide leadership for the club
4) Adults and teens who provide project and activity leadership that helps members complete 4-H projects
5) At least 6 club meetings per year
6) A written club plan that provides a variety of learning experiences
7) Written by-laws developed by club members.

What kinds of 4-H clubs can our family participate in?

4-H clubs take many forms. Community clubs offer a variety of learning experiences for members. Project clubs such as a horse club or a shooting sports club meet to work on a specific project. School-based clubs, in-school programs, and after-school clubs are possible as well. 4-H also offers short term or special interest programs to local youth. Some children enroll as independent members: They are not part of a club but they work with adult volunteers and mentors who help them complete their 4-H projects. It is even possible to form a clover club for children ages 5-7!

What are the parts of a successful 4-H meeting?



The formula for a monthly 4-H meeting is based on youth development research. Youth development research recommends the following format for a 90-minute monthly meeting:

Introduction/SHORT Business Meeting (15 minutes)
The meeting includes the pledge, review of old business, new business, etc. It gives the officers a chance to develop their leadership skills and provides time to update members about upcoming events.

Experiential Learning Activity (45-60 minutes)
This section is the **MOST** important. Adults and teen leaders set up hands-on learning experiences for club members. The activity should be fun and interesting. The type of activity should vary from month to month and include animal activities, human interest activities, and environmental or other science activities.

Recreation/Social Time (15-30 minutes)
This part provides a chance for members to relax and interact with each other in a safe social setting.

4-H Animal Programs Update

Participation in animal projects teaches responsibility and compassion to kids on a daily basis. Although competitions, awards, and making money at an auction are fun, they are only part of an animal project. Maryland 4-H has urged every county to remind members, volunteers, and parents that the MAIN purpose of 4-H animal projects is to help members learn new information and project skills while developing life skills. **Please make sure that learning and fun are the main goals of your club's animal projects and activities.** This guideline is true of ALL 4-H projects in animal science, human science, and environmental science: learning and fun first, competition and winning second.

Ensuring Animal Health:
Miss Jayne, Mr. Tom, and Mrs. Susan Behrens recently attended the animal sciences in-service in Howard County. We are sharing some new information with you in this section. There are 4 parts to making sure 4-H project animals are healthy when they participate in fairs and shows:

(1) Members work with their animals every day – YOU are the first line of defense in diagnosing illness!

(2) Your veterinarian can certify your animal's health on a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI)

(3) Fair and show personnel do their best to make sure animals are healthy when entered

(4) The Maryland Department of Agriculture inspectors help fairs and shows prevent unhealthy animals from spreading diseases.

*****Go to www.mde.state.md.us to find animal health forms, regulations, and information. You can also ask the 4-H office and Susan Behrens for help.

New Maryland Animal Rules for 2009:

-**Rabies vaccines** (if available for a species) are required for **all animals participating in petting zoos and pony rides.**

-Self-certification of animal health forms are now required for horses, poultry, and rabbits in addition to livestock. The forms need to be completed just before you arrive at a 4-H animal event, fair, or show. This means that to gain admission to a fair or show you will need to have a CVI form (if applicable) completed by your vet within a certain number of days prior to the first show. You will also need to complete a self-certification statement before you load your animals to go to a fair or show.

-All market lambs going to the Maryland State Fair must be **slick shorn** to help identify animals with club lamb fungus and reduce its spread.

-All children **must be at least 8 years old** in order to show their project animals in open class or 4-H at the Talbot County Fair or any animal event at the Maryland State Fair. This is a State Fair decision that is being passed down to the counties.

-4-H members in the following projects must attend a Quality Assurance Training every two years: beef, **dairy** (added this year), sheep, meat goats, and swine.

-There is a slightly new version of the Code of Animal Science Ethics this year. All members who participate in animal projects should sign this form when they complete their other re-enrollment paperwork.

