

Inside 4-H

Sarah Beale

Contact us at:

bdobbins@umd.edu

The Month of February 2022

Hello all, we have made it into a new year! 2022 is sure to be another fun adventure for us all. We have already rolled passed a month and there is no sign of slowing down in sight. From all of us here in Southern Maryland, we hope you had a wonderful Christmas and a lovely start to the new year. Let's just hope it doesn't end up like 2020, too. Get it, twenty twenty - too.

In St. Mary's county, the 4-H clubs are off to a great start. The clubs have held their first meetings of the new year and the youth club officers are learning their way around their new leadership positions. An officer's training workshop was held over zoom on January 27th. Officers from around the county joined to learn about their roles and perform a mock meeting. This event was a great way to build connections between youth from all of the clubs. The 2022 club officers will be inducted during the 4-H banquet in March.

The annual banquet is scheduled to take place in person on March 19th. In the past couple years, the banquet was required to be held virtually, so we are glad to get back into the normal groove of celebrating with friends and family face to face, even if we might still need the mask.

The Maryland State 4-H gala was held on January 28th to honor accomplishments from the 2021. Youth are also recognized for their hard work and achievements. From St. Mary's County we are celebrating Thomas Gale, Trent Vallandingham, and Sara VanRyswick for all of their hard work with the program.

New state events and programs are available for enrolled youth. The 4-H Pollinator Ambassador club had an informational meeting in January and will be meeting every month on the 4th Mondays. Participants must be 14-18 and the meetings are held at the Neighborhoods Creative Art Center in LaPlata, Maryland. This program will teach youth about the importance of pollinators and they will have the opportunity to plant a pollinator garden.

On February 12th, a dairy fun day was held virtually on zoom. This event included a dairy skillathon, quizbowl, and dairy educational experience. A dog fun day is also scheduled for February 20th, on zoom. They will be holding a dog skillathon, dog bowl, and other fun activities relating to the dog project. The skillathons test 4-Hers knowledge about a certain topic. These events are a fun way for 4-H members to learn more about their projects and also function as a way to get new members involved.

A Career 'AGsperience' Program was held at the Howard County Fairgrounds and the Talbot county Agricultural center. These meetings, held between January 12th and February 26th,

allow 4-Hers to explore career planning and agricultural opportunities within their community. The program involves resume development, internship acquisition, interviewing skills, and business etiquette in the field of agriculture. These events are open to members from 13-18. The skills learned from this program will be beneficial for all career types, not exclusively agriculture.

Lastly, the St. Mary's County 4-H program is planning our annual overnight and day camps. Volunteers are needed for both events. The overnight camp, scheduled for August, is a fun and exciting way for youth to connect and learn. The day camp is another fun way for all 4-Hers to gain experience with their environment and make new friends in their community.

That's all for this month! Thank you for reading and staying in tuned with this great 4-H program. We hope you have a good start to your new year. Until next time, stay healthy, and happy 2022!

Inside 4-H

Sarah Beale

Contact us at:

susanv@umd.edu

bdobbins@umd.edu

The Month of June 2022

Hello again to local and loyal readers! What a beautiful year this is turning out to be, although it is absurd how quickly the time is passing. It seems January was only yesterday, and it can be hard to distinguish the months with the ever-fluctuating weather. St. Mary's County is enjoying the warming weather, although the occasional storms can get a bit rough. Nevertheless, our agricultural community understands the value that rain has so we won't complain too much. The 4-H groups certainly appreciate the help of the rain. Our 4-H youth can hardly wait for the end of school and the start to summer vacation! And hopefully starting in September students will have their first normal school year since 2019.

In 4-H news, workshops are available to prepare members for contests and projects. The record book workshop was hosted on April 28th at the St. Mary's County Agricultural Services Center Conference Room. The record books are extremely valuable in 4-H because they document the youth's experiences and projects. They hold members accountable for keeping up with expenses and documentation which is a life skill that can be helpful in the future.

A robotics workshop was held on May 14th for members interested in competing in the future 4-H robotics contests, including one at the State Fair. The workshop covered the rules and guidelines that must be followed, Then, participants and coaches split into groups to learn about challenge-specific content.

