A PDF Version of this newsletter is available on the Montgomery Country 4-H website

The next issue of News & Notes will be published on the first Friday in February 2019. Please submit your articles to Anna Hamann, ahamann@umd.edu, by 21 JANUARY 2019.

If you need special accommodation for a 4-H program, event, or activity, please call 301 590 3210 or e-mail jshriver@umd.edu

CLUB LEADERS

Club Leaders, please check the information about your club on our Montgomery County 4-H website (https://extension.umd.edu/montgomery-county/4-h-youth-development/4-h-clubs). We want to keep the club information up to date for future 4-H members.

If you need to add, update, or change your club description, and/or meeting information (day, time, place and/or location) please send the corrections to Sheila Ford at sheilaf@umd.edu, and Anna Hamann at ahamann@umd.edu

DAIRY SKILLATHON

Dairy Skillathon is a knowledge based activity for anyone interested in learning about dairy. You don’t need to have animals to participate. You will learn about breeds, dairy products, equipment, anatomy, and more. Practices are held Tuesday night starting now from 6:30-8:00 pm at the home of Mary King, 11411 Kingstead RD, Damascus, MD 20872. If you are interested contact Mandy German at mlg031409@gmail.com.

The University of Maryland, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources programs are open to all and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, or national origin, marital status, genetic information, political affiliation, or gender identity and expression.
BEEF STEER REGISTRATION

Livestock Registration form due 28 December, 2018.
County Weigh-in 5 January 2019, Montgomery County Fairgrounds

Attention 4-H Steer exhibitors. If you wish to show a steer for the 2019 season you must complete and return the Livestock Registration Form to the 4-H Office (18410 Muncaster Rd, Derwood, MD 20855) no later than 28 December, 2018. Please notice that there are 2 sides to this form and both must be completed.

In addition, to exhibit a steer you must attend the county weigh-in which takes place at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds scheduled for 5 January, 2019 starting at 8:00 am.

The Registration form can be found online: http://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/images/uploaded/Livestock%20Registration%20Form%202018.pdf

LIVESTOCK SKILLATHON

DATE 9 January 2019 at 7:00 pm at the Howard County Fairgrounds.

Interested in learning more about livestock animals? Want to study Animal Science or being a Veterinarian? Regardless of whether you own an animal or simply want to learn, we want you! The Livestock Skillathon Team is starting to practice. You will learn all about livestock including feeds, meats, animal identification, equipment, and everything in between. If you are interested, please contact David Gordon at (301) 590-2813, or get on the e-mail list.

This year, we will again be practicing as a cluster with Howard County. Most practices will be Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm at the Howard County Fairgrounds. All participants that are interested, will be able to compete at the State Skillathon Contest the first Saturday in March at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds.

The first practice will be on Wednesday, 2 January 2019 at 7:00 pm and will be held in the Dining Hall at the Howard County Fairgrounds. The practice schedule is as follows:

- Wednesday, 2 January
Please note this schedule is subject to change based on weather and scheduling conflicts.

DUE IN JANUARY

Please have the following items to the County 4-H Office on or before Friday, 4 January 2019:

FOR MEMBERS:

- Resumes
  
  Resume Information Format
  https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/_docs/locations/prince_georges_county/Adel/The4-HResume.pdf
  
  Please use the Baltimore County “Senior Resume Sample.doc” as guide.
  
  https://extension.umd.edu/baltimore-county/2012-senior-portfolio-question-and-due-date
  
  - Record/project books—most Club leaders will collect your books well before January 4 and turn them in to the County Office.
  
  https://extension.umd.edu/montgomery-county/4-h-record-books
  https://extension.umd.edu/4-h/youth-families/4-h-club-documents
  
  - Completed Diamond Clover Reports for levels 1 – 4.
  
  https://extension.umd.edu/cecil-county/4-h-youth/diamond-clover-forms
  
  - 2018 President’s Volunteer Service Award — Forms must be completed and turned in to your Club leader or 4-H County Office before 4 January 2019.
  
  https://extension.umd.edu/montgomery-county/presidents-volunteer-service-award

- FOR LEADERS: achievement awards nomination form
OUT-OF-STATE TRIPS

You can apply for various exciting out-of-state trips through the state 4-H Office. These trips provide senior 4-H'ers with leadership experience and allow them to meet people from all over the country.