-Most livestock used in 4-H projects need to have ear tags as a way to identify them (some animals have tattoos as identification). Check with the 4-H office or Susan Behrens if you have questions about livestock tagging.

-Animals can be tagged either commercial or market but not both.

-Tagging and purebred registration papers must be in the 4-H member's name.

4-H Animal Leases

Breeding Animal Leases (Beef, Dairy, Sheep, Swine, Goats): A member may not own and lease animals in the same general project area. Lease agreements must be on file at the county Extension office by June 1 and are in effect until December 31 of the current year.

Performance Animal leases (Horses, Dogs, **Alpacas**, **Llamas** –added this year): An animal

may be leased by up to TWO different 4-H members but the animal can be exhibited in a single class by only ONE 4-H member.

Basic Facts about 4-H and TAXES

4-H clubs are not "official" federal 501(c)3 non-profit organizations. However, chartered 4-H clubs and formally recognized 4-H organizations under the control of Extension are eligible under National 4-H for special exemption from federal income tax. This means 4-H clubs are exempt from paying **FEDERAL** income tax on funds raised on behalf of 4-H or to support educational programs. 4-H clubs and volunteers are **NOT exempt** from paying **STATE** or **LOCAL** taxes. Note: Maryland 4-H doesn't give tax advice: Ask a tax expert if you have specific questions!

People or organizations donating to 4-H may deduct their "charitable" contributions to 4-H clubs and affiliated 4-H organizations as applicable under the IRS code.

All 4-H clubs that handle ANY amount of money or accept donations need an Employer Identification Number (EIN) from the IRS. The Extension office can help you with filling out the appropriate (SS-4) form if you need an EIN.

Beginning in 2009, all 4-H clubs must file annually with the IRS to maintain their exemption from federal taxes. Clubs earning less than $25,000 file form 990-N. This is a simple, easy electronic postcard. Club leaders should go to www.irs.gov and search for 990-N. You should register as a new user, then create and submit your form 990-N.

Special people:

Thank you to Mrs. Della Andrew and the Green Clovers 4-H Club for their prior donations to the Talbot County 4-H Endowment. They were the first to start our process of planning for future funding. There is more information on the endowment later in this issue.

Maryland Horse Program Update

There are several horse events 4-H members can enter each year including:

Horse Art Contest – You don't have to own a horse to enter this contest. Just be creative!
Horse Bowl – This is a quiz program in which teams answer a series of horse-related questions.
Horse Judging – Use your powers of observation and your knowledge of horses to do well in this judging contest.
Hippology -- Put your knowledge of equine nutrition, dentistry, tack, plant identification, etc. to work in this contest that includes various stations and a written test.
Horse Communications – Here is your chance to practice public speaking while talking about what you love!
Horse Jamboree – Get together with 4-H members from all over the state and have fun at this annual event.

Pat Harvey of Hoofbeats 4-H Club can give you more details about each of these horse-related events. You may also contact the 4-H office or go to www.4hhorse.umd.edu for information.

New Horse Information for 2009

All **new Horsemanship Standards examiners** must complete a training session in addition to taking the written test before becoming and examiner.

Juniors in horse judging will judge ALL classes this year. There will also be a new horse judging novice division for members who have never participated in the contest.

For the Maryland State Fair, **4-H members participating in only halter/showmanship classes** will only be required to complete Horsemanship Standards Knowledge Levels 1 and 2. They will NOT need to pass riding levels if they are not entering in riding classes.

There is a new horse reference book, Equine Science, available this year. For Horse Bowl and Hippology Contests juniors should review chapters 1-5. Intermediates and seniors should review the entire book. This book may also be helpful with preparing for horsemanship standards testing. The 4-H office has one copy you can check out or you can order the book at www.HorseBooksEtc.com. (800) 952-5813. ISBN# 978-1-020164-42-4.

Demonstrate Your LifeSmarts!

