



# CHARLES COUNTY 4-H VOICE

WINTER 2025-2026



## Reminders

### Officer Installation

The 4-H office is happy to attend your club meeting and install your officers. Please let us know and we will make sure that someone from the office will be able to attend.

### 2026 Requirements for Livestock

Please see page 10 for the 2026 requirements for livestock.

### Registration Policy

For fee-based programs, a completed application, other required forms, and payment must be mailed or brought into the office. Email registration is not an option for workshops that charge a fee. At least five youth must be registered for our event to take place. Please make sure you get your registrations in on time.

**4-H Online will re-open to the public on January 14<sup>th</sup>**

### Inclement Weather Policy

**When Schools are closed due to inclement weather, 4-H programs are also cancelled.**



## 4-H Team

**Kelly Bryant, Charles County 4-H Educator**  
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**Bonnie Boyden, Program Management Specialist**

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**Jeanne Williams, Program Assistant**  
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## Contact Us!

University of Maryland Extension  
Charles County Office  
9501 Crain Highway, Box 1  
Bel Alton, MD 20611

Phone: 301-226-7500

**Visit our website for the latest registration forms & updates!**

<https://extension.umd.edu/locations/charles-county/4-h-youth-development/>



**This is a Tentative Calendar, and all dates are subject to change.**  
**For the most recent updates visit the calendar on our website.**

## January

01/03.....	Steer Weigh-In.....	9 - 11am
01/06.....	Officers Training.....	6 - 7:30pm
01/07.....	Skillathon.....	6 - 7:30pm
01/08.....	Crochet Workshop.....	6 - 7:30pm
01/12.....	Skillathon.....	5 - 7pm
01/14.....	Skillathon.....	5 - 7pm
01/14.....	<b>4-H Online Re-open</b>	
01/15.....	Sewing Workshop.....	4:30 - 6:30pm
01/15.....	Crochet Workshop.....	6 - 7:30pm
01/17.....	Public Speaking Workshop.....	9 - 10:30am
01/20.....	Skillathon.....	5 - 7pm
01/20.....	New Volunteer Training (Virtual).....	6:30 - 8:30pm
01/21.....	Skillathon.....	5 - 7pm
01/22.....	Sewing Workshop.....	4:30 - 6:30pm
01/22.....	Crochet Workshop.....	6 - 7:30pm
01/24.....	Volunteer PD- Managing Club Disruptions (Hybrid).....	9 - 10:30am
01/26.....	Skillathon.....	5 - 7pm
01/28.....	Skillathon.....	5 - 7pm



## February

02/02.....	Skillathon.....	5 - 7pm
02/04.....	Skillathon.....	5 - 7pm
02/05.....	Sewing Workshop.....	4:30 - 6:30pm
02/05.....	TENTATIVE Poultry & Rabbit Interest.....	6 - 8pm
02/06.....	Public Speaking Contest.....	6 - 8:30pm
02/09.....	Skillathon.....	5 - 7pm
02/10.....	Broiler Q&A.....	6 - 8pm
02/11.....	Skillathon.....	5 - 7pm
02/12.....	Sewing Workshop.....	4:30 - 6:30pm
02/12.....	Clover Night.....	5 - 6pm
02/17.....	Skillathon.....	5 - 7pm
02/18.....	Skillathon.....	5 - 7pm
02/19.....	Sewing Workshop.....	4:30 - 6:30pm
02/19.....	New Volunteer Training (Virtual).....	6:30 - 8:30pm
02/23.....	Skillathon.....	5 - 7pm
02/25.....	Skillathon.....	5 - 7pm
02/27.....	Bug Zoo: Clovers.....	5 - 6pm
02/27.....	Bug Zoo: Members 8 - 18.....	6 - 7pm

## March

03/01.....	Mock Skillathon.....	1 - 3pm
03/02.....	Skillathon.....	5 - 7pm
03/03.....	Skillathon.....	5 - 7pm
03/04.....	Skillathon.....	5 - 7pm
03/05.....	Skillathon.....	5 - 7pm
03/11.....	LIT Training.....	1 - 4pm
03/11.....	Sewing Workshop.....	4:30 - 6:30pm
03/12.....	Volunteer PD (Virtual).....	4:30 - 6:30pm
03/14.....	Project Day.....	9:30 - 11:45am
03/16.....	Beef & Swine Q&A.....	9:30 - 11:45am
03/18.....	Sewing Workshop.....	4:30 - 6:30pm
03/18.....	New Volunteer Training (In-person).....	6 - 8pm
03/25.....	Sewing Workshop.....	4:30 - 6:30pm

## Looking Ahead

As we look ahead to 2026, the new year brings exciting new opportunities for youth to learn, grow, and connect through 4-H!

