

Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION
Solutions in your community

Talbot County • 28577 Mary's Court, Suite 1 • Easton, MD 21601 • (410) 822-1244
Tom Hutson, 4-H Educator, thutson@umd.edu Pat Murphy, 4-H Program Assistant, pmurphy3@umd.edu



4-H MESSENGER

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



December 2011/January 2012

CALENDAR OF 4-H EVENTS

Saturday, January 7, 9-11:30 a.m.
Record Book Workshop
Caroline County Extension Office
9194 Legion Rd., Denton



If you need extra help with your record book following the training held in Talbot, consider signing up for the Caroline workshop. **Register by January 3.** If you are unable to attend, contact Mr. Tom or Ms. Pat to get extra help.



Thursday, January 12, 6-8 p.m.
Public Speaking Workshop
U. of MD Extension Office, Easton

Are you interested in learning more about public speaking? You're invited to participate in this workshop that will introduce you to the four 4-H communication contest categories (radio spot, prepared speech, extemporaneous speech, and dramatic/humorous interpretation) and let you practice your public speaking skills. **Register by Monday, January 9.**

Tuesday, January 17, 6-7 p.m.
4-H Council Meeting
(Ambassadors Meeting 5-6 p.m.)
U. of MD Extension Office, Easton



Each 4-H club is asked to send a 4-H Council representative and/or vice-president to attend this group that provides leadership for the 4-H program. Volunteers, 4-H members, and others who are interested may also attend. *(Note: Officer elections will be held in March. Members who would like to run for an office should attend the March meeting.)*



Friday, January 20 – Saturday, January 21
Horse World Expo and Art Contest
MD State Fairgrounds, Timonium

All 4-H members interested in horses can learn more about these exciting opportunities at www.4horse.umd.edu.

Tuesday, January 17

***4-H RECORD BOOKS ARE DUE TO THE EXTENSION OFFICE.**

4-H members who would like to be recognized for their 2011 accomplishments should complete and submit a record book. Please contact the U. of MD Extension Office if you have questions or need information.



Friday, January 27

***4-H CLUB ANNUAL PAPERWORK PACKET IS DUE TO THE EXTENSION OFFICE.**

***4-H FAMILY OF THE YEAR AND FRIEND OF 4-H NOMINATIONS ARE DUE TO THE EXTENSION OFFICE.**

4-H club leaders, thank you for helping us maintain accurate records and keep the required information on file that documents the quality of our program!





Saturday, January 28
4-H Animal Science Volunteer Forum
Patuxent National Wildlife Ctr., Laurel, MD

All 4-H volunteers and teens who are interested in animal science programs should consider attending this training session designed just for you. Sessions selections will focus on horsemanship standards, "bowl" contests, judging teams, embryology, AGsploration, and animal safety. Please let Mr. Tom know if you want to request scholarship funds to cover the registration fee. Registration forms are available online at maryland4h.org.

Thursday, February 2, 6:30-8:00
Public Speaking Practice Session
U. of MD Extension Office, Easton



Do you plan to participate in the Talbot County 4-H Public Speaking Contest? Consider attending this session that will let you practice giving your presentation. You will receive feedback that will help you make your presentation even better.
Register by January 30.



Saturday, February 4, 10-noon and
Saturday, February 11, 10-noon and 1-3
4-H Shotgun Safety Training
U. of MD Extension/Talbot Rod & Gun Club

Are you interested in joining the Claybusters 4-H Shotgun Club? Young people ages 10 and up must complete a required safety training led by instructors Mr. Clem Hathaway and Mr. Ed Biscoe prior to joining the shotgun club. They will teach you a lot of information about how to properly handle and use a shotgun. The 10 to noon sessions will take place at the Extension Office. On February 11, you will get a one-hour lunch break and then meet at the Talbot Rod & Gun Club on Chapel Road to get some hands-on shooting experience.
Register as soon as possible, because space is limited and the class usually fills quickly.

