

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

Garrett County

September 2025 Newsletter

Hybrid Master Gardener Basic Training Classes Scheduled

Here is your chance to take the Master Gardener Basic Training in a hybrid format— 3 full days of in person training and then 7 virtual sessions on Zoom. The preference is for you to join the virtual sessions live, but you do have the choice of watching the recordings at your convenience each week. Open to residents in both Garrett and Allegany County! You won't want to miss this!

To register for Allegany: Call 301-724-3320 or email sllewell@umd.edu
 To register for Garrett: Call 301-334-6960 or email abachtel@umd.edu

**Master Gardener
Basic Training-
Allegany &
Garrett
Hybrid 2025**






Virtual Dates
 Nov. 10, 17, 19, 21
 Dec. 1, 3, 8
 Time: noon to 2pm

In Person Dates
 Nov. 12, 13, 14
 Time: 9:30am - 4:30pm - daily

In person training held at Garrett College Northern Outreach Center- 12601 National Pike, Grantsville, MD 21536

Training Topics Include

- Soil Science
- Botany
- Ecology
- Insects
- Plant Diseases
- Native Plants
- Vegetable Gardening
- Increasing Biodiversity
- Much More

Apply before Oct. 1, 2025

Master Gardener Requirements

- Virtual background check during application
- Complete 40 Hours of Basic Training & 40 Hours of Volunteer Service to get certified

\$190 /Person

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION **MASTER GARDENER**

A reduction in fees is available by request and is approved based on availability, eligibility, and financial need.

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 any event or activity, please contact University of Maryland Extension @ 301-334-6960 by Oct 1, 2025.

3rd Annual Tomato Festival

The University of Maryland Extension in Garrett County successfully hosted the 3rd Annual Tomato Festival. Held at the Deep Creek Farmers Market on August 22nd, the festival attracted over 50 taste testers sampling various tomato varieties. A total of 46 tomatoes vied for top honors in the five judging contest, showcasing the impressive skills of local growers. The festival not only highlighted the bounty of Garrett County's agricultural community but also fostered a sense of camaraderie among attendees. Members from our local Extension Advisory Council joined in on the fun as well.

Watch for the 2026 event and join this celebration of tomatoes, where you can taste, and enjoy the company of fellow tomato enthusiasts!



Pollinator Garden Update

Planted in May of 2024 this garden has survived its first year and is thriving! Be sure to stop by and see how easy it is to build habitat in your home landscape.

Pollinator Garden

Building habitat while
providing a festive
landscape



🌟Master Gardener Spotlight~Ann Sherrard🌟

Ann actively volunteers with the Master Gardener program here in Garrett County. Her support of the program displays her passion for gardening and community education. Ann states that "I encourage others to join this group of fun and dedicated volunteers." We are so grateful to have wonderful volunteers like Ann to make this program a success!

Interested in learning more and making an impactful difference in your community? Reach out to Ashley by dialing 301-334-6960 or email abachtel@umd.edu on becoming a Master Gardener!

Member Spotlight

ANN SHERARD



Why I chose to become a master gardener :

"Gardening has been my favorite hobby for years. I wanted to join the Master Gardeners to help with their community projects and teach young people about important environmental topics."

My most memorable experience as a master gardener so far:

"I love seeing young people get excited and dive in to help with projects like building bee hives or removing invasive plants."

The impact being a Master Gardener volunteer has had on me:

"I joined with the idea of providing information to others. What I didn't realize was that I would be learning something new myself at every meeting. The others I meet at events always have great tips to share."

Completed the Master Gardener
basic training in:
2016

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

MASTER
GARDENER

MASTER GARDENER

Not Too Late To Think About Planting

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER

Seed Library

Announcing the new seed library at the University of Maryland Extension Office in Garrett County!

Free seeds for your home garden!

Come browse the selection of seeds during regular office hours - M-F, 8am to 4:30pm. Special appointments by request.

