Members must designate the projects in which they intend to exhibit at the 2016 Howard County Fair by June 1st of 2016. Members may not drop a project after June 1st.

All club leaders will have a list of all projects you are enrolled in at both the April and May meetings. Please review the your projects for the 2016 4-H year, make any additions or deletions, and initial to verify the changes. When reviewing your list, please be aware that the list being turned in as of June 1st will be the one the Extension Office will use to determine what projects records are required to be in your record book. If you don’t intend to carry a project on your list, now is the time to delete it. You can only make changes through your club at a meeting or through your organizational leader. **Do not directly call the 4-H office to make changes!**

All enrollment forms and dues need to be in to Rick Hodiak by June 1st. Forms received after that date will not be eligible for 4-H Fair participation. If you know someone who is planning to join 4-H, they need to attend the April or May meeting of the club they are interested in. The 4-H office will not enroll someone without them attending a club meeting. Also, these new enrollments must come through the organizational leader.
RETURNED CHECK POLICY

When there are insufficient funds to cover a check written to the Howard County 4-H EAC, please be advised that the writer of the check will be responsible for covering the insufficient fee cost charged by the bank.

CALLING ALL NEW UME VOLUNTEERS!

UME Volunteer Training is available. This class will provide participants basic information on the University of Maryland Extension 4-H Youth Development program. It will cover UME policies and procedures and detail the process to becoming an appointed UME 4-H Volunteer. The course will be taught via Webinar. Participants will need access to a computer with internet connection as well as telephone. The sessions will not be recorded.

However, before taking the class you must contact Chris Rein at the Howard County office at 410-313-1915 or email Crein@umd.edu for UME Volunteer paperwork, that must be completed before attending the training.

Once all your paperwork is returned to the office, Chris will be able to register you for a class.

COUNT DOWN TO THE 2016 HOWARD COUNTY FAIR

As of March 1st... There are... 158 Days Left until the 2016 Howard County Fair!

See you there!

4-H VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION DINNER

Howard County 4-H Clubs will recognize their 4-H Volunteers for their years of dedicated on Saturday, May 14th. We are looking for clubs to consider making monetary donations to cover the expenses for this program. Our budget has decreased, therefore, we are relying on donations to help recognize these hard working and dedicated volunteers. Please discuss this with your club! Club leaders will be receiving a letter regarding specifics regarding this request.

FAIR SPECIAL AWARDS

The Howard County 4-H Program is looking for sponsors of Special Awards for the 2016 Fair.

If you are interested in picking up any of these awards, please contact Rick Hodiak at 410-313-1914 or hodiak@umd.edu.

4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship and life skills.
**2016 4-H CAMP**

Howard County 4-H Camp is a one-week residential camp, located in beautiful Garrett County Maryland, at the 1,100 acre Western Maryland 4-H Education Center. This ACA accredited camp will now be held from **Sunday, June 19th - Saturday, June 25th.** All youth, ages 8 (as of January 1, 2016) through 14, are welcome to apply. Applications will be available online the second week in March at [www.howard4-h.org](http://www.howard4-h.org).

The fee includes transportation to and from camp and room and board for 6 nights. Camper activities include: crafts, canoeing, swimming, hiking, archery, sports, nature class, candle-making, riflery, campfires, talent show, a one-night rustic camping opportunity, all in a natural outdoor setting. **Parents and campers are required to attend the upcoming orientation being held on May 26th** at the Howard County Fairgrounds. Registration forms are accepted on a first come, first serve basis. Please keep in mind 4-H members will received preferred status prior to **Monday, April 8th.** After that date, it will be open to all youth (ages 8-14) and placement will continue until spaces are filled. **TRY NOT TO WAIT UNTIL THE DEADLINE, SPACE GOES FAST!!**

After the camp registration deadline passes, additional information will be mailed to all applicants regarding their acceptance to camp. Need-based scholarships are available for those who qualify. For more information, please contact Chris Rein at 410-313-1915 or by email at crein@umd.edu.

**HOWARD COUNTY 4-H T-SHIRTS 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY!**

In 2016, we will be celebrating 10 years of providing Howard County 4-H'er's a t-shirt to wear at the Howard County Fair and years to come. The process has begun again and we are in the process of planning our 10 year anniversary shirt!