Thursday, February 16, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Talbot County Communication Contest
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Easton



If you like public speaking, sign up for this contest that lets you share your skills with others in a fun, relaxed contest format. The judges will give you

helpful feedback that will help you improve your skills. You might even be eligible to participate in the Eastern Shore 4-H Regional Contest! For more information about contest categories and rules, contact the Extension Office. **Register by February 13.**

Friday, February 18 – Monday, February 20
AGsploration Winter Institute Teen Training
Patuxent River 4-H Center, P.G. County

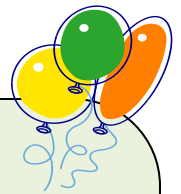


Are you a teenager who enjoys teaching younger children? The AGsploration Winter Institute is a fun three-day training that will prepare you to teach a variety of agricultural science lessons to youth of middle school age. The lessons are also suitable for teaching your club, visitors to your fair, and youth in after school programs and at community events. Contact the Extension Office for registration information.



Monday, February 20
4-H Legislative Day
Annapolis

This annual program gives behind the scenes information about what happens during Maryland's state government legislative sessions. Members and parents get the opportunity to meet legislators and learn how citizens become involved in government. Contact the Extension Office for details.



Friday, March 9, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
TALBOT 4-H ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM
Easton High School cafeteria

4-H members, families, volunteers, and community members are invited to attend this annual celebration of the accomplishments of 4-H members. As usual, Ms. Linda Brown and her culinary students will offer their delicious dessert bar midway through the program, so bring your appetite for goodies along with you.

Please register with the 4-H Office by March 1 so we know how many people to prepare for.

Saturday, March 10
Horse Project Members' Hippology Clinic
Carroll County



4-H horse project members from around the state will be participating in this practice session for the state hippology contest. Go online to www.4horse.umd.edu for more information.



Tuesday, March 20, 6-7p.m.
4-H Council Meeting
(Ambassadors Meeting 5-6 p.m.)
U. of MD Extension Office, Easton

Each 4-H club is asked to send its 4-H Council representative and/or vice president to attend this group that provides leadership to the county's 4-H program. Volunteers, 4-H members, and members of the public who are interested may also attend. Officer elections will be held this month. If you would like to run for president, vice-president, secretary, or historian please attend the meeting and explain why you want to be an officer.

Friday, March 23, 6:30-9 p.m.
4-H REGIONAL COMMUNICATION CONTEST
Easton High School (report to cafeteria)



This fun, exciting annual event allows Eastern Shore 4-H members who qualify at their county contests to showcase their speaking skills along with youth from nine counties. Be sure to participate in the county contest if you would like a chance to compete in the regional contest. Cash prizes may be awarded to winners in each category again this year.



March 24-29 National 4-H
Conference
Chevy Chase, MD

4-H seniors who submit a portfolio and participate in out-of-state trip interviews may be eligible to attend this exciting educational conference held just outside DC. Talk to you club leader or the Extension Office staff for more information.



Saturday, April 7
MD 4-H Foundation
Sporting Clays Fundraiser
(Location TBD)

This is a fun event for 4-H shooting sports project participants from around the state. Go online to mymaryland4hfoundation.com for information about this and other 4-H Foundation events.

Friday, April 13 - Sunday, April 15 (Tentative)
4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Training
Hurlock, MD



Are you an adult who would like to become certified as a 4-H shooting sports instructor? This training offered once a year is your chance to gain certification and start instructing 4-H youth from the local area. Contact the 4-H Office as soon as possible if you are interested in attending the training.



Friday, April 20 – Sunday, April 22
Maryland 4-H Engineering Weekend
Harford County 4-H Camp, Street, MD

This third annual fun-filled weekend will focus on a variety of engineering projects. If you like working with machinery and other equipment, consider attending. Details will be available in the early spring.

Saturday, April 21 - Sunday, April 22
Horse Judging/Hippology & Horse Bowl
College Park



This year these two horse knowledge contests have been arranged back to back to make it easier for horse project participants to participate in both contests. For more information, go online to www.4horse.umd.edu.