First come, first serve availability. Be a mindful gardener & only take seeds of what you intend to grow. New seeds added periodically. Check back often.

Interested in donating to the seed library? Contact Ashley at asachtel@umd.edu or by dialing 301-334-6960

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August is perfect for planning a late fall harvest with cool-season crops like lettuce, kale, and peas, which thrive in cooler temperatures and withstand light frosts. These crops extend the gardening season and provide fresh produce when summer vegetables are done. Visit our Seed Library for resources, and by sowing seeds now, you can enjoy a fall harvest.

Stop by our Seed Library at the Extension Office Monday through Friday 8:00 am-4:30 pm.

Summer/Fall Pasture Walks

University of Maryland Extension, NRCS, and Maryland producers invite grazers, livestock

owners, and associated industry personnel to attend some upcoming educational pasture walks this summer/fall! These field-based events will cover a range of topics and will be held at various locations across the state, both on producer farms and at UMD research centers.

September 9, 2025 at 5:00 PM

Location: Porch View Farm in Woodbine, MD

Description: Join University of Maryland Extension, NRCS, and producer Keith Ohlinger for an educational pasture walk at Porch View Farm. Discussion will include silvopasture, rotational grazing with mixed species, and amendments to build soil health on the farm.

Registration: <https://go.umd.edu/pasture-september>

October 15, 2025 at 4:00 PM

Location: Wilson Dowell Farms in Owings, MD

Description: Join University of Maryland Extension, NRCS, and producer Jason Leavitt for an educational pasture walk at Wilson Dowell Farms. Discussion will include grazing management, maximizing grazing days, and multi-species management.

Registration: <https://go.umd.edu/pasture-october>

November 13, 2025 at 3:00 PM

Location: University of Maryland WMREC in Keedysville, MD

Description: Join University of Maryland Extension and NRCS for an educational pasture walk at the Western Maryland Research and Education Center. Discussion will include mixed-species grazing and extending grazing with winter annuals and stockpiled forage.

Registration: <https://go.umd.edu/pasture-november>

Participants are welcome to join for one or more events. Registration is free but required, please visit the specific link for each individual event or call 301-432-2767 to register. All events will be outdoors, please dress accordingly.

For more information on upcoming forage events visit <https://go.umd.edu/forageevents>. If you

need accommodations please contact Amanda Grev (agrev@umd.edu; 301-226-7575).



August 27 at 6:00 PM
Interseeding Annuals; Grass Finishing
 Twin Cedar Farm - Cordova, MD
<https://go.umd.edu/pasture-august>

September 9 at 5:00 PM
Silvopasture; Building Soil Health
 Porch View Farm - Woodbine, MD
<https://go.umd.edu/pasture-september>

UNIVERSITY OF
 MARYLAND EXTENSION

PASTURE WALKS

SUMMER/FALL 2025

In collaboration with NRCS and
 Maryland Farm Cooperators;
 supported by NE SARE

October 15 at 4:00 PM
Maximizing Grazing Days
 Wilson Dowell Farms - Owings, MD
<https://go.umd.edu/pasture-october>

November 13 at 3:00 PM
Winter Annuals; Multi-Species Grazing
 UMD WMREC - Keedysville, MD
<https://go.umd.edu/pasture-november>

University of Maryland is an equal opportunity provider

Summer Reading Club Concludes

This summer, Karen Wood and Emily Pysell presented 4-H programs centered around the theme "Color Our World" for the Ruth Enlow Summer Reading Club, taking place in Friendsville and Kitzmiller. The Friendsville program enjoyed a fairy frog garden class, where participants created mini succulent gardens with frogs featured on hand painted rocks. Later in the summer, Nature's Colorful Canvas class was offered in Kitzmiller, giving youth the opportunity to explore the art of pressed flowers. Participants crafted their own flower presses and designed beautiful, dried flower window displays.