We are anticipating great success so all our 4-H'ers have a t-shirt at no cost!

Sponsorship forms will be posted to the web.

**HOWARD COUNTY 4-H ALL STAR 2016 BASKET AND BAG BINGO**

The Howard County 4-H All Stars are currently planning the 2016 Basket, Bag, and Bucks Bingo Fundraiser. It is scheduled for **Friday, April 1st** at the Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Department Activities Building. 4-H All Stars sponsor many 4-H awards and activities throughout our county. If interested in making a donation for the fundraiser or would like tickets, please contact Marjie Eyler 301-829-1449 or Martin Hamilton at 410-489-6258.
HEALTHY LIFESTYLES COMPETITION

The Healthy Lifestyles Competition for the Central Cluster (Montgomery, Howard, and Frederick Counties) will be held on Saturday, May 21, 2016 at the Montgomery County Extension Office (18410 Muncaster Road, Derwood, MD 20855). Juniors, intermediates, and seniors may enter the following categories—poster, tablessetting, food science exhibit, and menu. Entries should be brought to the 4-H office by 8:30 am. The tablessetting and food science exhibits require a short interview with the judge, but the posters and menus can be dropped off for judging if you are unable to stay for the whole morning. Use of the computer and Choose My Plate (http://www.choosemyplate.gov/myplate/index.aspx) is strongly recommended for researching the menu entry. The poster theme this year is “Eat Right, Be Bright.”

For more information, guidelines and to register visit https://extension.umd.edu/montgomery-county/healthy-lifestyles-visual-presentation-contests. Registration is due April 1st.

CENTRAL CLUSTER 4-H VISUAL PRESENTATION CONTEST

The Central Cluster Visual Presentations Contest will be held on Saturday, May 21, 2016 at the Montgomery County 4-H Office (18410 Muncaster Road, Derwood, MD 20855). We expect to be finished before noon. Registration and setup begins at 8:30 am. This contest is for ALL 4-H’ers.

A visual presentation can be an illustrated talk or a demonstration—they are viewed equally in the eyes of the judges. For an illustrated talk, posters and props are brought to help explain the topic. For a demonstration, steps in a procedure must be given and a finished product must be shown, in addition to having posters and needed materials or ingredients. Visuals for illustrated talks or demos may be created using computer software like PowerPoint. The judges will be looking for presentations that are interesting, well organized, and show what you know about your project area.

For more information, guidelines and to register visit https://extension.umd.edu/montgomery-county/healthy-lifestyles-visual-presentation-contests. Registration is due April 1st.

CENTRAL CLUSTER 4-H COMMUNICATION CONTEST

The contest will be held on Saturday, March 12, 2016 at Bushy Park Elementary School in Glenwood. This is an excellent opportunity, whether a 4-H'er carries a public speaking project or not, to receive valuable tips, and advice to enhance public speaking abilities and presentation. Champions will have the opportunity to move on to the State competition.

The 4-H Communication Contest for the Central Cluster (Montgomery, Howard, & Frederick Counties) will be held on Saturday, March 12, 2016, 9:00 a.m. at Bushy Park Elementary School (map link is external). 4-H’ers may participate in four different Communication Contest areas:

- Prepared Speech,
- Interpretations,
- Radio/Public Address,
- Extemporaneous Speech.

Clovers are welcome to participate in Prepared Speech area only, reciting the American or 4-H pledge.

Ribbons will be given in each of the age categories for each county. Extemporaneous presenters will draw for their speaking topics upon arrival at their scheduled time. Juniors and Intermediates have 30 minutes of preparation time and seniors have 15.

To Register https://extension.umd.edu/montgomery-county/communication-contest

Register online no later than Wednesday, March 2, 2016.
Central Cluster Fashion Revue Show and 4-H’s Got Talent” will be held on Saturday, June 11, 2016 at Montgomery County Fairgrounds 16 Chestnut Street Gaithersburg, MD 20877. New this year we will be hosting “4-H’s Got Talent” show during the Fashion Revue Intermission.