Wednesday, April 25
Animal Husbandry and Quality Assurance
Training for NEW 4-H members
Talbot Ag. and Education Center, Easton

As you know, 4-H members are required to complete the state's online quality assurance training in years when they change age categories (junior to intermediate or intermediate to senior) or work with a new animal species. Sometimes new 4-H members, especially juniors, need some one-on-one instruction before they can truly understand the online training. Sign up for this training if you think it will benefit you! Parents are welcome to participate too.



Saturday, October 27
State 4-H Shotgun Match
(Location TBD)

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

ALL 4-H activities follow school closing schedules that result from bad weather conditions. If schools close early, all 4-H events are automatically canceled for that day.

Do you want to learn more about 4-H? 4-H members, parents, and volunteers can find out about Talbot County 4-H by going online to talbot.umd.edu and about State-Level 4-H programs, policies, and forms at maryland4h.org.

University of Maryland 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.

If you need assistance to participate in a 4-H program, please contact the Extension Office in advance.

On Target and Making a STATEment

Brandon Dudrow of Claybusters 4-H Club participated in the Maryland 4-H State Shotgun Match that was held October 29. When local 4-H members participate in state-level events, people from all across Maryland find out about the talents and skills of Talbot County youth. Keep it up, Brandon!



Important Record Book and Portfolio Information!

Attention 4-H members: Do you enjoy being recognized for your accomplishments at the annual achievement program? This is a reminder to finalize your record book NOW instead of putting it off until the last minute. Not only do record books help you gain recognition, but they help you develop organizational skills that will benefit you throughout your whole life. To access the Maryland 4-H Summary Record and Maryland 4-H Project Record forms online, go to talbot.umd.edu and click "4-H Youth Development." You can edit and save the forms on your home computer. Contact the Extension Office for help with your record book.


4-H Seniors: *You may continue to fill out record books each year if you choose, but we encourage you to complete a portfolio.* Portfolios help 4-H members apply for exciting out-of-state trips. Showing your portfolio to employers or college admissions officers might help you find a job or get into college. Your portfolio contains a resume summarizing your accomplishments, and it can help you stand out from the crowd. To access information about 4-H senior portfolios, go to maryland4h.org. Click Faculty and Staff; click Forms; click Awards and Recognition; click Out of State Trips. All details about the portfolio are found at this website.

2012 Out-of-State Trip Opportunities

Attention senior 4-H members: Did you know that the Maryland 4-H Foundation sponsors a variety of national trips each year for 4-H members? If you are interested in attending one of these trips during the next year, be sure to put together a portfolio and have us forward it to the State 4-H Office on the appropriate date. Note: Resumes, Essays, and Applications for National 4-H Conference are due in October 2011 to the State 4-H Office. National 4-H Congress, West Virginia Older Members Conference, Virginia 4-H Congress, and Camp Miniwanca applications are due this month to the State 4-H Office.



Earn Your Service Learning Hours!

Did you know that your 4-H community service work can often qualify as service learning hours for school?  Community service work that directly relates to the classes you are taking in school can usually be counted as service learning. Contact the Extension Office if you need help deciding which of your community service projects qualify as service learning.

Maryland 4-H Foundation News



The next Maryland 4-H Awards Gala will be held Sunday, January 15, 2012 at Ten Oaks Ballroom in Clarksville.

Would you like to learn more about the role of the Maryland 4-H Foundation in promoting youth development across the state? Go online to mymaryland4hfoundation.com or speak to Ms. Amanda Clougherty, Talbot County 4-H Volunteer AND Director of the 4-H Foundation!

DO YOU NO LONGER WANT OR NEED TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER?

If so, please contact the Extension Office and ask us to remove you from our list.



Are you a teen who wants to attend tractor safety training? Please let us know by January 15 and we will pass your contact information on to the Tractor Safety Committee.

Animal Programs Update

Ms. Susan Behrens is our County Livestock Coordinator, so if the 4-H Office can't answer your question she probably can!



If you are planning to work on a livestock project in 2012 and you want to enter an animal in fairs or shows, please let Ms. Susan or the 4-H Office know as soon as possible so we have a record of which members will be working with animals .

Remember that the deadline for owning a steer as a 4-H project is JANUARY 1!!!!