Do you consider yourself to be a wise consumer? If you do, go online at lifesmarts.org and try the online challenge. You will be asked questions that let you prove your consumer skills. The Best Mr. Tom could get was 84%. LifeSmarts is a national consumer competition. You have until February 27 to enter!

COACHES AND CHAPERONES WANTED:

Anyone interested in becoming a coach or chaperone for a state or national 4-H event should contact the 4-H office for more information on application procedures and deadlines.

Ready, SET, Learn!

One of our main goals in 4-H is to help prepare our youth for success in the adult world by helping them become more skilled in the areas of Science, Engineering, and Technology (SET). Talbot County's school system is working toward the same goal under a slightly different name, STEM, where the M stands for math.

In Maryland 4-H we are urging our 4-H parents and volunteers to point out the science behind all project activities. For example, if your kids bake cookies you can point out that the heat of the oven causes a chemical change in the ingredients. That's why the cookie looks different than the dough! You can also allow members to experiment by changing the recipe or the baking temperature and comparing results. Science and technology are part of our everyday life: We just have to point them out to kids!

The Maryland 4-H Foundation is Working to Support Local 4-H

The Maryland 4-H Foundation has identified some interesting opportunities for our county programs:

Berlage Innovative 4-H Grant Program

Bruce and Donna Berlage are Maryland 4-H Program supporters who believe in the power of youth development. They have established a grant program to strengthen outreach and club programs.

Eight $250 grants will be awarded for either a service or outreach project in which the majority of a club's members participate. Preference will be given to those who educate the public about 4-H or help "to make the best better" within the community. The money must be used within twelve months of receiving the grant and once the project is completed the clubs are asked to send in a paragraph summarizing their projects and photographs of the event(s).

There is no limit on the number of years a club can apply for the grant. Applications are available from the county 4-H office and must be submitted by February 1 of each year. The 4-H office has copies of the application form. If you have questions please call Amanda Brown Clougherty at 301-314-7832 or e-mail her at akbrown@umd.edu.

Bruce Berlage Endowment (up to $10,000)

You have probably heard about this endowment. Every dollar raised by our county gets matched by Berlage funds administered by the Maryland 4-H Foundation. All interest earned on the money raised/matched will be given back to the county 4-H program on an annual basis. The purpose of the endowment is to accumulate money once that can keep giving back to the local program for many years into the future.

So far Talbot County has raised almost $700 to go toward our endowment. Do you have any ideas for raising more endowment money? Contact the 4-H office.

Rural Youth Loans Available

The USDA Farm Service Agency makes loans of up to $5000 to eligible rural youth ages 10-20 to finance income-producing, agriculture-related projects. Projects must be of modest size, educational, and developed/carried out by rural youth in 4-H, FFA, or a similar organization. To find out more, visit your local USDA Service Center or go to www.fsa.usda.gov.

Out-of-state Trip Opportunities

There are several major 4-H out-of-state trips that Maryland 4-H members can qualify for. These trips include:
National 4-H Congress
National 4-H Conference
West Virginia Older Members' Conference
Virginia 4-H Congress
Camp Miniwanca

A 4-H member is limited to two major trips during his or her 4-H career and no more than one major trip per year. A member can attend each trip only once.

To be considered for one of these trips, 4-H members must submit a portfolio consisting of an application, 4-H resume, and essay. They must also participate in an interview. Youth who achieve acceptable scores on the interview, resume, and essay can be eligible for one of the trips.

The application deadline for National 4-H Conference will be in October of 2009 (to the Maryland 4-H Center). **The application deadline for the other four trips is January 21, 2009.**

You may research these trips on the internet or contact the 4-H office for more information.

Come to Our Public Speaking Workshop!

Everyone knows that good communication skills are important. Could you use a little help with brushing up on your public speaking skills? On Saturday, January 24 from 10 A.M. to 12 P.M. the 4-H office will be holding a public speaking workshop. We will provide basic public speaking tips for our newer and younger members but we will also give everyone a chance to practice his or her public speaking skills. Contact the office if you are interested in attending – the number of participants will determine where we hold the workshop!