Color Our World

4-H Presents Programs for the Ruth Enlow Summer Reading Club
 Friendsville & Kitzmiller

Decoupage Class Offered

Join us for a fun afternoon making your own personalized decoupage clipboard using a variety of materials from paint, fabric, paper and photos. You'll have the opportunity to show your creativity and explore different design techniques. We will guide you every step of the way, ensuring you have everything you need to make a clipboard that reflects your personal style. We will provide the clipboard and essential supplies. Feel free to bring your favorite photos or decorative items to make your project one-of-a-kind. We can't wait to see what you create! Call us at 301-334-6960 to register. Space is limited.



SNAP-Ed In Action!

Nourishing Neighbors:

This summer our SNAP-Ed Project Leader, Kenzie Mousch partnered with the Appalachian Farm & Food Alliance and assisted with the Nourishing Neighbor Produce Distribution & Resource Exchange. At this exchange, she educated on ways to incorporate seasonal fruits and vegetables into healthy and nutritious meals for all. Resources were given to attendees on ways to use the produce in their boxes like recipes, proper storage, and cooking. A food demo was conducted using recipes from our [EAT SMART](#) database. Below were the specific recipes that were demonstrated this month:

[Cucumber Salad](#)

[Corn Salad](#)

Tomato Festival:

At the 2025 Tomato Festival, Kenzie provided Tomato-inspired recipes and demonstrated a version of Cowboy Caviar. There are many different ways to cook Cowboy Caviar but she used a lime and vegetable oil base recipe that uses cherry tomatoes instead of canned tomato puree. She suggested cutting the tomatoes and removing the seeds to reduce the amount of liquid in your dish. This will ensure the final product has a thicker texture and not runny!

[Cowboy Caviar Recipe](#)

Busy Garrett County Fair Week



The Garrett County Fair is one of the best weeks of summer, and also one of the busiest weeks of the summer for 4-H. Each day, multiple 4-H events are happening, where youth get to show off all their hard work. From different livestock, equine, rabbit, and poultry shows, to fashion revue and tractor driving, there is always something to watch and participate in. Even though it's always a full schedule, there is always something new. This year, UME 4-H hosted exciting additions to the fair week including the UMD Insect Zoo and two school group tours.

Creepy, Crawly Insects Visit Garrett County Fair

Todd Waters from the UMD Department of Entomology brought the the Insect Zoo to the fair to provide a unique opportunity for the community to learn about the diversity of arthropods and their importance in our ecosystems. The exhibit included giant leaf bugs, stick bugs, a native hercules beetle larvae, blue death feigning beetles, giant millipedes, roly pollies, the giant vinegaroon, jungle centipede, giant forest scorpion, friendly tarantulas, and more. Many visitors were excited to get an up close look and even touch and hold them, others admired from a distance at the odd creatures visiting Garrett County. Either way, visitors had an experience to remember for a long time.

Learning Day At The Garrett County Fair

UME 4-H and Master Gardeners partnered with Grantsville Elementary and Yough Glades Elementary to host students as part of their community schools program. Students and teachers learned about a variety of plant and vegetable identification skills, and got to try first hand to judge a sampling of vegetables just like a fair judge would. Students also got to learn about pollinators, make a craft, and visit the UMD Insect Zoo to learn about insects from other parts of the world. The school tours also got to watch a dairy cow be milked out, enjoyed tours of the animals hosted by 4-H members, and got to walk around and visit the exhibit barns. Students had the full fair experience with enjoying lunch at the fair and ice cream.

Pollinator Education Corner

The Pollinator Education Corner was set up again in the 4-H Exhibit building 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.

4-H Indoor Exhibits

Each year is exciting to see the creative items you have made over the year when they enter their indoor exhibits into the 4-H building at the fair. From the historical staples like produce, flowers, and canning, to new trends in crafts, artwork, and jewelry. Photography and crafts continue to be popular categories, along with 4-H club booths. Entries are judged, and a Best of Show is selected in each department. In a matter of hours, our 4-H indoor exhibit building was full with over 900 entries. The following day, every single entry is examined, judged, and awarded ribbons. We are so grateful for the 60+ community volunteers who help make entry day and judging day a smooth success for our 4-H members.