Horse and Pony ID Cards

Each 4-H member who leases or owns a horse or pony and plans to show the animal needs to complete and turn in a Horse and Pony ID Card to the 4-H Office each year. This is important for members who want to participate in out-of-county 4-H horse shows. Other counties are beginning to disqualify members who do not have horse and pony cards on file with their county 4-H office. The cards can be found online at: maryland4h.org under the Forms link.



Do You Have an Idea for a 4-H Project Club?



Hello Talbot County Adults: Do you have a special hobby, skill, or talent? Contact us about sharing your project knowledge with local kids by helping us conduct a series of 6-10 project sessions, a short-term club!

Would you like to become a 4-H volunteer or start a 4-H club?

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a 4-H volunteer or starting a club, please contact the 4-H Office at (410) 822-1244. We will be glad to talk with you and set up a training session to help you become a volunteer.



Need Some Rabbit and Cavy Project Guidance?



Any 4-H member who is thinking about working on a rabbit project in 2012 might want to contact 4-H volunteer Karen Callahan at 410-310-8934. She can help you learn about proper care and showing of your animal, and she may be able to help you get a free bunny of certain breeds for your project.

It's Time to Reenroll for the 2012 Year!

This year the reenrollment process will be very similar to last year. During your January and February club meetings your leaders will help you with the reenrollment process. The form looks a little different this year, but it has the same information as last year. All the paperwork you and your parents need to do is: (1) review the information on the reenrollment form, (2) sign the reenrollment form and the behavioral expectations form, and (3) sign the animal science ethics form if you will be working with animals in 2012.

Good news! The participation fee hasn't gone up this year. It is still \$10 per year per member with a maximum fee of \$30 per family. That means that families with four or more children only pay the fee for the first three. The annual fee is helping Maryland 4-H continue to offer quality programs in spite of budget reductions. If you know someone who needs financial assistance with paying the participation fee, let Mr. Tom or Ms. Pat know.

We have asked our 4-H clubs with bank accounts to collect the participation fees from their members, deposit them, and write one check if possible (endorsed to Talbot County EAC) to the 4-H Office with a list of current members. Some clubs will use money from their fundraisers to cover the participation fees, and that is fine too. If your club doesn't have a bank account, your leaders might ask your family to write a check directly to Talbot County EAC instead of to the club.

Once we have received your signed forms and the participation fee, we will enroll you in the system again for 2012 so you can enjoy another great year in the program! ☺

It's Time to Choose Your 2012 Projects!

We hope that every 4-H member chooses one or more projects this year that will offer exciting new learning experiences. You will find that the time you spend working on projects, attending 4-H meetings and events, and performing community service projects will benefit you and those around you in many ways. Be sure to consider pursuing leadership opportunities as they arise. It is always a good idea to develop your leadership skills!

Did you know that many 4-H members are active in more than one club? Keep in mind that there might be new learning opportunities you can experience in addition to your regular club meetings. Some clubs are finding that they enjoy working together on projects and community service. Maybe you can expand your horizons by participating in a second or third club this year.

Important 4-H Websites:

Maryland 4-H

maryland4h.org

National 4-H

4-h.org

Talbot County Extension Office/4-H

talbot.umd.edu

University of Maryland Extension

extension.umd.edu

Talbot County Fair

talbotcountyfair.org

Maryland State Fair

marylandstatefair.com

Maryland 4-H Horse

4horse.umd.edu

Maryland 4-H Shooting Sports

md4-hshootingsports.umd.edu

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



We can talk to people about 4-H!

Children 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. 4-H offers something of interest for 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 does it take to make 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) Adult 4-H volunteers who provide leadership for the club
- 3) At least 6 club meetings/sessions within a year
- 4) An annual club plan that outlines a variety of learning experiences

General community clubs also typically have:

- 5) Elected officers (president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, etc.)
- 6) Adults and teens who provide project and activity leadership that helps members complete 4-H projects
- 7) Written by-laws developed by club members.

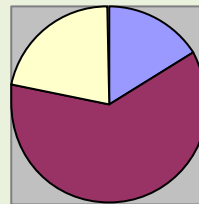


What kinds of 4-H clubs can our family participate in?

