

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION Garrett County

September 2024 Newsletter

POLLINATOR EDUCATION CORNER



The 4-H Building had a new addition this year at the Garrett County Agriculture Fair. A Pollinator Education corner was set up thanks to contributions from Enbridge.

The Pollinator Education corner had something for all ages to engage with. Flower models, insect samples, and insect life cycle models allowed visitors to see and learn about a variety of pollinators and their role in our environment. Educational handouts and posters allowed fair goers to visually recognize important native plants, and get information on upcoming UME programs that might also be of interest.

Kids and adults alike were able to play pollinator theme games, complete puzzles, read books together, and make their own insect antennae headbands to take home. Wildflower seed packets were also distributed for free so everyone can help provide valuable resources for our important pollinators.

In addition, 4-H and Master Gardeners will be making plans to install a demonstration pollinator garden in the spring at the Maryland 4-H Environmental Education & Camping Center for visitors to see and learn more about creating pollinator habitat. Thank you Enbridge for your support to make this possible!

Fun With 4-H/Back To School Class Offered

Begin the new school year by creating a personalized pencil holder. This Back-to-School DIY project will help you stay organized and add a touch of style to your desk. Also, youth will have fun preparing a delicious apple snack to welcome the autumn season. The class is scheduled for September 18th from 2-3 pm at the Extension Office. Called to reserve your spot at 301-334-6960. Space is limited.

SEP

BACK TO SCHOOL

MAKE & TAKE

Wednesday, September 18th
(school 1/2 day)
2-3 pm
Garrett County 4-H Office Meeting Room
All materials provided
Space is limited - Sign up today by
calling
301-334-6960

Make your Own
Pencil Holder
&
Apple Snack

Garrett County
FUN WITH 4-H

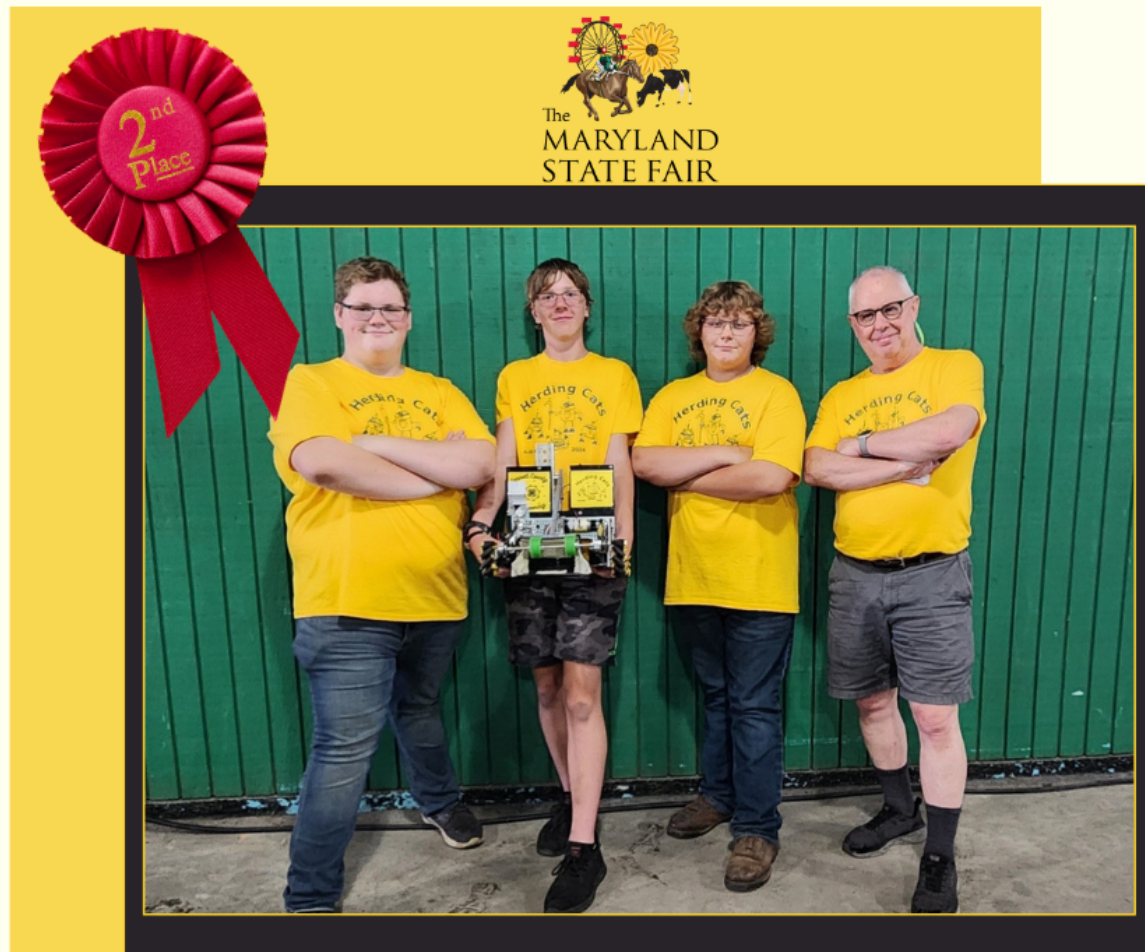
Herding Cats Compete At Maryland State Fair

The Garrett County team, Herding Cats, consisting of Dustin DeBerry, Galloway Goodwin and Jett DeWitt recently competed at the Maryland State Fair in the State 4-H Robotics Challenge REC (Robotic Engineering Challenge). The State 4-H Robotics challenge features a new game each year that requires 4-H members to build a robot to complete specific tasks. The team built a robot approximately 12" X 12" X 12" to be able to collect wiffle balls and score them in a 12" tall goal. The Herding Cats team came in 2nd place in the Senior Division. The team is coached by Phil

Malone and Arlene Lantz. Phil and Arlene also help to set up for the competition and run the competition. Willie Lantz, AgFS educator from Garrett County, serves as the MD State Fair Robotics Superintendent. Willie also managed the LEGO portion of the state fair competition.