Experience 4-H Day in Annapolis this Year!

Want to learn more about Maryland Government? Spend Monday, February 16 (Presidents' Day) with Maryland 4-H as members take a tour of the State Capitol and meet with Maryland lawmakers. Topics include how new laws are passed and ways citizens can become involved in government and decision making. 4-H is also looking for adults to serve as chaperones for the event. If you are interested in attending, contact the 4-H office or go to maryland4h.org and do a search.

Attention 4-H Club Reporters:

The 4-H office wants to hear from you! If you send us 4-H meeting minutes we can post them on our website for everyone to see!

Has your club done any interesting activities or do you have plans for upcoming workshops or community service activities? Let us know and we can include events you have carried out in our newsletter or publicize events that are coming up! Do you have photos of you or your club participating in 4-H Activities? We can include those too!

Stuff Swap for 4-H Members

Have you ever heard the saying "One man's trash is another man's treasure?" If you have any unwanted items around your house (not including little brothers and sisters!), let us know and we'll place a "free to good home" ad in our newsletter. Then your unwanted stuff can become someone else's treasure. If there's something YOU need, we can place an ad and let the rest of our 4-H community see if their items can become your treasure.

4-H Basics Word Search

O	E	C	I	I	S	L	P	K	S
K	O	I	R	L	G	P	L	R	K
S	D	F	D	E	L	R	E	E	I
E	U	U	C	A	T	O	D	C	L
R	L	N	L	R	R	J	G	O	L
V	O	L	U	N	T	E	E	R	S
I	S	C	B	I	E	C	E	D	B
C	U	L	S	N	L	T	R	S	R
E	R	G	S	G	R	P	E	N	E
F	A	I	R	O	A	R	V	R	C