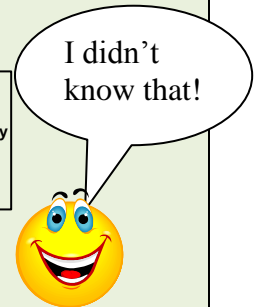


4-H clubs take many forms. Community clubs offer a variety of learning experiences for members. Short-term and long-term project clubs such as a robotics club, sewing club, horse club, or a shooting sports club meet to work on a specific project. School-based clubs, in-school programs, and after-school clubs are possible as well. 4-H also offers special interest programs to local youth. A few 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 group for kids ages 5-7!

What are the parts of a typical 4-H club meeting?



- Business Meeting
- Learning Activity
- Recreation/Social Time



The recommended format of a 4-H meeting is based on youth development research:

Introduction/Brief Business Meeting (15 minutes)

This 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 and service opportunities for club members. The activity should be fun and interesting.

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.

Talbot County 4-H Council Meeting
Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in the University of Maryland Extension Office

Council Members Present from sign-in sheet: Michelle McCulley, Megan McCulley, Maria McCulley, Mitchell Lantz, Carol Frampton, Linda Brown, Amanda Clougherty, Jessi Lantz, Josh Cherry, Karla Wieland-Cherry, Noah Dorbin, Brandon Dudrow, Debbie Dudrow, Jo Anne Roe, Allison Roe, Susan Behrens, Pat Murphy, Tom Hutson

President – Jessica Lantz
 Secretary – Mitchell Lantz

Vice President – Lindsey Graudin
 Historian – Michelle McCulley

I. Call to order and pledges

II. Minutes of previous Council Meeting

III. Old Business

- **Food Drive for the Humane Society (ongoing)** – So far we have collected about 120 pounds of food. You may drop off canned or dry food to the Extension Office at any time or call if you need us to pick it up.
- **Project Workshops/Clubs** – If you know adults who would like to help offer a project workshop next year, please have them contact the Extension Office. When we identify new volunteers for new project areas, we are able to offer programs that reach more local kids.
- **Service Learning** – Many 4-H community service projects can count toward school service learning if you can relate them to your school classes. Be sure to get the person who supervises your service projects to sign your form.
- **4-H Corn Maze at Pintail Point and 4-H Halloween Event at the Ag. Center** – These were fun activities with participants from all over the county. We would like to thank the Bay Hundred 4-H Club for sponsoring the corn maze activity and all the helpers who made the Halloween Event a success.
- **4-H Clubs are Open to Everyone** – Please be sure to include our equal opportunity statement and disability statement on posters, flyers, and press releases as you promote 4-H – PLEASE SEE SEPARATE HANDOUT.

IV. Club Activity Reports:

Bay Hundred Blue Crabs – No representatives present this month. The club sponsored a fun get together at the Pintail Point Corn Maze in October. Club members also helped with the Ag. Center's Harvest Festival fundraiser, and the club is continuing to work on projects and community service during the rest of the year.

Busy Beavers – Since September 20, 2011: Three members and two adults from the club helped at Pickering Creek's Harvest Hoedown on Oct. 9. The club met at the McCulleys' home on October 14. They decorated pumpkins for The Dixon House, held their business meeting, went for a trail walk in the woods, and roasted hot dogs & smores over a bonfire. Michelle McCulley gave a talk with her horse Sugar there.

Seven members and four adults helped run two booths at the Harvest Festival on Oct. 16, which was held at and sponsored by the Talbot Ag & Education Center. Two members & one leader attended the county 4-H Halloween event at the Ag Center on Oct. 28th.

The club met at The Dixon House last Friday, November 11th, where they gave talks about their 4-H projects for the residents and then held their business meeting there. They collected food, which they sent to the St. Michaels Community Center, and a turkey for the Dialysis Center. They made plans for their annual craft party, family covered dish, and December business meeting. Following this, they will be decorating a float–theme: Santa (has) Gone Country–for Easton's Olde Tyme Holiday Parade that evening.