If you have any problems and/or questions, please contact the appropriate program manager at 301-314-9070.

All trip applications, and Portfolio Program Overview can be found at: https://extension.umd.edu/4-h/youth-families/leadership-trips-awards-and-scholarships

In order to apply, you must complete the correct trip application (which requires the signature of a Club leader and your county 4-H Educator, Alganesh Piechocinski), create a portfolio/resume, and write an essay that answers the question "Describe your most significant 4-H experiences and how they contributed to your personal growth as shown by attitude, insights, and life skills gained." You then need to upload these three items to the Out-of-State Trips Portal on the state 4-H website. After your application has been received, you will be asked to attend an interview.

For the following trips, you must apply by 15 January, 2019: You must Download / Fill out / Save & Attach in the Out of State Trips Portal. Please check the Portfolio Program Overview for more information. In addition, please contact your Club Leader and former participants to learn about the interviewing process, and what were their experiences participating in any of the out-of-state trips.

- **West Virginia 4-H Older Members Conference** – six days in mid- to late June at the West Virginia 4-H Camp outside West Virginia University. This program develops leadership among older 4-H’ers by giving them an opportunity to participate in discussion of timely issues and problems, and teaches new skills which can be used in their local clubs and communities.

- **Virginia 4-H Congress** – three days in mid- to late June at Virginia Tech. Virginia 4-H Congress provides competitive and non-competitive educational experiences to teens and helps them to develop life skills and leadership abilities to become contributing citizens in their communities.

- **National Leadership Conference (NLC) - Camp Miniwanka**. This program is held on 360 wooded acres on a mile-long stretch of Lake Michigan and aims to develop character, leadership skills, personal and group effectiveness, and a nurturing balance within your life. The camp will take place from 14 – 21 June 2019.

- **National 4-H Congress** – this program starts the day after Thanksgiving in Atlanta, GA, lasting for five days. This has been the flagship event of the 4-H program for over 80 years and receives around 100,000 visitors. Youth get a quality, educational, cross-cultural experience and meet other youth from across the United States and its
territories. Congress is designed to address the needs and issues of youth while helping to develop capable, competent, and caring citizens.

**RE-ENROLLING IN 4-H FOR 2019**

We understand everyone is anxious to reenroll for next year. We ask for your patience. We cannot enroll members until the system is open for us to do so. The system should be in operation in mid to late January. Directions will be provided in the January newsletter. In addition to enrollment, the State requests that all families pay their enrollment fees through the online system this year. Also, new this year, clover members will also need to pay the enrollment fee.

**RECORD BOOK JUDGES NEEDED**

Record Book Judging will take place at the 4-H Office 9 January, 2019 starting at 4:00 pm. Each 4-H Club MUST send at least two volunteers to assist with the record book judging process. An extension educator will be available throughout the judging to provide on-the-job-training and to answer questions. Club leaders, please RSVP to Jeannine Shriver (301 590 3210 or jshriver@umd.edu) by 4 January with the names of your volunteers.

**COMMUNICATION AND VISUAL PRESENTATION WORKSHOP**

26 January 2019 from 9:30 am – 2:00 pm at the Howard County Fairgrounds

Learn to express yourself and improve your ability to speak before an audience! The Communication Workshop will be held on the Howard County Fairgrounds.

You will expand your communication talents and learn many valuable lessons that will help you in school, college, and in the job market. You can also use what you learn to compete in the cluster Communication Contest on 16 March at the Bushy Park Elementary School in Glenwood, MD. Champions can compete in the state contest.

Register on or before 16 January 2019. You can view the registration form at the link below. There is a $5.00 registration fee that includes lunch. You can pay through PayPal. Starred (*) items must be filled in.

https://frederick4h.forms-db.com/view.php?id=10492
SEWING FOR A CAUSE

21 January 2019, from 9 am to Noon at the Howard County Fairgrounds

The Central Cluster will be hosting a community service opportunity for all 4-H members carrying and anyone thinking about carrying the sewing project. Please come and join us on Monday, 21 January 2019 at the Howard County Fairgrounds from 9 am to 12:00 pm.