The horse projects are also getting competitive with a hippology contest. With registration that closed on May 23rd, contestants prepared for the event leading up to June 11th. The contest was held at the Howard County Fairgrounds and invited members from all over Maryland to participate.

The Maryland 4-H Aerospace Workshops will be available to 4-Hers from May through July at various locations. The workshops will teach students lessons about physics and aeronautics, help students find careers in the aerospace industry, and give participants the chance to build their own rockets. There will be an Aerospace Contest held in the fall which any member in the 4-H program can attend, but only if they participated in the workshops. Volunteers are also welcome if they are interested in aeronautics and are willing to help with supervising and rocket building. One workshop was held on May 21st in Caroline County 4-H Park and the next will be on June 19, 2022 at Harford County 4-H Camp.

St. Mary's 4-H is excited and preparing for the upcoming Day and Overnight camps. The day camp will span from June 20th – June 24th at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds. Activities including baking, crafts, cooking, sewing, archery, science, gardening, and painting will be offered. Participants will also visit animals and learn about proper agricultural practices. The event is open for 5-13 years old but also includes older members who will help as junior counselors.

The overnight camp will go from July 31st - August 5th at the MD 4-H Environmental Education & Camping Center in Swanton, MD. The camp has a large lake, obstacle course, hiking trails, shooting ranges, and sport fields. The six day long camp is perfect for youth to connect with other 4-Hers from around the county.

Overall, St. Mary's County 4-H groups are excited to start the summer season and we hope that everyone reading stays safe and healthy. Until next time, thank you for keeping up with us!

Inside 4-H

Sarah Beale

—

Contact us at:

susanv@umd.edu

bdobbins@umd.edu

The Month of August 2022

Hello hello! Thanks for sticking by and keeping up with your local 4-H friends. It is such an exciting, yet exhausting time of the year. Appreciating the warm weather and outdoor activities is important, but it is equally necessary to find ways to keep cool and value the heat from afar. In St. Mary's County, now is the prime time to take a breezy boat ride, find a shady place to go fishing, play in the refreshing pool, go on late-day walks, and even make new summer traditions to enjoy for years to come.

Youth of St. Mary's who have discovered wonderful opportunities through the 4-H program are finding even more joyful experiences this summer. Annual week camps were held between July and August, including a day camp and an overnight camp. Each camp was offered as a chance for kids new to, and experienced in the program to spend time with new peers.

The kids at the day camp, held in July, participated in various activities including cooking, sewing, air rifle, archery, farm safety lessons, and whole group songs. The campers ended the 5-day camp with tie-dying and water games. In August, previous and new campers traveled to Garrett County in Western Maryland. Participants, teens, and adult counselors enjoyed swimming, air rifle practice, craft making, and bunking together for a fun-filled 7-day adventure.

The 2022 Maryland Horse Visual Arts Contest opened in July for all 4-Hers aged 8-18 to submit creative works. The contest is split into three divisions depending on the age group. Juniors, intermediates, and senior divisions will have separate winners. Contestants may enter one work in each class which includes fine arts, photography, and visual arts. All entries and winning pieces will be displayed in a slideshow posted on the Maryland 4-H website.

A workshop that took place on July 26th was held by the local Wild Things 4-H club to educate youth on how to properly raise and show pigs for the annual fall St. Mary's County Fair. The class featured information regarding daily care, feeding, and walking procedures, and show ring etiquette. Skillathons and other workshops are held throughout the year to prepare new and adept livestock owners for upcoming shows.

On July 31st, another workshop was hosted by the Maryland 4-H Aerospace Program in Anne Arundel. The event offers 4-Hers an opportunity to improve their understanding and skills involving science and engineering. The participants constructed model

rockets, learned about the basics of aeronautics, and discovered careers surrounding aerospace.

On August 12th, a fossil fun day was hosted by the Tudor Hall 4-H club. The event was taught by an educator at the Calvert Marine Museum. The program is directed primarily for 4th graders, however, all members were welcome to attend.

As summer comes to a close but feels warmer than ever, try to stay cool and safe until next time. Hopefully, then we will be discussing the Fair events from September!