Welcome to the first addition of the Anne Arundel County 4-H Updates—these updates will go out bi-weekly unless additional communication is needed in between. Goal of updates is to cut down on the number of emails sent.

Joining the list: If you are interested in receiving these updates directly to your email account please send me an email requesting that your address be added to the list.

**Public Speaking:**
Reminder that Public Speaking has been rescheduled for March 22nd at 10:00am. We are working to confirm with Annapolis High school. I have attached the registration form again. Also below is a link that can be used to register online—this is a new feature for us, so as we receive registrations online we will email you back to confirm that we received it. If you do not get a confirmation email from myself or Doris within 24 hours, please contact us to verify that your online registration went through. If you have not registered for event and the new date works for you please send in your registration by March 7th. If you have already registered for the previous date and the new date no longer works for you please contact office so we can take you off the registration list.

https://extension.umd.edu/anne-arundel-county/public-speaking-registration-form
Once location is confirmed we will notify contestants and judges.

**Do you know your animal nutritional needs? Workshop**
Many of you feel you know just what it is that your animals nutritionally need! Still we are finding animals not getting what their needs meet from what they are being feed. For example, is it ok to feed your pigs slop? What helps keep them warm on these long cold nights? Do they have the same needs as a baby as they do as when they are 6 month old, fully grown, breeding age or pregnant or lactating? How do you get them to gain weight?

We had scheduled a workshop for Saturday Feb 22, 2014, but due to so many conflict we have postponed it until March 12, 2014 at the office and the workshop will begin promptly at 6:30 pm and end by 8:30. It is to all 4-Her’s advantage to come out and learn what you need to know before you consider what animals you would like to own and raise, breed, sale. Should you feed animals as a group or alone?

I have secured 2 other experts in this field to teach this workshop. However you will need to RSVP by Monday March 10, 2014. We will be having a door prize drawing. Only those who have RSVP’d on time will be allowed to attend. Only those who have RSVP’d will be contacted if we do not get enough youth and adults to attend. (I am not bringing people from other counties here for less than 10 people) I would highly suggest that adults attend this
meeting as well as the youth. There is a lot to learn for all of us, including myself. The more refined we get into the science of nutrition, we see changes all the time. What I did at home on the farm 50 years ago may not be a standard I want to stay with now.

Contact Ruby to RSVP or with any questions rschwinn@umd.edu

**Host Families needed for Japanese Students:**

I’m sending you these documents because I’m hoping you can be ambassadors of the International Program- we are actively recruiting Host Families for this summer- and I very much need your help!

Here are ways you can spread the word- remember, we’re not just looking for 4-H families, anyone can host!

- Forward the attached flyer to your local 4-H Club, any extracurricular club you belong to
- Post this flyer on your local homeschooling page (if applicable)
- Print the Flyer and post it at your local library, community center
- Talk to your family friends and neighbors about it- the best way for people to know this program is to get the word out directly from you!

Dates: July 26-August 25, 2014

Some things to know about our inbound Japanese delegates (I just got their profiles today- they seem so sweet!!)- they are so excited to experience American life! A lot of them enjoy reading (Harry Potter, anyone?), singing, playing instruments, playing sports (tons of basketball players, soccer, running!), sewing, being around animals (one is looking forward to riding a horse!) and being healthy active kids, just like some 4-H families out there. They are 12-15 years old, so we’re looking for families with potential host siblings ages 10-16. They are very excited for the chance to learn English in such an experiential way and to show their new American family new things about their Japanese culture!

Here’s the application process for the host family:

- Start an online profile at [http://www.states4hexchange.org/become-a-host-family/choose-state.aspx](http://www.states4hexchange.org/become-a-host-family/choose-state.aspx)
- Find the forms you need here: [https://extension.umd.edu/4-h/4-h-program-areas/host](https://extension.umd.edu/4-h/4-h-program-areas/host)
- If you’re interested in traveling with us, this is where you’ll find information on upcoming outbound travel: [https://extension.umd.edu/4-h/4-h-program-areas/travel](https://extension.umd.edu/4-h/4-h-program-areas/travel). If you’re interested in traveling to Japan in 2015, remember, every year you host you receive a $100 scholarship up to $300 toward the cost of your outbound trip to Japan.

