



Cloverleaf Chronicle January 2026



Happy New Year! Just a reminder, this publication is a forum for you, our 4-Hers, Clubs, and Volunteers! We encourage you to submit pictures and articles highlighting your activities, ideas, and outstanding accomplishments! To be included in our next issue, please email all submissions no later than 2/5/26 to Marylisa Schaedel at mschaede@umd.edu.



Congratulations to our Dog Bowl participants! Harford County 4-H swept the competition with blue ribbons for all! Great Job!



UPDATES FROM THE 4-H OFFICE



4-H Online is OPEN for enrollment! 4-Hers must be enrolled by 5/1 but we strongly encourage families to enroll ASAP so they do not miss any communications from our office! Returning 4-H Volunteers must be enrolled by 3/1. If you have any questions about the enrollment process, please contact our office!



Record Books are due no later than February 2, 2026! All forms are available on our website, <https://extension.umd.edu/locations/harford-county/local-4-h-youth-education/events-opportunities/>. Record Books are required to participate in the Harford County Farm Fair. First year 4-Hers and high school seniors are exempt from completing a record book. If you have any questions about this policy, please contact our office.



Applications are now being accepted for senior 4-H members to serve as Maryland 4-H Delegates for upcoming Leadership Conferences. Applications will be accepted through 1/21/26. For more information, visit the Maryland 4-H website, <https://extension.umd.edu/programs/4-h-youth-development/>.



Save the Date! Winter Workshop will be held on 2/14/26! Registration forms will be mailed to all 4-Hers ages 8-13. This event is open to all so bring a friend!!



UME VOLUNTEER TRAINING If you are interested in becoming a UME Certified Volunteer, please email Karen at kbtaylor@umd.edu to begin the application process and learn the steps needed to become an official volunteer! You can register as a volunteer through 4-H Online by selecting New Volunteer Applicant upon enrolling, however, you will not be certified to serve as an official volunteer for the 4-H program until you complete all required training and the background check. The training can be done entirely from your home. Please reach out with any questions!



Welcome Dan Gustitis!



I am thrilled to introduce myself as the new Administrative Assistant for 4-H here in Harford County! I have been with the University of Maryland Extension for two years, working in Baltimore City. Outside of work, I recently graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology, and became a Master Gardener and a first-time parent. As a Harford County resident, I feel right at home, and look forward to contributing to this fantastic program. I can't wait to get to know all of you and your families!

Thank You!



Special thanks to all of our clubs who participated in the Teen Council Community Service Challenge!

They were truly overwhelmed by the donations!

All participating clubs were entered into a drawing for a prize! Congratulations to the Rabbit Breeders Club! We will be providing a special treat for your members at a future meeting!



4-H Babysitter's Series



Join us for this three part series to learn about childcare, child safety, first aid, interviewing and business management! Each participant completing the entire course will finish with a project that can be entered in the Child Care division at the Harford County Farm Fair!

February 18, 2026 7-8:30 pm

March 18, 2026 7-8:30 pm

April 15, 2026 7-8:30 pm

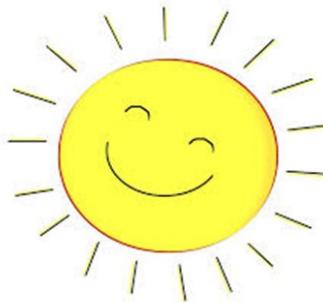
All sessions will be held at the Extension Office.

Participants must be 11 years of age or older. Bring a friend!

Please use this link to sign up: <https://forms.gle/YgQeS2oE7dHjghmn6>

Questions? Contact Marylisa mschaede@umd.edu or 410-638-3255

Send Sunshine to Seniors!



Are you looking for a fun community service project to beat the winter blues? Try making some hand drawn pictures and note of encouragement to share with our Harford county senior citizens!

You can work on this project as an individual or a club! Letters and pictures will be collected through 2/27 and will be distributed to local Assisted Living and Rehabilitation centers to bring cheer to their senior residents!

Questions? Contact Marylisa: mschaede@umd.edu

Rules:

1. Please do not include any last names or identifying information.
2. Keep your messages upbeat and positive!
3. Be Creative!!

Attention Animal Exhibitors!

