UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

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CARROLL COUNTY 4-H

TRIBUNE - NOVEMBER 2026

EXTENSION OFFICE TEMPORARY CLOSURE

As we have communicated with 4-H Families throughout October, the Extension Office is temporary closed through Sunday, December 6, 2026. The office is currently undergoing asbestos removal and no staff members or public can enter the building until we receive notification from the county that we can return.

If your 4-H club meets at the Extension Office, please be on the lookout for communication from your club leader on what will be happening to your November/December meetings. We have asked club leaders to find alternative locations for events. If you were signed up for 4-H program that was scheduled during the office shutdown, email communication has been sent from 4-H Educators.

During the time of the closure, office staff is mainly teleworking, but 4-H will be working throughout each week at various times at the Ag Center. We ask that you email educators at this time for a quicker response. The Extension Office number still works during this time and you will be directed to our voicemails. The dropbox at the office is being checked regularly throughout the week if you are dropping off any paperwork. Please continue to use the dropbox by the office front door as you may noticed we now have a mailbox for USPS to use.

We do ask that you take time to read through the Tribune as important information is shared in regards to project records and how we will be handling accepting records from leaders, along with a change to incomplete records that will be explained. Also, keep an eye out in your email for updates that we have to share and follow along with the Carroll County Extension Facebook page as we will continue to update information there too.

IMPORTANT!

CARROLL COUNTY 4-H SHIRTS!

We're excited to kick off our 1st Carroll County 4-H Shirt Fundraiser! There are lots of fun options to choose from to represent the Carroll County 4-H Program! Funds raised from shirt sales will help support the general 4-H program through county-wide activities! **The shirt fundraiser is NOW OEPN and will close on November 12th.** Take a look at the flyer at the end of the Tribune for the AMAZING designs you can select from! You may just need 1 in every design! These will make great gifts as we come up on the holidays too! To visit the website, go to bonfire.com/store/carroll-county-4-h/

When you place the order, we have found that shipping is a little more cost-effective if you choose to have it shipped to the Ag Center compared to having shipped to your house. Please choose whichever offer is best for you! We will notify families when shirts arrive at the Ag Center and will work on getting those to you.



2027 4-H ENROLLMENT

Beginning in 2027, the Maryland 4-H Program will be increasing the annual enrollment fee for both 4-H and Clover members from $10 to $20 per member. This fee is paid by families when completing enrollment through 4-H Online. Please note that there is no enrollment fee for UME 4-H Volunteers when they enroll.

As budgets become increasingly tight for many organizations, Maryland 4-H must also identify ways to sustain funding for statewide programming and educational opportunities. This will be the first enrollment fee increase for the Maryland 4-H Program since 2011.

The current fee structure for larger families will remain in place. Families enrolling more than three 4-H and Clover members will continue to have a maximum enrollment fee equivalent to three members.

Please understand that this decision applies to all families participating in the Maryland 4-H Program statewide. The enrollment fee increase is a state-level decision and is not determined at the county level.

We recognize that this increase may create financial challenges for some families, and we want to ensure that all youth continue to have opportunities to participate in 4-H. If the increased enrollment fee presents a financial hardship for your family, please reach out to Becky Ridgeway. We have options available to help families navigate these challenges and remain involved in the 4-H program.

Looking ahead, there is also the possibility of another enrollment fee increase in 2028. As additional information becomes available, we will keep families informed of any updates or decisions.

We appreciate our Carroll County 4-H families and thank you for your understanding and continued support as we work together to provide meaningful educational experiences and opportunities for our youth.

2027 VOLUNTEER BACKGROUND CHECKS

The University of Maryland instituted background checks 5 years ago for all University of Maryland Extension Volunteers. This is to ensure that all UME volunteers have cleared background checks and can safely interact with our 4-H members and families. In 2027, we will be reaching the 5 years of the background checks needing to be redone. As of this newsletter, we have not been given information to the cost of the background checks, but they have remained at the $15 level through this year. If we hear of any changes on the cost of those checks, we will inform everyone.