clubs fair fun
learning pledge project
records service skills
volunteers

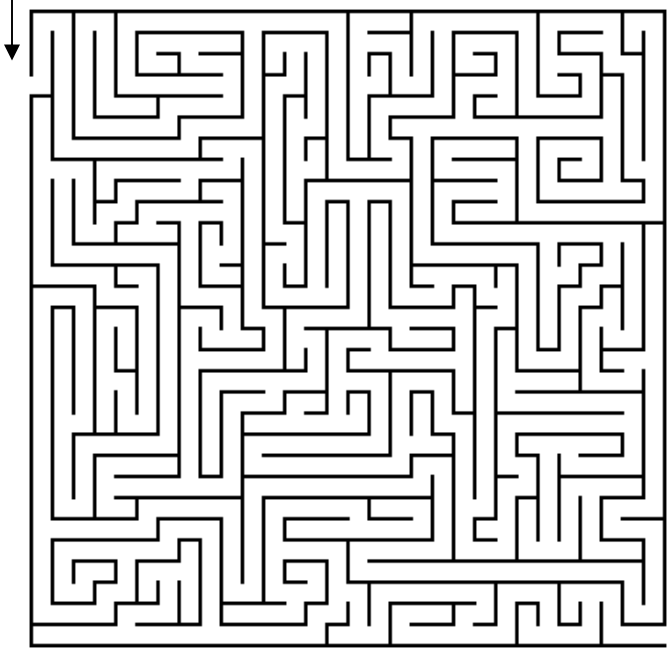
4-H on the Internet

We're on the internet:
talbot.umd.edu

You can also find out LOTS of 4-H information at:
maryland4h.org

Reach Your Goals through 4-H

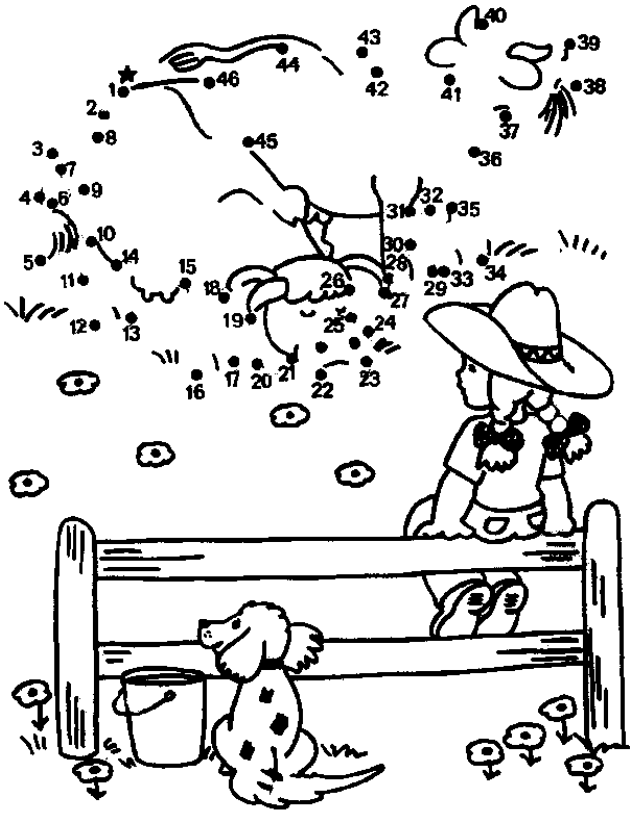
Start:
Join 4-H



End:
Learn Project
and Life Skills!

4-H Animal Projects: From Small to Big

Connect the dots to reveal the picture.



A Note from Della Andrew,
Leader of the Busy Beavers 4-H Club

The Maryland 4-H Teen & Adult Volunteer Forum was held in Ocean City at the Carousel Hotel on November 21 - 23, 2008. I had never attended one of these before, but this year when I was awarded some scholarship money, I decided to go. After all, I didn't want to 'waste' the scholarship money, and besides, Ocean City is one of my favorite places to go. So, I signed up to go, and I'm very glad I did.

There were lots of workshops to learn new ideas and all kinds of things about 4-H. In between the workshops and at meal times, there were also lots of opportunities to network with other 4-H members and leaders. It seemed like half of the people, that I talked with and asked where they were from, were from Kent County. It turns out that Kent County had sent a bus load of 4-H volunteers to the forum. They really seemed to be having a good time. But what really impressed me the most were the number of whole families that attended-parents and their children-and what a good time they seemed to be having. You know, the Carousel has an indoor ice skating rink, and it always seemed to be busy with people of all ages skating around.

So, wouldn't it be great if Talbot County could send a whole bus load of 4-H teen & adult volunteers and their families next year? Let's put our 'thinking caps on' and see if we can make that happen. If that's too ambitious for the first year, maybe we could partner with another county (Caroline or Queen Anne) to hire a bus, and then figure out how we can help with part of the scholarship money for the registration fees.

Hope to see you at the Carousel in 2009!
Miss Della

4-H Member Spotlight

Hi, I am Brooke Dudrow and I am a member of Chapel District 4-H Club, Claybusters 4-H Club, and Hoofbeats 4-H Club. I am 16 years old and have been a member of 4-H for 9 years.

I encourage everyone to stick with the 4-H program to the end and enjoy the experiences of what it has to offer you. This past year I have seen how 4-H, at the senior level, has given me many different experiences to enjoy. My year started off by completing a portfolio. At senior level you can do a portfolio instead of a record book and then apply for trips. Once I completed my portfolio I went to do an interview at the state level to have a chance to win a trip to National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, Georgia. This summer I found out I had won the trip to go to National 4-H Congress as the Talbot County representative. I attended this trip from November 28 through December 2 along with lots of other 4-Hers from around the country. I met kids from as far away as Hawaii there. This trip included things such as guest speakers, dances, and leadership workshops. Ms. America 2008 came and spoke at the dinner on the last night. There was an international night where there were meals prepared from different countries with a dance that night. My favorite part of the trip was the Atlanta tours; everyone got to pick the tour they wanted to go on and I picked the Coca-Cola plant tour. It was an awesome trip and great experience, and I encourage everyone to complete a portfolio and compete to win this trip.