For more information on the Maryland State 4-H Robotic Challenges go to:

<https://extension.umd.edu/programs/4-h-youth-development/program-areas/stem/>. If you are interested in participating in robotics programs, call the Extension Office at 301-334-6960.



Herding Cats

2nd Annual Tomato Festival

University of Maryland Extension in Garrett County coordinated the 2nd Annual Tomato Festival in Garrett County, held during the Deep Creek Farmers Market on Aug. 23rd. More than 80 people participated in the taste testing activity and 31 tomatoes were entered into the judging contest! Please consider coming to the festival in 2025!



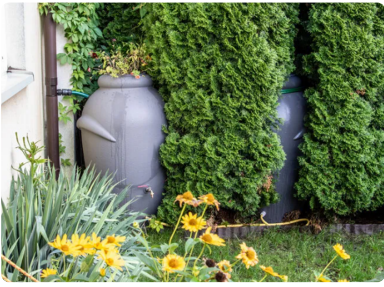
Ruth Enlow Library Sessions-Wrap-Up



Eighteen gardening sessions were offered across the 5 branches of the Ruth Enlow Library over the last few months. During each session, participants were able to enter a free raffle to win an EarthBox Vertical Gardening system. The drawing was held on Aug. 1st with Leah Stutzman being the lucky winner! Stay tuned for more classes.

How to Make A Rain Barrel

The extreme heat and lack of precipitation this season have forced many people to get creative with finding a way to water their gardens. Rain barrels are a great addition to your outdoor space!



Rain barrels can be sophisticated with features like valves, hoses, etc., or they can be any type of container that holds water. Please remember that the container should be food-grade so that nothing toxic will leach out of the container and there should be a mesh screen/net over the top so that [mosquitoes](#) cannot enter to lay their eggs.

For more details click [HERE](#).

A Great Start to the New School Year



Everyone loves summertime. The usual strict schedules loosen a bit, and days are loaded with fun and exciting activities. Kids tend to stay up later, and bedtime routines are often set aside throughout these fun-filled weeks. But every good thing must come to an end, especially when the goal is to get off to a great start with something new. As the school year approaches, you

might want to consider some tips around starting the school year off on the right foot. Begin preparing today with some of these great suggestions.

Read the entire [Eat Smart Blog](#) for some great tips and getting off to a great start this school year!

Lantz Presents at S3AM Summit

University of Maryland Extension is part of a grant to improve oyster harvesting called S3AM: Smart Sustainable Shellfish Aquaculture Management. The Maryland 4-H STEM program has headed up the development of youth activities to help educate youth about oysters and underwater robotics. The team has developed a simple underwater ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) that youth can build and then fly underwater in a tank to collect bingo chips (simulating oysters). The team has also developed a curriculum to teach youth about oysters and how underwater ROVs operate.

Willie Lantz, project lead for the 4-H Stem Team, recently participated in the 2024 S3AM Summit and Expo held at the A. James Clark School of Engineering at College Park. The Expo showed off work that the engineers, graduate students and youth have been working on. In 2024, the 4-H STEM team engaged 750 youth in learning about oysters and underwater ROVs and built 56 of the simple ROVs. The S3AM activities are funded by a USDA NIFA Sustainable Agriculture Systems Grant. In addition to statewide team members, Garrett County Extension personnel, Karen Wood and Phil Malone, work alongside Willie Lantz on this innovative project.



Hiring and Retaining Farm Employees

Are you trying to find, hire and keep great employees? Is it a bit confusing and time consuming? Do you know where to start and who to involve? Are you worried about the legal considerations when having non-family members employed? Dr. Jesse Ketterman has been working with Paul Goeringer with the Ag Law Initiative to develop an online course titled Hiring and Retaining Farm Employees.

This course will help you sort through all these questions and concerns. Navigating this process doesn't have to be difficult as this course will share with you. Through the four modules of this course, you'll get important information and resources you can adapt for your own operation.

Register [HERE](#).

Photo Credit: Edwin Remsberg



Learn About!

- Retirement planning
- Health care access
- Health insurance
- Employee benefits
- Health care coverage
- Employee manual

Apply To:
Hiring and Retaining Farm
Employees



An online course that teaches you all of the important facts and strategies to finding and keeping the right employees

Scan Here!



Extension Advisory Committee Provides Input

The EAC (Extension Advisory Committee) met for the third time this year with our program focusing on horticulture needs assessment. Our EAC will be looking to add volunteers to our committee in the next few months and if you are interested in joining, look for more information in our upcoming newsletters or call our office at 301-334-6960.

EAC Meeting
2024



Update AG Client Contact Information




Agriculture & Food Systems

Are you receiving our monthly AG Newsletter? If not, please [click here](#) to update your contact information and to stay updated on everything agriculture-related in Garrett County and the tri-state area.

Keeping Connected

We are here to serve you in person, by phone, email, or by Zoom. If you have questions, contact one of our experts to provide solutions.



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Roberta Cvetnick

Roberta is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