If you are a UME Volunteer who works with the residential camp program or is a state 4-H coach traveling with youth, you will need to redo your fingerprint background check. We will share any updates as we receive them, but wanted everyone to keep this on their radar as we head into re-enrollment for 2027.

PROJECT RECORDS DUE

Projects records will be due to the Extension Office on Monday, November 30th. Check with your club leader to see when your records are due to them. RECORDS WILL NEED TO BE SIGNED BY YOUR CLUB LEADER! If you participated in/exhibited in the following at the 2026 Carroll County 4-H & FFA Fair, you MUST turn in a completed project record to be eligible for the 2027 Carroll County 4-H & FFA Fair: ALL MARKET LIVESTOCK, RABBIT, POULTRY, HORSE, PHOTOGRAPHY AND GARDEN. See the attached Tips for Project Records for 2026 for additional information.

All project records that are completed will be held to meeting all standards, including the communication section. Remember that 4-Hers must present a speech or demonstration to 3 or more people not related to them to meet this requirement. This is a speech or demonstration the youth has given, not something they attended. The speech and/or demonstration MUST be related to the project. You cannot use a speech about Crafts for your Market Beef project record. You also cannot use a Market Beef demonstration for your Market Swine project record. Your communication MUST BE RELATED TO YOUR PROJECT AREA! You MUST also include all information on when you gave the speech/demonstration, including a TITLE (don't write FAIR), location, and type of communication. Don't forget that participating in programs such as skillathon, bowls, and judging programs count toward this requirement. If you have questions, please contact the Extension Office at 410-386-2760.

Note—Records that are submitted and are identical from the same households will be marked as Incomplete and will need to be redone. Remember, that each project area (art, crafts, foods, woodworking, etc.) are considered separate projects and will not be accepted if turned in on the same project record form.

Please follow this link to the Carroll County Extension website for the correct project records: https://extension.umd.edu/locations/carroll-county/local-4-h-youth-education/project-records-and-record-books



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Maryland 4-H– General Project Record

Name		4-H Age	
Primary Club Name			
Years in 4-H			
Project Area		Years in this Project	

I have completed this record and believe all information to be complete and accurate.

Member's Signature ____ Date ____ Parent's Signature ____ Date ____

Leader's Signature ____ Date ____ Educator's Signature ____ Date ____

What goals did you set for your project this year and did you achieve them?
1.
2.
3.

What were four things you learned from completing this project this year?
1.
2.
3.
4.

What is one thing you would like to improve or do differently with your project next year?

Check the front of your records before you start!!

Carroll County 4-H Project Records will have a leader's and educator signature.

There will also be 4 "What you learned" lines.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

Maryland 4-H Animal Science – Livestock Market Project Record

Name		4-H Age	
Primary Club Name			
Years in 4-H		Years in this Project	

I have completed this record and believe all information to be complete and accurate.

Member's Signature ____ Date ____ Parent's Signature ____ Date ____

Leader's Signature ____ Date ____ Educator's Signature ____ Date ____

Please indicate your Animal Science Project Area

☐Beef/Dairy Steer ☐Market Goat ☐Market Sheep ☐Market Swine

What goals did you set for your project this year and did you achieve them?
1.
2.
3.

What were four things you learned from completing this project this year?
1.
2.
3.
4.

What is one thing you would like to improve or do differently with your project next year?

INCOMPLETE PROJECT RECORDS NEW FOR 2026

Beginning this year, we are making a change to how incomplete 4-H project records are handled. As postage costs and budget considerations continue to be important topics, Carroll County 4-H is looking for ways to reduce expenses while continuing to support our members and families.

Starting this year, incomplete project records will NOT be mailed back to 4-H members. Instead, if your project record is incomplete, we will email your family to let you know that the record needs to be picked up, corrected, and returned. Your club leader will also be copied on the email so they are aware of the situation. However, it is the responsibility of the 4-H family to pick up, correct, and return the incomplete project record—not the club leader. Arrangements can be made for after-hours pickup if needed.