This year we will once again be requiring each exhibitor to attend **ONE MANDATORY ANIMAL EXHIBITOR MEETING** in 2026. This is an opportunity for you to ask questions and learn about rule changes for the upcoming Harford County Farm Fair. Superintendents will be present as their calendars permit. Please use this form to **select the date** you wish to attend: <https://forms.gle/xvaJgdu67d1Dpa3f7>

IMPORTANT STATEMENT FROM THE BEEF SUPERINTENDENTS:

Attention Steer Exhibitors and Families:

This message is to provide an update and advance notice regarding an important livestock rule that will be enforced for the 2027 Harford County Farm Fair and Livestock Sale: All steers must weigh a minimum of 1,150 pounds to be eligible to sell. While we encourage you to meet this requirement this fair season, to ensure fairness, animal readiness, and a successful market sale for all exhibitors, the rule will be consistently enforced starting in 2027. We are sharing this information now so families have ample time to plan feeding programs, timelines, and animal selection with this requirement in mind. Please reach out if you have questions or would like support in planning ahead. Thank you for your continued commitment to Making The Best Better!

Livestock 101 Information Session



Are you new to exhibiting livestock? Are you thinking of showing a new species or simply have questions? Join us for an informal discussion all about showing livestock at the Harford County Farm Fair and beyond!

- Learn about important dates, deadlines and required documents
 - Tips on how to obtain a buyer for your animal
 - What to keep in your tack box and other helpful information

Tuesday, February 10, 2026 7 pm

Extension Office

RSVP to Marylisa mschaede@umd.edu by 2/5/26.



Harford County 4-H Public Speaking Workshop

Join us for an interactive evening of activities to practice your public speaking skills! You do not need to register for the Public Speaking Contest to attend, all are welcome to come out and learn!

February 4, 2026
7 pm at the Extension Office

Please RSVP to Marylisa mschaede@umd.edu by 2/2 to ensure we have enough materials for all.



Harford County 4-H All Stars



\$\$\$ Learn By Doing Grant \$\$\$

The Learn By Doing Grant is now open using the Google Forms link below. Applications are due March 6, 2026 and awarded at Achievement Night.

Description and criteria for the Grant as follows:

The "Learn By Doing" grant is to provide funds to help an active Harford County 4-H Club member to start a new project or expand an existing one (e.g. purchase of a special tool for woodworking or sewing; contribute to supplies for animal care, etc.). The Harford County All Stars want to assist 4-H'ers to grow in their skills and scope of projects with both financial support and guidance of a mentor as able.

Criteria:

There is no limit to the number of years a 4-H'er may apply.

1. 4-H'er must have completed one (1) full year of 4-H work (Clover Member years may not be used).
2. 4-H'er must be a member in good standing in a Harford County 4-H Club.
3. 4-H'er must be enrolled in the project for which the funds are to be used.
4. Funds must be used within 6 months of receiving the award.

Google Form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfrT9ExxdX8zzu1Vom6Jpn8c0D2UjW0TDt3O5SlvSUjP-wZA/viewform?usp=publish-editor>



Upcoming All Star Meetings

Tuesday, January 13th, 7pm Extension Office

Tuesday, February 24th, 7pm Extension Office

We will be working on the scouting process at the next two meetings. We will meet by zoom if schools or the 4-H Office is closed due to inclement weather.



Join us to learn about dogs and test your knowledge through visual diagrams, equipment, hands-on activities, and quizzes.