All Central Cluster 4-H youth are welcome and encouraged to participate in the talent show. If you are interested the categories will consist of: Vocal Music * Instrumental Music * Dance * Miscellaneous (Poetry, comedy, magic, drama, etc.) * Also a class to compete as a Club. While judges are making decisions refreshments will be provided. Once all judges have made their award decisions, we will have an awards ceremony! There will be $1.00 per person admission. It is going to be a fun night, so come out and participate or support fellow 4-H'er's!!!!

Fashion Revue Show
All participants in the Fashion Revue show should be dressed and ready for Line-Up at 5:30 p.m. Show will begin at 6:00 p.m. The theme for this year's show is “Fashion Awakening Premier”. Judging will be held at the Montgomery County Extension Office on June 8, 2016, 18410 Muncaster Road, Derwood, MD 20855. Judging will began at 3 p.m and run through the evening. The judging assignments will be mailed to all participants.

There are several other opportunities for 4-H'ers to participate in the Central Cluster Fashion Revue Show. If you are carrying Food and Nutrition, Public Speaking or even Crafts projects you could serve on one of the sub-committees to help prepare for the show. There are three sub-committees, Foods, Narrations, and Decorations. If you are interested in participating on one of the committees please contact Chris Rein at (410) 313-1915 or email crein@umd.edu. Or Alga Piechocinski at (301) 590-2804 or algapie@umd.edu.

Any 4-H'er carrying the Clothing or Fashion Revue projects may participate in the Fashion Revue Show. New this year is a category just offered in the Central Cluster Show. We have added a “Show Theme Category” and for 2016 it is Pajamas. Everyone is encourage to sew pajamas! All participants can enter in this category in addition to their already sewn and ready-to-wear garments.

The rules and regulations, classes, guidelines, and entry forms are posted on our local extension office 4-H web sites.

Please read them carefully and remember they must be complete with a narration and swatch of fabric. These entries are due in by Monday, May 9th. NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

It’s Back! Fashion Premier Overnight!
The Central Maryland 4-H Cluster will be hosting an overnight event for all youth from the age of (8-18) carrying the sewing/clothing/fashion revue projects on April 15-16, 2016 at the Frederick 4-H Camp and Active Center 3702 Basford Road Frederick, MD 21703. Cost $30.00 providing own supplies and $50.00 with supplies. Scholarships will be available. Registration will be posted on-line by mid March. If you are interested in additional information or be placed on the mailing of the registration packets for this event please contact Chris Rein at (410) 313-1915 or email crein@umd.edu.
MARYLAND-DELWARE SHEEP SHEARING SCHOOL

A beginning sheep shearing class will be held on April 15th and 16th at Ridgely Thompson Farm in Westminster, Maryland. Participants will learn the New Zealand method of shearing, how to adjust and take care of hand held shearing machines and how to properly handle wool after shearing. You must be at least 16 years old to participate. Spaced is limited to the first 25 who register.

Registration is due no later than April 1st.

For more information or to register:
http://mdsheepgoat.blogspot.com/2015/12/2016-maryland-shearing-school.html

TAGGING REQUIREMENTS FOR LIVESTOCK SHOWS

With the start of the 2016 show season, members need to remember several regulations established for all livestock exhibits of cattle, sheep, goats, and swine in 2014.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) has identification requirements for national animal disease traceability (ADT). All livestock being bought to shows in 2016 must have an “official identification”. This identification will be tied to a registered premise. For most livestock this means a tag bearing the official US shield.

- Sheep and goats scrapie identification is an acceptable identification, including breed registration tattoos (tattoos must be legible and follow scrapie program requirements)
- Cattle must have an official tag, brands and tattoos will not be accepted
- Swine must have an official tag, ear notches and tattoos are not accepted

What does all of this mean for 4-H projects?

- Official identification will need to be done by the producer or veterinarian to tie the identification to a registered premise.
- 4-H animals will still be tagged with a Maryland state 4-H tag
- Registered purebred animals will still be exempt from the Maryland state 4-H tag but must have an official identification with the US shield for shows
- For 4-H shows both the official identification and the Maryland 4-H identification must be listed on your CVI (heath papers)
- In 2016 4-H swine projects will be tagged with a regular 4-H tag. Maryland 4-H will NOT be providing the official ADT tags.