How Can You Help?

To avoid delays and ensure your project records are complete the first time, please remember to:



- Use the correct forms. Be sure to use the current project record forms available through the link provided in the section above.
- Review all requirements carefully. Make sure you have completed every required section. Remember that requirements differ for junior, intermediate, and senior 4-H members.
- Watch for an email with instructions. We will be sharing additional information to help families understand how to properly complete project records.

Taking the time to review your project record before submitting it can help prevent delays and ensure your hard work is recognized!

If you have questions about these changes or need assistance with your project records, please contact Becky at bridgewa@umd.edu.

PROJECT RECORD JUDGING

Each year, we spend the first Saturday in December reviewing 4-H project records, which is no easy task with over 700 records typically to review. Each record is reviewed by 2 judges to ensure 4-H members have met the minimum requirements on their records. We are always looking for assistance from 4-H volunteers, parents and 4-H alumni who'd like to come and spend part of their day with us! **Mark your calendars now for Saturday, December 5th from 8-10am at Panera Bread in Westminster.** We will work with anyone who wants to review records this year or we can arrange to have records ready for you to pick up during this time. The more people who are able to help with reviewing records, the quicker we can get records back to our 4-H members. It's also a great time to learn more about what 4-H members have learned from their projects!

NATIONAL 4-H TRIPS!

Calling all Senior 4-H members! Here are some great opportunities for you to apply for National 4-H Leadership Trips for 2027! This opportunity to apply is for the following trips in 2027: National 4-H Conference (held in Washington D.C in April), National 4-H Congress (held in Atlanta, GA in November), Camp Miniwanca (held in Michigan in June), Virginia 4-H Congress and West Virginia 4-H Camp (both in June). These trips all focus on building leadership and lend more to the service side of the 4-H program.

There are specific guidelines for completing the following items such as how many pages each can be, type of font to use, spacing, etc. Please email Becky (bridgewa@umd.edu) for specific guidelines and think about signing up for the portfolio workshop!

If interested in applying, here's what you need to do:
1. Complete your 4-H Resume which is comprised of showcasing your leadership, citizenship and life skills.
2. Complete the 2027 Essay Question which is, "How can advances in technology/artificial intelligence impact the future of the 4-H program in a positive way?"
3. Submit all requirements through 4-H Online by **November 15, 2026 (for National 4-H Conference consideration) and January 29, 2027 (consideration for remaining trips).**

MD 4-H ANIMAL SCIENCE RECORD AWARD

Attention Senior 4-H Members! This is a FANTASTIC opportunity for you! The Maryland 4-H Program has an Animal Science Record Award winner for the state! We have LOTS of senior 4-H members participating in: Beef Cattle, Dairy Cattle, Dairy Goats, Dogs, Horse and Pony, Meat Goats, Poultry, Rabbits, Sheep, Small Pets, Swine and Veterinary Science that qualify for this award! All you need to include is a 4-H Resume, Project Record and a Project Essay. The entry system opened on October 1st in 4-H Online. All submissions must be in by November 16th! If you are interested in this opportunity and have more questions, reach out to Becky (bridgewa@umd.edu) and she is more than happy to help you! More information can also be found at: https://extension.umd.edu/programs/4-h-youth-development/program-areas/animal-sciences/

AMBASSADOR SERVICE PROJECTS

The 4-H Ambassador Team is kicking off the **2nd Annual Soda Can Tabs Service Project** for the Ronald McDonald House Charities. Any type of aluminum tab will work from soup cans to pet food cans. Tabs can be dropped off anytime from now until the end of the year at the Extension Office. The hope is that we will be able to deliver the tabs to the Ronald McDonald House and provide families a 4-H experience while there. Be on the lookout for collection boxes at different 4-H events. Anyone is able to collect and donate, so think of places you might be able to put a collection box!