DOG SKILLATHON PRACTICE

Starts Jan 14, 2026, at 6:30 pm
at Harford County Extension Office

Practice Dates Wed 1/14, Tues 1/20, Tues 1/27,
Tues 2/3, Mon 2/9 and Tues 2/17

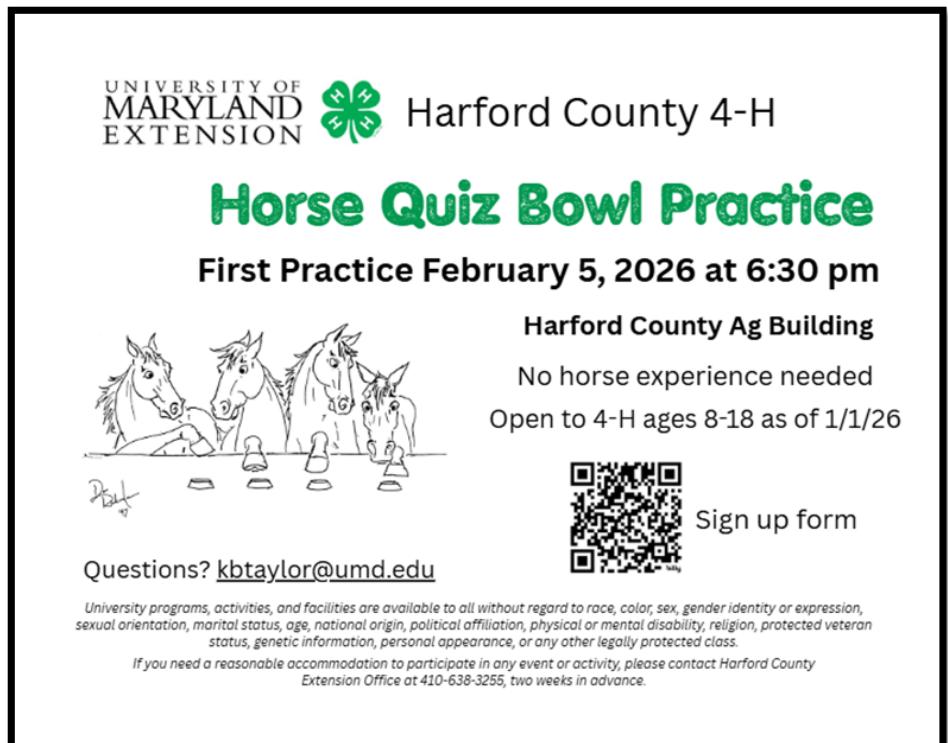
Topics:

- Breed Identification
- Care and Behavior
- Equipment Identification
- Nutrition and Feeds Identification
- Health and Diseases
- Insects and Parasites
- Anatomy and Physiology

QUESTIONS? KBTAYLOR@UMD.EDU

University programs, activities, and facilities are available to all without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, political affiliation, physical or mental disability, religion, protected veteran status, genetic information, personal appearance, or any other legally protected class.

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this event, please contact Harford County office at 410-638-3255 two weeks in advance.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION  Harford County 4-H

Horse Quiz Bowl Practice

First Practice February 5, 2026 at 6:30 pm

Harford County Ag Building

No horse experience needed

Open to 4-H ages 8-18 as of 1/1/26



Questions? kbtaylor@umd.edu

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If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in any event or activity, please contact Harford County Extension Office at 410-638-3255, two weeks in advance.

 Sign up form



4H Fashion Revue



UPDATES

2026 Fashion Revue – NEW FOR 2026!!

1. Allow two (2) Ready to Wear outfits, with one of those two entries being in a new class called “Off the Rack Challenge” – where contestants must complete total outfit look (clothing and accessories) under \$50.
2. Crocheted or knitted wearable items may be included within the appropriate class category (e.g. Shawl as Outerwear).

Mark your calendars for the Fashion Revue Planning Meeting:
Wednesday, February 25, 2026 7pm at the Extension Office

We will be planning the theme, decorations, reviewing forms and discussing future Fashion Revue plans!

Off the Rack Challenge

Participants demonstrate good consumer science by shopping for an entire outfit for a total cost NOT to exceed \$50.00 – excluding tax. “Outfit” includes visible modeling outfit, hosiery, shoes, and all accessories (jewelry, hair, purses/bag, etc.)

Participants will be judged on consumer decision (value vs. cost), appropriate for intended use, understanding of fabric/garment care, as well as usual Fashion Revue specifics (overall fashion look, fit, appearance, modeling).

Purchases must be completed in the past year, receipts required. Handwritten receipts from yard sales are acceptable.



club Notes



In November, the Hand Me Down Clovers created a wreath to be auctioned off at Deck the Stalls. Our wreath was won by Cynthia Warner and voted Grand Champion Wreath. We also collected items for the Teen Council drive.