For more information about the tagging requirements please visit:
www.mda.maryland.gov/animalHealth/Pages/Fairs- Shows.aspx

HIPPOLOGY/HORSE JUDGING WORKSHOPS

Great opportunity for members whom are interested or have a love for horses! Horse Judging and Hippology practices will begin on Monday, March 14th and will held 6:30 p.m. at The Cullum’s House. Participants of all age levels will acquire skills and knowledge about horses to make them better horsemen and prepare for the State Contests. Competing in the contest is not a requirement. For more information please contact Diana Cullum via e-mail at diana.cullum@verizon.net

Horse Judging focuses on confirmation and movement.

Hippology covers several areas such as feed, equipment, bones, terminology, body parts, confirmation, and tack.
2016 MARKET LIVESTOCK RATE-OF-GAIN PROGRAM

Beef Steers, Market Goats, Market Lambs, and Market Pigs will have minimum “rate-of-gain” required to show in 2016. This means that market animals will have to gain a certain amount per day from Tag-In Day to the County Fair:

- Beef - 2.0 pounds of gain per day
- Sheep - .40 pounds of gain per day
- Swine - 1.5 pounds of gain per day
- Goat - .20 pounds of gain per day

WILLS FAIR

Wills Fair will be held Saturday, May 21, 2016 at the Howard County Fairgrounds. The Catalog with rules and regulations for each department as well as entries forms are available online.

Entries are to be mailed to the 4-H Department, Carroll County - UME, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD 21157. Entries need to be received on or before April 22, 2016.

You can find the information on the Howard 4-H website at www.howard4-h.org.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

All animal science quality assurance trainings will be completed online for 2016. The online Quality Assurance program will be available online after March 15th.

Please read the following information very carefully:

Anyone enrolled in the following projects must complete online Quality Assurance training: alpaca, beef, dairy, goat, horse, poultry, rabbit, sheep, and swine.

- If you completed online Quality Assurance training last year please read the following bullet points:
- If you have not added any new animal projects and have not changed an age level (Junior to Intermediate or Intermediate to Senior), then you do not need to do anything this year.
- If you have a new animal project this year, then you must complete the introductory section as well as the specie specific section of the online Quality Assurance training.
- If you changed age levels this year, then you are required to complete the introductory section and all animal sections related to your projects.

If this is your first year in 4-H, then you are required to complete the introductory section and all sections related to your projects.

MARKET LIVESTOCK TAG REPLACEMENT

Each year we have market animals that lose their ear tags. This creates a challenge re-tagging the right animals. Animals need to be housed and handled so they do not lose their tags. Replacement tags will cost $10.00 each. Animals will be re-tagged at weight checks. Please notify Sheryl at 410-313-1912 or by email at sherylb@umd.edu if you have an animal that loses a tag. Sheryl needs to be notified within 48 hours.

BEEF FIELD DAY

Mark your calendar now! The Howard County 4-H Beef Field Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 30th. It will be held at the Howard County Fairgrounds. It is mandatory that all Junior, Intermediate and First Year 4-H'ers carrying a beef project attend and exhibit one animal at this event. If you have a conflict, please contact Sheryl ASAP at 410-313-1912 or sherylb@umd.edu.
Basket, Bags, and Bucks Bingo
To benefit the Howard County 4-H All Stars

Friday, April 1, 2016
20 Regular Games plus Special Games & Raffles
ALL BASKETS & BAGS WILL BE FILLED
Doors Open at 5:30 p.m.
Bingo Starts at 7:00 p.m.
Food will be available!

Location:
Mt. Airy Fireman’s Activity Building
Twin Arch Road, Mt. Airy, MD 21771

Ticket prices:  $18 in advance
               $20 at the door

For Tickets Call:
Marjie at 301-829-1449
Martin at 443-472-8276

Please notify us if you have special needs, when ordering tickets.
We will do our best to accommodate you.

This bingo party is in no way connected with, nor is it approved or sponsored by, the Longaberger® or Vera Bradley Companies. The name is used to describe the prizes that were purchased.

University of Maryland Extension programs are open to all citizens and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, religion, ancestry, or national origin, marital status, genetic information, or political affiliation, or gender identity and expression.