Also, don't miss out on the Ambassador's **3rd Annual Canned Food Drive!** The team is now collecting any type of non-perishable food through the end of the year! Food items will be donated to local food banks in the county. The club that donates the most non-perishable items will win the 1st spot in the 2027 Carroll County 4-H & FFA Fair Parade, right behind the Ambassador Team!

PRIMITIVE HOLIDAY PROJECT NIGHT

Carroll County 4-Hers 8 years of age and older are welcome to join us on Friday, December 11, 2026 at 6pm at the Extension Office to make a Primitive Holiday Wreath and Dried Citrus Garland.

Primitive Holiday Wreath - Members will be working with a wreath form and small squares of fabric to create their own wreath. Participants will be able to select from available precut fabric of various holiday colors in primitive designs.

Dried Citrus Garland - Orange you ready to get creative? Join us for a hands-on 4-H workshop where you'll learn how to turn fresh citrus into colorful, dried creations! Discover how to dry citrus, explore fun ways to use it, and learn about its many uses. You'll create your own dried citrus garland to take home, adding a natural citrus scent and a festive touch to your home during the holidays! You'll also prepare citrus slices to dry at home and receive recipes and creative project ideas to try on your own. Come ready to get crafty, try something new, and add a little zest to your holiday season!

There is a $5 fee for this class that can be paid at the door. Registration is limited and can be completed at: https://forms.gle/ANszUzwuLWWQ4qmc6



CHEF ACADEMY

We were very excited to host multiple Chef Academy workshops through this fall, but with the office closure we have had to change our plans somewhat in moving some of the workshops into January. These were classes that we were unable to move to other locations due to the amount of equipment that needed to be moved. We are excited to have been able to reschedule the Homemade Pizza and Quick Breads workshops to Friday, January 22, 2027. Homemade Pizza will start at 10am followed by Quick Breads at 1pm. At this time, both of the workshops are filled, but we do have a waiting list. If you are interested in being added to the waiting list, email Jennie (jchameli@umd.edu).

CLAY LAB: BUILD YOUR OWN WHISTLE!

Turn dirt into a musical instrument! In this hands-on workshop, you'll learn how to use pinch pot techniques to shape and create your very own clay whistle or ocarina. Explore the art of handbuilding, experiment with sound, and discover how a simple piece of clay can become a musical instrument. You'll shape, sculpt, and customize your creation while learning how air moves through clay to produce sound. Come ready to get your hands dirty, try something new, and make some noise!

In the first class, you'll learn fun handbuilding techniques like pinch pots to shape your whistle. Then, in the second class, you'll add your own personal style with colorful ceramic glazes. Your finished whistle will be fired in a kiln and ready for pickup about one week after the second class.

The workshop will take place on January 14 from 6:00 pm - 8 pm and January 28 from 6:00 pm-7:30 pm at the Extension Office. Participants must attend both sessions. The program cost is $10 (cash or check) or $10.62 (credit). Limited spots are available. Register Here: https://forms.gle/G4d5FAME6EiHYxWPA

UPCOMING CLAY LABS!

Mark your calendar for 2027! More Clay Lab workshops are scheduled!

February 11 & 25- Make your own planter!

We've heard from lots of our parents who want their own Clay Lab Workshop! Mark your calendars now for a Clay Lab Fundraiser! This clay fundraiser lab will be open to ANYONE!

March 12 & 26- Make your custom mug! Open to all ages! Limited seating available.

Watch for registration information in upcoming Tribunes!

CAMP LEADERSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN



Ready to take your camp experience to the next level? Applications are now open for 4-H Camp Leadership! This is a great opportunity for youth to build leadership skills, gain confidence, work as a team, and help make camp a fun and memorable experience for everyone.