4-H indoor exhibits continue to offer youth a multitude of benefits, including skill development, personal growth, and community engagement. These projects foster practical skills through hands-on experiences with techniques specific to each craft, such as measuring ingredients for baked goods, cutting and finishing in woodworking, or using appropriate tools and safety to create metal work. Intricate embroidery, diamond art, and crochet improve fine motor skills and dexterity. In these projects, members can personalize their projects, fostering creativity and problem-solving skills. Working with different materials enhances critical thinking. These exhibits can be time-consuming and tedious, requiring patience and perseverance, and instill a strong work ethic.

Fashion Revue

The 4-H Fashion Revue is an event growing out of the 4-H Clothing and Sewing projects. It is an opportunity for 4-H members to exhibit and model a garment, either purchased or made by the member. After members interview with a panel of judges to share about their outfit, youth model the garment on stage to a narration self-written. This event helps youth learn about using money wisely, laundering, mending, sewing, communication, and developing poise and confidence. These

historical skills are still just as necessary in today's world. This year's event had 12 youth members modeling 14 garments.

Pictured: Front Row (left to right): Heidi Yost, Clover Ready to Wear and Farm Queen Princess; Cassidy Ashby, Junior Made By Member Best of Show; Cailyn Miller, Clover Ready to Wear; Braylon Marple, Junior Made by Member; Isabella Sines, Clover Ready to Wear; Korinne Powell, Junior Ready to Wear Best of Show.

Back Row (left to right) Kyle Kepple, Senior Ready to Wear Best of Show; Ava Cosner, Intermediate Ready to Wear; Isabel Whiteside, Senior Made By Member Best of Show; Julia Ramsey, Intermediate Ready to Wear.

Engineering Events

During the 4-H Engineering Events, thirteen 4-H members participated in up to five contests that focused on mechanical engineering skills. During the contest, members tested their skills on knowledge of content area, identification of parts and participated in a skill-related event. During the hands-on portion, members rode bikes, drove lawn mowers, drove tractors, worked on small engines and soldered electronics. The five contests are Bicycle, Small Engines, Electricity, Lawn and Garden Tractor and Tractor. The overall winner was Wade Yost. Jonathan Malone will also be moving forward to compete at Maryland State Fair to represent 4-H in the State 4-H Tractor Event.

Pictured: Back Row (left to right) Willie Lantz, Engineering Superintendent;, Janet & Larry Tichnell, Engineering Sponsors; Lane Miller, Jonathan Malone, Richard Deatelhauser, Cade Conner, Jasmine Ramsey, Dustin DeBerry

Front Row (left to right) Heidi Yost, Farm Princess; Wade Yost, Luke Ashby, Jerad McKenzie, Grant Guard, Camber Rizer, Julia Ramsey

Impressive Garrett County Livestock Sale

The generosity of our community continues to be seen fair week, in their support for our 4-H Animal Science projects at the Garrett County Fair. From market chickens and rabbit showmanship, to equine riding and showmanship and other market and breeding livestock, members' hard work was celebrated throughout the week. At the end of the fair week, the livestock sale continued to draw tremendous support from the community, with another record-breaking year totalling \$862,718.35 in sales. Members utilize these funds to start projects for the following year, and contribute to longer-term savings goals like college, trade schools, or their first vehicle.

Garrett County 4-H is grateful for the exceptional support from our community, which significantly enhances the unique character of Garrett County.



Update AG Client Contact Information



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.



UME-Garrett County

Email: rcvetnic@umd.edu

Website: <https://extension.umd.edu/locations/garrett-county>

Location: 1916 Maryland Hwy., Suite A, Mt. Lake Park, MD 21550

Phone: 301-334-6960

Office Hours: M-F 8:30 am-4:30 pm excluding holidays

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/4HGarrettCoMD>

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Roberta Cvetnick

Roberta is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters