



Maryland State Fair Information

Mark your calendars for three big weekends this year:

- Thursday, August 27 through Sunday, August 30
- Thursday, September 3 through Monday, September 7
- Thursday September 10 through Sunday, September 13.

4-H Engineering events will be held on the third weekend.

The 4-H/FFA Livestock Auction will be Monday, August 31.

Pre-entry will be required!

Online entry is now available at <http://www.marylandstatefair.com/exhibitors/4hffa>



MD State Fair Passes



4-H Members and Certified Volunteer 4-H ID cards will be allowed free admission to the Maryland State fairgrounds. Please email Roberta at rcvetnic@umd.edu by Monday, August 3 to obtain a 4-H member or certified volunteer card.

Giving a Demonstration

What is a demonstration?

A demonstration is doing, showing or telling how, making, or using something. It is action.

Why give a demonstration?

A demonstration helps others learn how to do something useful, possibly in an easier way. It helps you learn more about the topic you choose. It helps you gain self-confidence. It helps you become more organized.

Planning your demonstration

- Select the topic – make sure it is a subject that you can speak about for the amount of time needed. (Juniors and Intermediates 5-10 minutes and Seniors 10-15 minutes)
- Choose a clever title (sometimes it helps to do this last)
- Gather information and list materials needed – list important steps
- Outline what you need to say so that you will be explaining each step

Sample outline would include:

Introduction

This is where you HOOK the audience. Make sure you say your name, age, years in 4-H, and your club. Begin with a story, poem, quotation, question, headline, challenge, state a fact, etc. Tell why the topic was chosen.

Body

This is where you do, show, tell how, or make in an organized way. (steps go in order) Use your own words. You do not have to memorize....use your outline. When demonstrating, take nothing for granted. Even if you are doing something everyone knows how to do, make sure you explain each step. Tell about any experiences you have had with your topic. If you use posters, make sure that they can be read.

Conclusion

This is where you sum up your demonstration. Make sure you have made the points you want the listeners to remember.

Ways to conclude your demonstration: Summarize important points one at a time. Use a quote or poem that summarizes the important points. Ask a question? If you asked a question in the beginning, answer it at the end. Always practice, practice, practice before you give your demonstration!

Tips for Delivering your Demonstration

Relax, take a deep breath and breathe out slowly.
SMILE and ENJOY the experience.
Look at the people watching – It may be helpful to pick out one or two people and talk to them.
Say words correctly.
Speak in a clear voice.
Use your hands.
Use facial expressions.
Be sure you know about the topic you chose.

What should the topic of my demonstration be?

Ideas from projects.
Things you do at home and would like to show others, i.e. hobbies.
Things you learned from a tour or school trip.
Think about a long demonstration and list the smaller demonstrations in it.
Important things going on in your community, i.e. parades, memorials etc.
Community projects you or your club have carried out, i.e. road clean up, visiting nursing homes, creating "goodies" for the nursing home, etc.
Things you want to learn.
Things you feel you do very well and would like to teach others.
Things that younger 4-H members should learn this year.
Things research has found out about your project this year.
Ideas you see on TV.
Ideas from the newspaper.
Things you are interested in, i.e. sports.



Garrett County Fair Information



Fair Clean-Up And Preparation

The fair clean-up and preparation will be held on Wednesday, July 29, 2026 from 1:00 - 4:00 pm. This also counts as a make-up meeting. Older youth, please make plans to help us get ready for a great fair. Please call the Extension Office to let us know you can help. We appreciate everyone's help.

Indoor Exhibits

Indoor exhibits will be accepted on **Saturday, August 1st from 10:00am until 4:00pm**. This information is listed in the schedule of the fair premium book.

Booths & Banners

Each club may enter one booth and one banner. You may enter in either open-theme or annual-theme, which is **"4-H: Ready for Work and Life."** Please be sure to submit an indoor entry form in the club's name and call the 4-H office to reserve space. If you need instructions, email rcvetnic@umd.edu. Complete rules are found in the fair book on pages 201-203. The Soil Conservation booth has now been moved to photography.

Fair Books

The Garrett County Fair Books have been distributed to the 4-H leaders. Please contact your club leader for the book. If your leader does not have sufficient copies, you may pick up a book at the UME 4-H Office. Entry forms are in the fair book. If you need more than two sheets, you may make copies.

Sign Up Sheets

Sign-up sheets are available at the office for 4-H'ers wishing to participate in the following activities: **4-H Club Booth, Garden Displays, Demonstrations, Morning Clean-up, Show Helpers, Host and/or Hostess in the 4-H Building and Animal Costume Parade.**

Livestock Orientation

Livestock Orientation will be held in the show ring at the Fairgrounds.
Wednesday, July 29th at 6:00 pm for first-time market animal exhibitors.
Sunday, August 2nd at 5:30 pm for all market animal exhibitors.

Service Opportunity for Senior Members

If you are a Senior 4-H member and would like to assist with announcing, keeping records for the livestock shows or helping with any other activities at the Garrett County Fair, please call 301-334-6960.

Clean-up

Volunteer leaders are needed to coordinate morning clean up of the fair grounds with the children between 8:00 am—9:00 am during the week of the fair. Call 301-334-6960 to register to help with clean-up.

4-H Demonstrations at the Fair

4-H Demonstrations are a great way to show others what 4-H is all about. 4-H'ers should consider performing a visual presentation during the Garrett County Fair. Be thinking about your demonstration topic and contact the 4-H office at 301-334-6960 to sign up. Just a reminder of the criteria for giving a demonstration, see enclosed insert. In order to receive a premium for your demonstration at the fair, you must meet the criteria. Aliza Friend will be coordinating demonstrations at the Garrett County Fair.

Important Fair Information Letter

The "Important Fair Information" letter was mailed to each animal project member June 1, 2026. Please carefully read the letter and review all sections of the 2026 Garrett County Fair Book. If you should have questions, please contact Debra Barnard at 301-334-4170, Livestock Coordinator, or Lacie Ashby at 301-334-6960.

Reminder ~ Contacting Buyers

Youth with livestock that will be sold at the fair should do the following: Contact potential buyers (mail, personal visit, etc.) Let buyers know that if they purchased an animal last year, they will receive two fair passes by mail from the Garrett County Livestock Association. If you have potential buyers who did not purchase last year, families may purchase an entry pass for them.

2026 GC Fair Sale Pictures

Pictures will not be taken at the fair. Pictures will be taken by the exhibitors and sent to the Garrett County Livestock Association via a Google Form.

Exhibitors must be in show attire, animals must be clean and the entire animal must be in the picture. Pictures must be recent photos, taken in the last 30 days. **All pictures are due by July 15th.**

If you have any questions, please contact Jackie Wright at 240-321-0553.



To submit your picture, please visit: <https://forms.gle/UZw7UGGAZXGPHAq36>