If you're ready to take on a leadership role and make a difference at camp, we encourage you to apply! Applications are due by December 1, 2026

Apply here: Camp Leadership Application

2027 Residential Camp Dates:
Week 1 - June 21-24, 2027 - Ages 8 -11 years old
Week 2 - July 12-16, 2027 - Ages 10-16 years old

2027 JUNIOR FAIR BOARD APPLICATION

The Carroll County 4-H & FFA Junior Fair Board is a group of Carroll County 4-H & FFA members ages 13-18 who are committed to service and contributing to the organization and activities related to the fair. Members must be in good standing within their designated clubs/ chapters. They must meet attendance requirements as well as follow the code of conduct. In 2027, the Junior Fair Board will be working on providing support for the Carroll 4-H Livestock Classic Shows!

This form is due by November 27, 2026. A letter of recommendation by the applicant's club/ chapter leader must also be submitted to the Carroll County Extension Office, Attn: Jennie Chamelin, 700 Agriculture Center Westminster, MD 21157 or emailed to jchameli@umd.edu. Applications can be found at: https://forms.gle/aYuefaXtCfiUixKa7

2027 MARKET BEEF, DAIRY STEER AND COMMERCIAL HEIFER WEIGH-IN AND TAGGING

We have scheduled market beef, dairy steer and commercial heifer weigh-in and tagging for **Saturday, January 16, 2027 at the Ag Center TRP Building from 8am - 11am**. Because of the location, all steers/heifers must be on a halter and reasonably broken! Market Animal Registration forms and AnSc Code of Ethics can be picked up at the Extension Office or your club leader may have forms. There is a plastic tote labeled Livestock Registration Forms by the front door of the Extension Office for pick up at anytime.

Remember, the registration form is a 2-part form. You must turn in the form intact. Remember to sign the front, back and inside of the form (3 total signatures for the 4-Her and 3 signatures for the parent/guardian). Remember, that if you are tagging in steers and heifers they need to be on separate forms! If you are tagging in a heifer, please ensure you have selected commercial heifer or written in “Market Heifer” if you plan to show in the market show at the 2027 Carroll County 4-H & FFA Fair to ensure the committee knows how to tag your heifer correctly. **Registration forms are due Friday, January 8, 2027 to the Extension Office. There is a cost for tag, which is $2 per steer/heifer.** Please make checks payable to the CCEAB or exact cash. There is a dropbox forms and payment can be left in, which we ask for everything to be placed inside an envelope or paper clipped together.

CASTRATION POLICY OF MARYLAND 4-H ANSC PROGRAM: ALL MALE STEERS, LAMBS, PIGS AND GOATS MUST BE NEUTERED AND HEALED PRIOR TO 4-H WEIGH-IN AND TAGGING. THE ONLY EXCEPTION WOULD BE ANIMALS THAT HAVE OBVIOUS SIGNS THEY HAVE BEEN BANDED, HOWEVER, THEIR SCROTAL SAC IS STILL INTACT.

2027 LIVESTOCK DATES

Mark you calendars for 2027 livestock dates for the Carroll County 4-H Program!!

Weigh-In and Tagging Dates:
Beef - Saturday, January 16th
Swine - Friday, April 30th
Sheep and Meat Goats - Friday, May 21st

Carroll County 4-H Livestock Classics:
Beef - Saturday, April 10th
Sheep and Meat Goat: Saturday, June 26th
Swine - Sunday, June 27th

LIVESTOCK SKILLATHON PRACTICES

Everything you've ever wanted to know about livestock skillathon and didn't know to ask! Come learn about breeds of livestock, equipment, cuts of meat, animal parts identification, livestock feeds, hay, wool and play some fun games, too! Come to learn for the state contest in March or just come to the sessions you want to learn about. Remember that you do not have to exhibit or own livestock to participate in livestock skillathon practices, just have an interest or curiosity. Practices run every Monday night starting on **January 4, 2026, 7pm** at the Extension Office**.** Practices will run through the state contest in March (some additional days may be added). For more information, call Kathy Gordon at 301-667-0559.

HORSE BOWL PRACTICES

Dust off those study materials as a new year of horse bowl practice is about to begin! All 4-Hers (8 years old as of January 1st) are welcome to attend the weekly horse bowl practices starting on **January 6, 2027, 7pm at the Extension Office**. Practices will be held every Wednesday night until the state contest in March. You will learn lots of new and interesting facts about horses while having fun! You do not have to own a horse to participate, just have an interest in learning more about them. Not sure what horse bowl is all about, then come to a practice to find out more!

WELDING WORKSHOP

We're excited to offer more welding workshops in partnership with the Carroll Career and Technology Center! Limited spots are available as these have been extremely popular, so don't wait to sign up! A waiting list will be started as needed.
Two dates will be offered for beginner and an experienced workshops.

- Dates: Friday, December 11, 2026 – Beginner Workshop: No experience needed. Choose from 3 projects to build - more information to follow.
- Friday, December 18 – Experienced Workshop: For youth who have welded before or attended a previous workshop. Pick your own project (with instructor approval, more information to follow).

Time: 4:00 – 8:00 PM
Location: Carroll County Career and Technology Center, 1229 Washington Road, Westminster, MD 21157
Cost: $40 (paid at the door – cash preferred)
Inclement Weather: If Carroll County Public Schools are closed or after-school activities are canceled, the workshop will be rescheduled.
Registration Link: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/Na5cCYTRhG

UME 4-H VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Are you interested in becoming a certified University of Maryland Extension - 4-H Volunteer? Reach out to Becky (bridgewa@umd.ed) if you are interested in becoming a 4-H Volunteer and she will send you the step-by-step directions on how to become a UME 4-H Volunteer! You can complete all the steps of the training from the comfort of your home!

FAIR REMINDERS

Everyone is welcome to participate in Fair Board meetings held at the Extension Office/Ag Center. The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, December 9th, 7pm as this is the Holiday Dinner (date change due to office closure). More information to come on needing cookies for sponsor baskets.**

2027 Fair Dates— July 30 - August 7, 2027

Too many ribbons? Don't throw them away. If they are in good shape, drop them off at the Extension Office and we will recycle them for next year. Ribbons should not be wrinkled, written on or missing strings. We cannot accept State Fair ribbons.

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 11	**CC Extension Office CLOSED for Veteran's Day**
November 12	4-H Shirt Fundraiser - Order Close
November 15	National 4-H Conference Applications Due, 4-H Online
November 16	State Animal Science Awards Due, 4-H Online
Nov. 26-27	**CC Extension Closed for Thanksgiving**
November 30	**Project Records DUE to Extension Office**
December 5	Project Record Judging, Panera Bread, 8-10am
December 9	CC 4-H & FFA Fair Board Mtg, Burns Hall, 7pm
December 11	Primitive Holiday Workshop, CC Extension Office, 6pm
December 25	**CC Extension Office CLOSED for Christmas**
January 1	**CC Extension Office CLOSED, HAPPY NEW YEAR!**
January 8	Beef Weigh-In Paperwork DUE
January 14	Clay Lab: Whistle (Part 1), CC Extension Office, 6pm
January 16	Beef Weigh-In & Tagging, Ag Center, 8-11am
January 22	Chef Academy Workshops, CC Extension Office, 10am & 1pm
January 28	Clay Lab: Whistle (Part 2), CC Extension Office, 6pm

CARROLL COUNTY 4-H TEAM

BECKY RIDGEWAY
4-H SENIOR AGENT
BRIDGEWA@UMD.EDU

KYLIE OLSEN
4-H AGENT ASSOCIATE
KOLSEN4@UMD.EDU

JENNIE CHAMELIN
4-H PROGRAM ASSISTANT
JCHAMELI@UMD.EDU

The Carroll County 4-H Website. Find the Tribune online, plus other forms and information for youth and leaders.
http://extension.umd.edu/locations/carroll-county

The MD 4-H Youth Development Website, news & information from all over the state, plus forms and information for youth & volunteers. http://extension.umd.edu/programs/4-h-youth-development

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