We will be sewing pillowcases for youth cancer patients and all donations will be given to Cases for Smiles Foundation. Last year the 4-H Central Cluster of sewing youth were able to complete 56 pillowcases, and this year we are hoping to double that amount.

For pillowcases directions and fabric size please go to: http://caseforsmiles.org/sewingpreparing-pillowcases/ (Select Pillowcase Directions).

If you have your own sewing machine please bring with you that day. However, we will have machines available to use as well. All are welcome to come out and help! Any additional questions please contact Chris Rein at 410-313-1915 or email Crein@umd.edu.

NEW OFFICER TRAINING

30 January 2019 from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm at the Montgomery County 4-H Office

Training is required if you hold a new club position that you have never been trained for. The new officer training session will be held at the 4-H Office on 30 January from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. Training will be provided for the following offices: president, vice president, club secretary, corresponding secretary, treasurer, and historian. There will also be a session for new club leaders. We are looking for experienced volunteers to help us run the training sessions. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Alganesh Piechocinski at 301 590 2804.

You MUST register no later than 22 January 2019.

To register, please contact Jeannine Shriver, 301 590 3210 or jshriver@umd.edu.

RECOGNITION NIGHT

16 February, 2019 from 7:00 pm at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds

Snow date: 23 February

Montgomery County 4-H will hold its annual Recognition Night in the Heritage Building at the County Fairgrounds on Saturday, 16 February from 7:00 pm (snow date 23 February.) Please come and help us recognize the 2018 achievements of our 4-H’ers.
HEALTHY LIVING WORKSHOP

President's Day, Monday, 18 February 2019, from 8:30 am - 2:30 pm at the Montgomery County 4-H Office

Interested in the art of Molecular Gastronomy Spherification or how to Eat This Not That© for Healthy Living?

Mark your calendar for the 2019 Healthy Lifestyles Workshop! All 4-Hers are invited to attend. There will be hands-on-workshops and presentations on nutrition, agriculture, and food science.

This is a great opportunity for a county-level event on your Diamond Clover plan. You can also write it as an activity or experience for next year’s record book, especially if you carry a foods project. However, the best reason to come is that you are going to have a great time with all your county 4-H friends and learn some cool stuff!

The workshop is limited to the first 25 youth that register. **NO WALK-INS** will be accepted on the day of the workshop.

Please bring a bag lunch!

**YOU MUST** register for the Workshop by contacting Jeannine Shriver (301 590 3210 or jshriver@umd.edu), **AND** Anna Hamann, ahamann@umd.edu, by 1 February.

Volunteers are needed for the workshop. We are looking for 4-H'ers 14 and over to volunteer to help out. You can earn SSL hours and learn leadership skills. **Please contact Alga Piechocinski (301-590-2804) if you are interested in volunteering.**

FASHION REVUE COMMITTEE

26 February 2018 at 6:00 pm at the Montgomery County 4-H Office

There will be a Fashion Revue planning meeting on February 26 starting at 6:00 pm at Montgomery County 4-H office. This is open to any Frederick, Howard, or Montgomery County 4-Her who would like help plan the 2019 Central Cluster Fashion Revue. Lunch will be provided for committee members.
GARDENING WORKSHOP

30 March 2019 from 9:30 am – 1:00 pm at the Montgomery County 4-H Office. Cost $5.00

Who: 4-H Youth ages 8-18 who want to learn about potting plants and how to care for them while creating a Fairy Garden.

The Neighborhood Garden Club of Gaithersburg/Washington Grove is sponsoring a hands-on workshop again this year for 4-H youth.

The project will be creating a dish garden. Participants will learn about selecting the correct soil and plants for their dish gardens. They will also learn how to care for those plants to include correct watering and light exposure. This will be a wonderful item to enter into the 2019 Montgomery County Agricultural Fair, give as a gift to friends or family members, donate to a retirement home or keep for yourself.

Limited to the first 25 youth.

To register, please contact Jeannine Shriver, 301 590 3210 or jshriver@umd.edu by 18 March.

