



## 4-H Record Books Due February 2

It is that time of year again! 4-H record books for 2025 are due to the 4-H office by February 2, 2026. Diamond Clover Levels 1 to 5 from 2025 are also due at this time.

Record Books, Awards, and Fair Eligibility:

- To meet fair eligibility to show livestock - Members must submit a complete record book with a completed project sheet for each livestock project exhibited at the 2025 Allegany County Fair to show at the 2026 Allegany County Fair.
- To receive a ribbon and certificate/seal - Members must complete a record book with at least one completed project record inside.
- To receive additional reward and optional project pins - Projects must be complete and inside a complete record book.

Please put your name and 4-H age on the front of the binder. For a complete guide and forms, go to <https://go.umd.edu/AC-forms>.

If you need assistance, please contact our 4-H staff at 301-724-3320 or email [jparrish@umd.edu](mailto:jparrish@umd.edu).

## Club Items Due February 2

The following items are due to the 4-H Office by February 2 to remain in compliance with Maryland 4-H requirements:

- Program Plan for 2026
- Officer Roster for 2026
- Secretary Book for 2025

The Program Plan and Officer Roster were sent to club leaders. Forms are also available at <https://go.umd.edu/AC-forms> or by emailing [jparrish@umd.edu](mailto:jparrish@umd.edu).

## 2026 Club Officers

For your officers in 2026, check out the "Clubs, Groups, Chartering, and Financial Resources" section of the volunteer section of the Maryland 4-H website - <https://extension.umd.edu/programs/4-h-youth-development/volunteers>

Send us a photo of your club with the officers in the front row to share in an upcoming 4-H newsletter and on our Facebook page.

## Event Calendar

### February

- 2 - Record Books, Club paperwork due
- 8 - Gardening Workshop
- 24 - 4-H Kick Off

### March

- 8 - Small Engines Workshop
- 13 - County Public Speaking Contest

# 2026 4-H Enrollment



Enrollment is now open in 4-H Online. To enroll in Maryland 4-H Online, you need to use Firefox, Chrome, or Safari web browsers. Go to <https://4honline.com/>

- Current Members - Enrollments are due by February 1.
- New Livestock Members - Enrollments are due by April 1 to show animals at the fair.
- New Members - Enrollments are due by June 1 to be eligible to participate in the county and state fairs.
- Volunteers - Enrollments for returning volunteers must be completed by March 1.

It is important to enroll as soon as you can, so you will continue to receive the newsletter, email updates and other important announcements.

As a reminder, projects and volunteer types & roles will not roll over into next year. You will need to select your projects and volunteer information again. Volunteers, check your volunteer type in 2025 so you will know what to select in 2026. If you are unsure, please call 301-724-3320 or email [jparrish@umd.edu](mailto:jparrish@umd.edu).

**If you have any issues re-enrolling, please contact our office. Do not create a new family profile.**

Enrollment fee - Maryland 4-H has an annual \$10.00 enrollment fee per 4-H member (No fee is collected for volunteers and there is a cap of \$30.00 for families with more than three children). Families will pay the fee online by credit card at the time of enrollment.

## First in 2026!

### First to Turn in Record Books

Congratulations, Jacob, Lawson, and Kaleb Ritchie! For being the first to turn in their 2025 record books, they received a home movie night goody basket.



### First to Enroll

Congratulations, to second-year member, Charlie Cessna! For being the first to re-enroll in 2026, he received a 4-H goody bag.



# 4-H Kick Off

**February 24, 2026**  
**6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**  
**Allegany County Fairgrounds**

**Register by February 20**  
<https://go.umd.edu/2026KickOff>

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in any event or activity, please contact the University of Maryland Extension Office at 301-724-3320.

We're excited to start the new 4-H year with a fun and engaging 4-H Kick-Off Event designed to help youth start strong and feel confident for the year ahead! This hands-on, interactive event will focus on key 4-H skills, including:

- Leadership & Officer Training
- Record Books & the Diamond Clover Award
- Public Speaking

Youth will be divided into 4-H age groups - Clover, Junior, Intermediate, or Senior and will rotate through learning stations, giving everyone the chance to explore each topic. We'll mix in games and activities to keep things fun and energetic!

Parents and volunteers are encouraged to attend and rotate with the youth, offering a great opportunity to learn alongside them, ask questions, and better support members throughout the year.

Whether you're new to 4-H or a returning family, this kick-off event is a great way to connect, learn, and get excited about the year ahead. We hope to see you there!



Frostburg Rise & Shine 4-H Club's meeting was all about fun. Following a group game, members played bingo with prizes, and enjoyed delicious food.



On a recent 4-H Friday, George's Creek 4-H members harvested their grow tower lettuce. It will be sent to the Coney Market to be turned into meals for their community. 4-Hers were responsible for harvesting the lettuce and preparing the towers for the next planting.