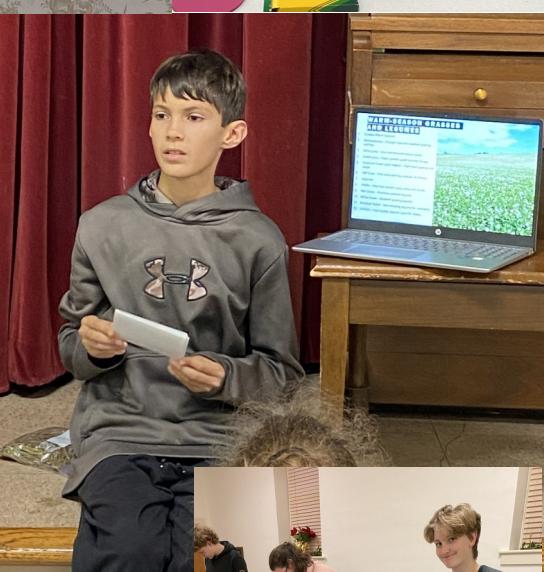




club Notes



At our December meeting, the Blue Ribbon 4-H Club held their annual family Christmas potluck dinner. Members wrapped presents for their adopted family, exchanged Christmas socks playing a Christmas game. Ruthanne Yetter provided a craft. Christopher Ortt and Jason Widman gave demonstrations. Sydney Cattell talked to the members about donating items to a cat shelter in January. We had a busy year in 2025. We look forward to a fun and exciting 2026! ~submitted by Jane Burgess, Club Leader





club Notes



For their December Meeting, the Trailblazers club listened to two demonstrations, and then they had a gingerbread house decorating contest. The presentations were on how to bake zucchini bread and on a dragon drawing from the fair. The presentations were informative, and the gingerbread house contest was both fun and yummy. ~submitted by Laura Grace Muir





club Notes



The beginning of December was a little busy for the Black Horse 4-H Club. We participated in Deck the Stalls, the Delta Christmas Parade, and Highland Holiday Tractor Parade. Our club won 1st place on stall display at Deck the Stalls. We also had our annual Christmas Party at Little Deer Creek Farm. Wishing everyone a Happy New Year!!! ~ Submitted By Ashley Kerns



January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>2026</i> Happy New Year Office Closed	2	3
4	5  Steer Tagging Paperwork and Payment DUE!! Leaders Meeting 7 pm EO	6	7  FINAL Record Book Workshop 7 pm EO	8	9	10  Steer Weigh In and Tagging 10 am- 12 pm
11	12	13  Livestock 101 7 pm EO  4-H Stars 7 pm EO	14  4-H Online Opens for Enrollment	15  4-H Teen Council Meeting 7 pm EO	16	17  Snow Date for Steer Weigh In and Tagging
18  MD State 4-H Achievement Event 1 pm	19  Office Closed	20  Dog Skillathon Practice Begins 6:30 pm EO	21	22	23	24  Volunteer Appreciation Brunch DCO
25	26	27	28  4-H Marketplace Vendor Meeting 7 pm EO	29	30  Winter Workshop Registration DUE!	31

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 	3 	4 	5 	6	7
	Record Books and Diamond Clover Forms are DUE!! Winter Workshop Reg. DUE!	Dog Skillaton Practice 6:30 pm EO	Public Speaking Workshop 7 pm EO	Submissions Due to the Cloverleaf Chronicle! Horse Bowl Practice 6:30 pm		
8	9 	10 	11	12 	13	14 
	Dog Skillaton Practice 6:30 pm EO	Livestock 101 for New Exhibitors 7 pm EO		Mandatory Exhibitor Meeting #1 7pm EO Horse Bowl Practice 6:30		Winter Workshop EO Registration Required
15	16	17 	18 	19 	20	21
		Dog Skillaton Practice 6:30 pm EO	Babysitter's Series #1 7 pm EO	Horse Bowl Practice 6:30 pm		
22	23	24 	25 	26 	27 	28
		All Stars Meeting 7 pm	Fashion Revue Planning Meeting 7 pm EO	Horse Bowl Practice 6:30 pm	Meal Appeal Forms DUE!!	



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**If you require special assistance to participate, please call the Extension Office
(410-638-3255) two weeks prior to the event.**

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**Make the Best
BETTER**