The upcoming year will focus on helping young people build confidence, discover new interests, and develop valuable life skills through hands-on, engaging 4-H programs.

Be on the lookout for these exciting opportunities launching in the first quarter of 2026!

### **Club Officers Training**

The 2026 Officers Training Workshop will be Tuesday, **January 6th** at the 4-H Office at **6:15 p.m.** The training is to help your new officers understand their role as President, Vice President, Reporter, Secretary or Treasurer. All of our clubs should be represented. Alternates may also attend.

Email Bonnie to register at **bboyden@umd.edu**.

### **Skillathon**

Practice for Skillathon starts **Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm** at the 4-H office. If you would like to learn more about your beef, sheep, swine, or goat this is a great opportunity! Learn about feeds, meat, breeds, and equipment.

Email Bonnie to register at **bboyden@umd.edu**

## **Crochet Workshops**

New in 2026, crochet workshops will be offered beginning in January! Crochet opens the door to a world of creative possibilities—truly, the sky is the limit!

Youth will learn the basics of crochet while practicing patience and creativity, and they will take pride in creating something with their own hands. This workshop encourages problem-solving and fine motor skill development while giving participants the opportunity to explore fiber arts and express themselves creatively.

Dates for the first Crochet Workshop are **January 8<sup>th</sup>, January 15<sup>th</sup>, and January 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6 – 7:30pm**. Future dates will be announced.

Questions? Please reach out to Mikayla at **mdiane@umd.edu**.



### **4-H Online Re-Opening**

4-H Online will reopen to the public on **January 14**, marking the start of registration for the new enrollment year.

## **Volunteer Professional Development in January**

Are you a 4-H Volunteer that struggles with managing expectations at meetings or activities? Are there disruptions from youth and adults and you just are not sure how to handle it? If you answered yes to either, then this PD is for you! Kelly will be offering the hybrid workshop on Saturday, January 24 at 9 AM. You may join her at the 4-H Office or from the comfort of your own home via Zoom. To register:

[https://umd.zoom.us/meeting/register/7YB7QVWTHmvFI1\\_mliwPA](https://umd.zoom.us/meeting/register/7YB7QVWTHmvFI1_mliwPA).

## **Sewing Workshops**

The January and February workshops will be open to 4-H members ages 8–10, as well as youth who are in their first year of 4-H.

**The January sessions will be held on January 15 and 22, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. and the February sessions will take place on February 5, 12, and 19 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.** These workshops are designed to introduce youth to the basics of using a sewing machine and foundational sewing skills, all while creating a project that can be entered in the fair, given as a gift, or used at home.

The registration form may be found online once it is available and in Bonnie's Weekly Update email.

Questions? Please reach out to Jeanne at [jeanneh@umd.edu](mailto:jeanneh@umd.edu).

## **Clover Nights**

The first Clover Night of 2026 will take place on **January 14 from 5:00–6:00 p.m.** This Clover Night will focus on Arctic Animals, where youth will explore the science behind how animals stay warm in cold environments through hands-on activities and fun crafts.



Additional Clover Nights are scheduled for **February 12 and March 24**. A 2026 Clover calendar will be posted to the Charles County 4-H website, and sent out to registered Clover parents.

For any Clover-related questions, please contact Mikayla at [mdiane@umd.edu](mailto:mdiane@umd.edu).

### **Public Speaking Workshop**

Interested in learning how to give a speech, explore the different types of speeches you can choose from, and discover helpful tips to calm your nerves? The Public Speaking Workshop is a great opportunity to build confidence and prepare for future presentations! This workshop will be held on **Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup> from 9 – 10:30am.**

To register or learn more, please contact Bonnie at **bboyden@umd.edu.**



### **Public Speaking Contest**

We are excited to share that the 2026 Public Speaking Contest will be held in person on **Friday, February 6, 2026.**

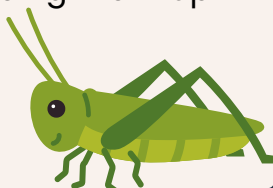
Registration information will be sent out and posted on the Charles County 4-H website as the event date approaches.