St. Michaels CACC After School – The club, led by Ms. Ashlie Elliott, is meeting again throughout the school year and has worked on new topics and projects this fall.

Chapel District – Several members helped with the Fall Festival at the Ag. Center. One member gave a demonstration on woodworking at the October meeting. The club program for October was a talk and activities concerning animal safety on the farm and at the fair.

At the November meeting, five members gave speeches and demonstrations about their livestock and shooting sports. The club program highlighted sugar in foods and apple facts. Pat Murphy from the Extension Office was the presenter for these fun activities. The club continues to collect cans for recycling.

Claybusters - Practices on Sundays. The Maryland State was held October 29. The club helped out at the Harvest Festival.

Green Clover - One club member went to the Halloween Party, 6 members helped at the Harvest Festival, 3 members competed in the wool contest, and 2 members made it to the national wool contest! The club's Christmas party is set for Saturday, December 3. There will be Christmas caroling, everyone will bring food, Mitchell will lead games. The club will be starting record books.

St. Michaels Community Center want to partner up and start a food drive with the Green Clover 4-H Club . The club also made flower arrangements for the Corn Club Banquet.

Hoofbeats – No representative present. Club members are continuing to learn more about horse anatomy, behavior, and husbandry. Pretty soon there it will be time to start studying for the 2012 horse-related contests again.

Saddle and Paws Club – The club has meetings the first Friday of every month from 5-7 p.m. Last month we started learning hippology questions and answers. Josh participated at the Talbot Humane Dog Show for the non-horse part. we have many new members. They enjoy horses, dogs, chickens, and rabbits. Our Christmas party will be Dec. 3 and we will also be in the Easton Christmas Parade. Karen Callahan will be at our December meeting to talk about rabbits.

Health and Wealth Club - The club met in October at the Ag. Center and explored healthy eating, whole grains, and baking. The November meeting was held at Talbot Bank, and club members learned about money management by participating in a variety of money-themed activities run by bank personnel.

Health Science Club - In October, the Easton and Dorchester clubs toured the medical laboratory hospital departments and learned about lab tests, and in November they toured the radiology department and learned about how the equipment is used to diagnose medical conditions.

V. New Business

- **4-H Promotion** – 4-H carried out educational programs and promoted 4-H at a variety of events including Trappetoberfest (thank you to Kate Cherry), Harvest Hoedown (thank you to Megan Watts, Noah Dorbin, Maria McCulley, and Megan McCulley), Harvest Festival (thank you to Megan Thornton, Lindsey Graudin, Megan Watts, the Saddle Club, and all other members and volunteers who helped). If you're not mentioned here and you helped with any of these events, thanks to you too!
- **Aluminum Can Drive for Habitat For Humanity** – Ms. Della Andrew set up a can collection box at the Extension Office this past week. Ms. Ann Dorbin has agreed to help with the project by seeing that the cans are crushed, bagged up, weighed, and taken to Habitat's ReStore. If you have aluminum cans to donate, you may drop them off at the Extension Office.
- **Be Sure You Have Cashed Your Fair Premium Checks!** – If you haven't done so, please cash your checks now so you don't lose them. Fair checks expire after one year, do don't forget about them!
- **Halloween Event Wrap-Up:** *Comments/Suggestions – fun, thanks to everyone who helped! It would have been nice to have more participants. Maybe we could combine the corn maze and the Halloween party and hold it at Pintail Point. Maybe move it to a date farther away from Halloween.*
- **Public Speaking** - Contact the Extension Office if you need help practicing public speaking. A public speaking guide is available online at talbot.umd.edu. Ms. Pat and Mr. Tom will be glad to help you practice your talks.
- **Record Books** – Contact the Extension Office if you need help working on your record book. Record book forms are available online at talbot.umd.edu. **Record books are due by Tuesday, January 17** (as always, the day after Martin Luther King, Jr. Day) if you would like to be recognized at the Achievement Program for your accomplishments. A **Record Book Workshop** is planned for **December 20 from 12-2 p.m.** at the Extension Office for those who need pointers on improving their record books. Please **register by December 14** so we know how many to plan for.
- **4-H Holiday Craft Workshop** - planned for **Monday, December 19 from 12-2 p.m.** at the Extension Office. Please **register by Dec. 14** so we know how many people to plan for. NOTE: The Lantz Family has tons of craft supplies and activities. They would be willing to host a craft workshop for 4-H members.