I also had another exiting experience this past year in 4-H. I have competed in the State Hippology Contest for the past several years, which is a contest testing your horse knowledge. At senior level the information is pre-vet level and the top ten individuals have the chance to go to the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup to compete in Louisville, KY. This year I was called and asked to try to make the state team to compete at Nationals. I studied all summer to prepare, but didn't quite make the team. Even though I didn't make the Hippology team I still continued to attend the state practices to continue learning for a greater chance to make the team next year. A week before everyone would be heading to Nationals I received a call to be a last minute fill-in for the State Horse Bowl team. One of the girls had gotten hurt and couldn't attend and I was next in line to go. I immediately said yes, even though I knew absolutely nothing about the game of horse bowl, but I was the last hope for the team. That week I studied really hard so I could help out our team. On November 6th the Maryland teams headed to Louisville, Kentucky to compete in various contests such as Horse Bowl, Hippology, Horse Judging, and Horse Communications. This trip was absolutely amazing and so much fun, any horse person would love it. We visited well-known horse farms, Kentucky Horse Park, and Churchill

Downs. On that Saturday we went and competed from 7 o'clock in the morning until 6 o'clock that night, it was a very long day. The Maryland Horse Bowl team placed 2nd out of 23 states, it was so much fun and our team was awesome. This trip was a great experience and I can't wait until next year, where I will compete to be on the State Hippology Team for 2009. 4-H has so many things to offer at the senior level that I encourage everyone to take advantage of the experiences and knowledge you can gain from 4-H.

Important Dates:

January 1	Market Steer Ownership Deadline
January 5	Talbot County Ag. Center Meeting, 7 P.M.
January 15	Horse World Expo at MD State Fairgrounds
January 16	**Diamond Clover Reports Due**
January 16	**Re-enrollment forms due to 4-H office (enrollment form, behavioral expectations, code of animal science ethics)**
January 16-17	State 4-H Teen Council Retreat
January 20	**Record Books due to 4-H office**
January 20	4-H Council Meeting 7 P.M.
January 24	**Talbot 4-H Public Speaking Workshop, 10 A.M. – 12 P.M. (location to be determined)**
January 26	Talbot County Ag. Center Annual Banquet, 6:30 P.M.
January 30	**All 4-H Club Annual Paperwork due to 4-H office: Club leader's report (yearly plan, club info sheet, Affirmative Action forms, club quality indicators, club recognition); secretary's book, treasurer's report**
February and March	Regional Tractor Safety Workshops (contact 4-H office for information)
February 3	**New Talbot 4-H Family Orientation, 7 P.M, Extension office**
February 6	**Talbot County Communications (Public Speaking) Contest, 7P.M., Easton High School (tentative)**
February 7	4-H Out-of-state Trip Interviews in Queen Anne's County
February 16	4-H Day in Annapolis
February 21	Lower Shore Winterfare
February 21	4-H Horse Leaders Forum, 9-3:30, Howard County
February 23	Talbot County Ag. Center Meeting, 7 P.M.
February 24-25	Mental Health First Aid Training (location to be determined)
February 27-28	Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Educators Conference
March 6	**Talbot County Visual Presentation Contest, 7-9 P.M, (location to be determined)**
March 7	4-H Horse Bowl Contest, University of MD at College Park
March 8	Cecil County Winterfare
March 13	**Diamond Clover Plans due to 4-H office**
March 17	**Talbot County 4-H Council Meeting, 7 P.M.**
March 21	**4-H Achievement Program, Easton High School (tentative)**
March 27	Regional Public Speaking Contest, Easton High School (tentative)