For more information, please contact Donna at **dmohler@umd.edu.**

### **Insect Zoo**

We are excited to announce that Charles County 4-H will be hosting a Bug Zoo with Mr. Todd Waters from UMD's Department of Entomology!

Youth will have the opportunity to learn all about insects while seeing them up close at the 4-H Office!



On **February 26, Clovers** (ages 5-7) are invited to experience the Bug Zoo from **5:00–6:00 p.m.**, followed by **4-H ages 8–18 from 6:00–7:00 p.m.**

More information will be available as the date approaches. Questions may be addressed to Mikayla at **mdiane@umd.edu.**

### **Air Rifle & Archery**

Air Rifle and Archery programs will begin in **late January through mid-February.** These classes are held indoors and run simultaneously, with each session lasting one hour and meeting weekly.

Participants will learn the fundamentals of archery and air rifle shooting, including safety, proper technique, and equipment use.

If you are interested in learning more or joining these classes, please email Jeanne at **jeanneh@umd.edu.**

### **Broiler Project**

The Broiler Project involves raising meat chickens for personal consumption or for sale to consumers. Broiler chickens grow quickly and are typically processed at 6 to 8 weeks of age.

A mandatory Quality Assurance meeting will be held on **February 10 at 6:00 p.m.** to review all requirements, expectations, and important deadlines for participating in the broiler project. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Jeanne at **jeanneh@umd.edu.**





## **Shotgun**

Shotgun generally begins in **mid April** for the beginner session. The shotgun program teaches youth the fundamentals of using a shotgun and aiming at targets flying in the air.

If this is something that may appeal to you, reach out to Jeanne at **[jeanneh@umd.edu](mailto:jeanneh@umd.edu)**

## **2026 Tentative Camp Dates**

Day Camp: **June 22 – 26**

Overnight Camp: **July 19 – 25**

## **Hippology**

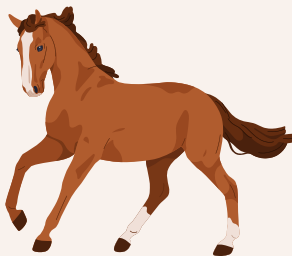
What is Hippology? Hippology is a 4-H program focused on learning all things horses!

Participants explore horse breeds, feeds and nutrition, equipment, careers in the equine industry, and how to judge horses, along with many other topics.

Youth who participate may also have the opportunity to attend the State Hippology Contest in June, where they can put their knowledge and skills to the test.

If you love horses—or simply enjoy learning about them—this program may be a great fit for you!

For more information or to sign up for the 2026 Hippology program, please reach out to Jeanne at **[jeanneh@umd.edu](mailto:jeanneh@umd.edu)**.



## **What's Been Happening?**

### **2025 Shotgun Program**

Congratulations to the Charles County youth who attended the State Shotgun Match on October 18! The following members proudly represented Charles County: Colton Fabey (Junior),

Ethan Abell (Intermediate), Luke Barrett (Intermediate), Clarke Peacock IV (Senior), and Caleb Zarychta (Senior).

They did a fantastic job and represented the county extremely well. Highlights from the match include:

- Colton Fabey placed 1st in Trap and 2nd in Skeet.
- Luke Barrett placed 9th in Clays and 17th Overall.
- Ethan Abell placed 9th in Trap and 15th Overall.
- Clarke Peacock IV placed 2nd in Skeet, 3rd in Clays, and 7th Overall
- Caleb Zarychta placed 16th Overall

We are proud of all of our shooters for their hard work, dedication, and excellent sportsmanship!



### **Fun with Foods!**

4-H'ers explored the difference between store-bought and made-from-scratch creations with Kelly in her Fun with Foods class. Youth prepared homemade pizza, cookies, and breakfast sandwiches over the course of three different nights. The youth entered their cookie creations in the Kris Kringle Cookie Decorating Contest.



### **Holidays Around the World**

Youth learned about holiday traditions and legends from around the world while participating in corresponding STEM activities. They explored robotics and coding using Ozobots, investigated acids and bases by creating fizzing ornaments, and learned engineering concepts through hands-on challenges.



### **Sewing, Sewing, & More Sewing!**

There was plenty of sewing in 2025 as 4-H'ers created incredible projects, including bags and shirts. Check out some of their hard work under the leadership of Mrs. Herbert and Ms. Joan!