- **Diamond Clover** – Congratulations to Allison Roe for completing her Diamond Clover Level 6 service project that resulted in a beautiful new beef barn being constructed at the Ag. Center! Allison will be recognized for her accomplishment at the 4-H State Awards Gala in January.

All 4-H members who plan to work on a level of Diamond Clover in 2012 need to turn in a Diamond Clover plan or at least let the Extension Office know what level you are working on by January 17, the record book due date. We need to order the pins early in the year, and we need an accurate count of how many to order. Diamond Clover information and forms can be found online at: maryland4h.org.

Diamond Clover Level 6 Help: Ms. Deb Urry is our Talbot County Diamond Clover Level 6 project volunteer. If you are a senior 4-H member and you are ready to work on a Level 6 service project, Ms. Deb will be happy to meet with you to help you plan your project. Her phone number is 410-829-3925.

Here is an neat opportunity for someone in Talbot County! Former 4-H member Sara Urry is away at college now, but her Diamond Clover project is still going after 5 years. Each year, Sara holds a recognition/awards banquet for participants in the Talbot Special Riders Program that serves youth and adults with developmental disabilities. Because Sara is away now, she needs to pass on the project to someone who would like to take over. Ms. Deb Urry can help with it this year and work with anyone who would like to take over the project. The project responsibilities include: Fundraising – about \$1500 per year & sending thank you notes, sending invitations, ordering the badges, making arrangements with Milestones to hold the event, getting a cake for the event, creating certificates, ordering balloons, printing a photo of each rider, and welcoming everyone to the event/announcing names of the participants. If you're interested, please contact Deb Urry.

- **Do You Need Specific Volunteer Help?** Let the 4-H Office know if you need us to help find volunteers for your activity or project group. NOTE: The *Delmarva Farmer* is looking for stories: sean@americanfarm.com. Please send pictures of your accomplishment and a short description so that it can be included in the paper and share your work with all of the paper's readers.
- **Optimist Club Collaboration – The Optimist Club members would like to work with 4-H members on public speaking. Maybe the Optimists could visit 4-H clubs at meetings.**
- **4-H Organization and Club Charter Changes** – The federal government has decided not to continue including 4-H clubs under its federal tax exempt "umbrella". Therefore, the Maryland 4-H Foundation has kindly offered to become the "parent organization" for 4-H clubs and provide all 600 clubs in Maryland with federal tax exemption. The Foundation will coordinate all club chartering for Maryland. Ms. Amanda Clougherty, Director of the Maryland 4-H Foundation, will keep us informed as she gets more information.

VI. Upcoming Events/Dates

- Nov 18-20 – **Maryland 4-H Teen and Adult Volunteer Forum in Ocean City**
- Thursday, December 1 from 6-8 p.m. at the Ag. Center – **4-H Volunteer Appreciation Dinner** – all volunteers are welcome! *Register by Dec. 28.*
- Monday, December 19 from 12-2 p.m. at the Extension Office – **4-H Holiday Craft Workshop**. *Register by Dec. 14.*
- Tuesday, December 20 from 12-2 p.m. at the Extension Office – **4-H Record Book Workshop**. *Register by Dec. 14.*
- Tuesday, January 17 – **Record Books are DUE if you want recognition at the Achievement Program.**

4-H Council Meeting Dates for 2012:

(3rd Tuesday of the month from 6-7 p.m. at the Extension Office. Ambassadors meetings will be from 5-6 p.m.)

January 17

March 20

May 15

NO July meeting

September 18

November 13 (2nd Tuesday to avoid Thanksgiving week.)

It is the policy of University of Maryland Extension that all persons have equal opportunity and access to programs and facilities without regard to race, color, gender, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, age, marital status or parental status, or disability. If you require special assistance to participate in Extension programs, please contact the Extension Office in advance.