THANK YOU for any help you can be! Any questions can be directed to me!

Alisha Targonski
alishat@umd.edu

See attached flyer for additional information.
Baltimore County Ag Science series

On March 9th from 1 – 4 pm I will be holding one of our Ag Science Workshops at the Baltimore County 4-H office. This workshop is focused on livestock anatomy and reproduction. We will be doing fetal pig dissections, livestock genetics (including sire selection), looking at reproductive tracts, and an introduction to artificial insemination (AI). At this point I have plenty of spots open if you have any 4-H members who may be interested. The cost is $7.00 per person. I really need to have them registered by Monday at the latest so that I can order the fetal pigs. More information is on our website at http://extension.umd.edu/baltimore-county/4-h-ag-science-series.

Contact Dwayne Murphy for more information dmurphy2@umd.edu

Upcoming Online Volunteer Trainings:

March 11th, or April 16th from 6:30-8:30

This training provides an overview on: The History of Extension, Eight Essential Elements of Youth Development, Ages and Stages of Youth Development, and Maryland 4-H policies and procedures. Only 4-H Faculty and/or Staff can register an individual to participate in these online opportunities. All paperwork, interviews, background checks, and interviews should have been completed as a prerequisite to class participation.

Target Audience: New UME 4-H Volunteers

Length: 2 hours

Learning Objective: 1) Improve volunteer's understanding and knowledge of the University of Maryland 4-H Youth Development Program. 2) Increase the quality of program delivery for 4-H members in Maryland. 3) Build a base of committed volunteers to increase program capacity

Description: This class will provide participants basic information on the University of Maryland Extension 4-H Youth Development program. It will cover UME policies and procedures and detail the process to becoming an appointed UME 4-H Volunteer.

Methodology: The course will be taught via Webinar. Participants will need access to a computer with internet connection as well as telephone. The sessions will not be recorded.

Prerequisites: A volunteer must have completed all UME Volunteer paperwork before attending the training. Contact office for volunteer paperwork and to be registered for training.
**Sheep and Wool Skillathon:**

**2014 Junior Sheep & Wool Skillathon**

The Junior Sheep & Wool Skillathon, held annually in conjunction with the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival, has been changed to the Junior Sheep & Goat Skillathon. All skillathon stations will pertain to both sheep and goats, including meat, fiber, and dairy production.

Youth should begin making plans to participate in this year’s skillathon. The skillathon will be held Sunday, May 4, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Howard County Fairgrounds in West Friendship, Maryland.

The Junior Sheep & Goat Skillathon is open to any youth between the ages of 8 and 18. Individuals and teams (of 3 or 4) from any county, or state may compete. Youth compete according to their age as of January 1st of the current year. Youth ages 8 to 10 compete as juniors; youth ages 11 to 13 compete as intermediates; and youth 14 to 18 compete as seniors.

The preregistration deadline for individuals (requested) and teams (required) is April 28. Preregister by sending names, ages, and team affiliations via e-mail to Susan Schoenian at sschoen@umd.edu (or via fax at (301) 432-4089).


***

Susan Schoenian  
Sheep & Goat Specialist  
University of Maryland Extension  
sschoen@umd.edu

**Upcoming Meetings/Events:**

- Achievement Night Committee Meeting, February 24th, 6:30 p.m. at 4-H Office (open to any volunteer or youth who wants to help plan achievement night)
- Achievement Night, Friday, March 7th-Location and Time TBD
- Public Speaking Contest-Saturday, March 22nd, 10am location TBD (tentatively at Annapolis High School)