## Club News

### Country Clovers 4-H Club News

#### **Submitted by Nolan Kozloski, Reporter for Country Clovers**

At the July meeting, the members met and had a mini club project day. The members made a Water Candle, a Sand Glass Art, a Seashell Tray, and a Mason Jar Tie Dye Shirt. All items could be entered into the 4-H building at the Charles County fair.

There was no regular meeting for August. The members worked on their booth of "Mirror, Mirror on the Wall, There is a Leader in Us All", and the Banner of "See How We Shine in the Country Clovers 4-H Club". Both won second place at the fair.

There was no club meeting in September due to the fair.

The October meeting was a regular meeting with the members making an air-dry ghost. They also made witch hat cookies to eat for fun.

At the November meeting, the members elected the following as their Officers.

President – Kaitlynn Diehl  
Vice President – Taylor Carter  
Secretary – Journee Groomes  
Treasurer – Layla Everly  
Historian & Reporter – Emma Bynum, Madilynn Bynum, Peyton Kemp, and Nolan Kozloski

The members concluded the meeting with a craft of a sitting turkey.

The members celebrated their holiday party at the December meeting. They shared pizza and food, and desserts. They made two ornaments and played the gift card exchange game.





## **Rabbit Club News**

### **Submitted by Elizabeth Hayes, Rabbit Club Reporter 2025**

During the October meeting at Rabbit Club, members learned about Lionhead rabbit breed, and worked on their record books during the meeting.

In November, members voted on new officers for 2026!

The 2026 Rabbit Club Officers:

President – Zoey Herron

Vice President – Lily'Ann Cupp

Secretary – Angelia' Heard

Treasure – Ronae' Heard

Reporter – Elizabeth Hayes

Historian – Lucas Kydd

Rabbit Club members also participated in sewing workshops in October and November, making drawstring bags to give to a local food bank.

## **Rebels Club Report**

### **Submitted by Zoey Herron, Rebels Club Reporter**

The Rebels Club has finished another year of fun and learning, thanks to our amazing leader, Mrs. Bailey. She always gives so much to make sure our club has the best experiences!

In October, we worked on our community service project by filling bags for Operation Christmas Child, shared our fair experiences, and celebrated our booth, scrapbook, and banner placings (2nd, 1st, and Grand). We finished the evening by decorating (and eating!) Halloween cookies.

Our club had so much fun at Trunk or Treat, playing games, eating candy, and spending time with our friends. At our November meeting, we worked on a woodworking project for next year's fair. Some of the projects were pretty complicated, but we all helped each other out.

In December, we had our holiday party with lots of fun games, a cookie bar, and a crazy sock exchange. We also voted on our club officer positions for the upcoming year. Congratulations to our 2026 officers!

President – Zachary Bryant

Vice President – Karleigh Berry

Secretary – Kylie Brooks

Reporter – Zoey Heron;

Historians – Brookelynn Berry & Delana Bryant

Photographer – Makenzie Berry

Sargent of Arms – Harmony Jackson ;

Recreation – Lily Ann Cupp and Steven Nunberg

If you're looking to try out a new club, come give Rebels a try—we would love to see you there! Here's to another great 4-H year!

## 2026 Requirements for Livestock



- 1) All Market Animals must have a 4-H Tag. Steer tagging and weigh-in Saturday, January 3, from 9-11 am.
- 2) All breeding animals must be registered with 4-H and a copy of breed association registration papers must be submitted to the office by July 1. If you do not register the animals, you will be unable to show them in 4-H. If you do not have registration papers, they will have to show in the crossbred class (commercial) in all species. Heifers, ewes and does must have a state breeding tag to be eligible to show in a 4-H class. Breeding animals may be leased but must have the lease agreement on file with the office by July 1.
- 3.) All market swine, goats and sheep must be owned and registered by May 15, 2026. All Swine must have an USDA 840 tag and Sheep and Goats must have a MD scrapie tag.
- 4) 4-H'ers must own their livestock project market animals.
- 5) There is no substitution of market animals once they have been registered and tagged. You may tag only 5 beef and sheep, 5 swine, and 3 goats. If you intend to show at the state fair, you may tag more than these limits, but they may only be shown at the state fair.
- 6) If your animal loses its state ear tag, save the tag and contact the office at once for a replacement tag. No animal will be shown or weighed in at the fair that does not have a 4-H tag.
- 7) All male animals must be castrated prior to ear tagging or they will not be tagged.
- 8) You must turn in a record book to the 4-H office to be able to show livestock the following year.