Members of the Bishop Walsh 4-H Robotics Learning teams recently celebrated their FIRST LEGO League Explore season at the REACT FLL Qualifier at Allegany College of Maryland.

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# Livestock News

## 2026 Maryland 4-H Horse Bowl Contest



The 2026 Maryland 4-H Horse Bowl Contest will be held Saturday, March 14th, at the University of Maryland, College Park, Plant Sciences Building. This is a contest in which teams compete. There is a \$7.00 entry fee for each contestant. 4-H members wishing to participate should contact their county/city 4-H office.

Official registration for the contest must be submitted via the 4-H Online registration system by February 18th, 2026 (Registration is opening soon). Individuals participating in the statewide contest must be enrolled as a Maryland 4-H member for 2026 in 4-H Online by February 18, 2026.

Contest rules are available on the Maryland 4-H Horse Program webpage at: <https://extension.umd.edu/programs/4-h-youth-development/program-areas/animal-sciences/4-h-horse-program/>



## Maryland Department of Agriculture Animal Health Update

The following changes to livestock requirements have been announced by MDA. All 4-H and FFA animal exhibitors will need to follow these in order to exhibit at the 2026 fair:

- CVIs (certificate of veterinary inspection) must now be completed within 60 days of the fair.
- CVIs will now be required for horses.
- CVIs will be electronic. Have a copy ready on your phone or other device at check in and be prepared to show it if asked throughout the fair week.
- Poultry testing is now only good within 14 days of the start of the fair.
- Livestock is required to be visually checked daily. This check will be completed by someone from the 4-H office, a barn coordinator or an Ag Expo board member.

## Maryland State Fair Updates



2026 Fair The Maryland State Fair Agriculture Committee has approved a change for this year's Fair regarding Rate of Gain requirements - 4-H & FFA Market Exhibitors

- Rate of Gain will NOT be required for exhibition in the 4-H/FFA beef, sheep, and swine market divisions.
- Rate of Gain awards will still be given, including ribbons and premiums, just as in past years.

Please note:

- All animals must still meet minimum and maximum weight requirements as outlined in each department.
- Ownership deadlines, county weigh-ins, and tagging requirements remain in effect.

## 4-H Diamond Clover Levels

The Diamond Clover Award Program engages 4-H youth in a variety of projects and activities that will enable them to acquire skills related to leadership, community service, civic engagement and advocacy. The award consists of six levels that require a 4-H member to plan and accomplish a broad range of age-appropriate goals with supportive volunteers and community members. The Diamond Clover Project is one-way 4-H youth can make a lasting difference in their community.

- Levels 1 to 5 - If you have completed these levels in 2025, they are due to our office by February 1 (with record books).
- Level 6 - The Diamond Clover Level 6 Service Learning Project enables a 4-H member to demonstrate life skills including leadership, planning, and organization as they complete a major community service project. If you would like to start a Level 6 project, email Michelle, mharman2@umd.edu for guidance.



For more information, please visit the Maryland 4-H website, <https://extension.umd.edu/programs/4-h-youth-development>.

## Scholarships for 4-H Events

Scholarships for Allegany County 4-H members and volunteers are available for 4-H local, regional, state, national and other events and camps. Such 4-H opportunities may include State Council, Volunteer/Teen Forum, State/National contests, 4-H camps, and more.

Applications are due two weeks before the registration deadline for the event. Applicants may not apply for more than two scholarships within a calendar year.

Complete guidelines and an application are available by calling 301-724-3320, by email at [jparrish@umd.edu](mailto:jparrish@umd.edu), or online at (under 4-H Forms) <https://go.umd.edu/AlleganyCounty4-H>.

## 4-H Workshops

**Constitution Park - 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

- February 8th - Gardening (Square Foot Gardening, Microgreens, Vermicomposting)
- March 8th - Small Engines
- April 12th - Sewing

More details coming soon!

# Happy Birthday!

Sarah Amyot  
Coltin Baer  
Morgan Bowser  
Trent Cessna  
Cooper Cessna  
River Cutter  
Laura Felton  
Jude Gibson-Thoele  
Michael Hall

Isabella Harbaugh  
Joseph Khachan  
Minh LE  
Sophie McHenry  
Lincoln McKay  
Charles McMillan II  
Leeland Moyer  
Audriana Nash  
Daniel Olenick

Clayton Piper  
Kolten Rice  
Caysen Ritchie  
Delilah Sagal  
Jack Seifarth  
Kylie Self  
Kalli Trub  
Gaige Vinci  
Phinley Wiley

## Save the Date!

4-H Kick Off  
February 24, 6:00 pm  
Fairgrounds

4-H Public Speaking  
Contest  
March 13, 6:30 pm  
Fairgrounds

2026  
Allegany County Fair  
& Ag Expo  
July 17 to 25

## Contact Us ~ 301-724-3320

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If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in any event or activity, please contact the University of Maryland Extension Office.