CAMP TAWASENTHA

This year the camp will take place from 14 – 19 July 2019. 4-H Camp is for any youth (not just 4-H’ers) who will be 8 – 13 as of 1 January 2019. We offer swimming, fishing, and canoeing on 24 acre Cunningham Lake and campers sleep in rustic cabins throughout the grounds. We have several nature trails and a nature education center. Campers can enjoy educational hikes led by a trained naturalist.

Campers who want a challenge can experience our outdoor confidence course, led by professionals trained to help campers safely test their physical ability and gain team building skills. We also have a rifle and archery range with certified instructors. We offer crafts classes, leatherworking, multiple group activities, and we provide our culinary-inclined campers a chance to learn outdoor cooking skills.

All the forms you need to register for camp will be uploaded to our website in early February: https://extension.umd.edu/montgomery-county/4-h-youth/4-h-camp-tawaswentha.

Camp Counselors: If you are 14 as of 1 January, you may only attend camp as a youth leader. If you are interested in coming to camp and you are 14, you will find the information you need at the link above. You will need to attend an interview in January and five training sessions over the next five months. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Anne Clagett: at clagettmom@gmail.com or cell 301-300-2045.
MONTGOMERY COUNTY FAIR

Mark your calendars!! The Fair dates for 2019 are 9 – 17 August 2019. The Fair theme is “Feed Your Senses.”

We need yours and/or your club's help in selecting the theme for the 4-H Parade that will take place on 11 August.

Please send your club/individual theme suggestions to Jeannine Shriver at jshriver@umd.edu.
Electric Club
Field Trips

By Aiden Douglas and KL Plano-Faber

The Electric Club enters a different phase to master circuiting, wire connection methods, and electric control switching, including variations for on-board ship and underwater craft.

We expect field trips this year to learn more about the nation adapting to micro circuits, cogeneration, green energy sources, and managing large electric systems with emerging backups.

Field trips are open to Electric Club members, other 4-H club members, and friends of 4-H’ers. More information on how to register will appear in the February copy.

4H Rabbit Club

Attending the American Rabbit Breeders Association 2018 Convention

By Nikolai Kalinin

In October, four members of Montgomery County’s 4H rabbit club attended the American Rabbit Breeder Association (ARBA) annual meeting in West Springfield, MA to show rabbits and participate in the national competition.

ARBA is the national competition. In preparation for ARBA, members attended weekly judging class meetings to review and learn about rabbit judging, showmanship, breed ID, and quiz bowl for the juniors. With 49 recognized breeds of rabbits, this is no small task. The Maryland team participated in their county and the Maryland State Fair to prepare, as well. We practiced showmanship and breed ID at home on our own, and as a team the first night of ARBA and throughout the weekend in the Grill café.
Saturday was the start of the competitions beginning with judging (intermediates and seniors), breed ID, showmanship and quiz bowl for juniors. On Sunday, those participating in the Royalty competition took a 50-200 question test depending on age group, and based on results were invited to interviews. Results of the competitions were determined at the ARBA Youth Banquet on Tuesday night, 30 October.

Concurrently, we prepared our rabbits for judging in the national competition. Many of us drove to West Springfield, MA since ARBA was on the east coast this year. It was my first time showing rabbits at the ARBA convention and I thoroughly enjoyed having an opportunity to meet with Jersey Wooly rabbit breeders and learn about wool fur care and breeding. During showmanship, I spoke with Dutch rabbit breeders and received tips on showmanship for my Dutch rabbit Chess and how to judge Dutch rabbits. This allowed me to increase my score by 35 points in the Howard County 4H Hareraisers show earning a 5th as an intermediate 18 November 2018. ARBA was a great place to compete, but also to learn more about rabbit breeding and judging and see excellent examples of my rabbit breeds--Mini Lop, Dutch, and Jersey Wooly. Although I did not win anything in the competition, I learned a lot and was able to cheer for my teammates when they accepted their awards.

Front row from left to right: Tony Martone, Arianna Martone-Gulling, Anna Gulling, Kim Blaine, Nikolai Kalinin, Jacob Blaine

Back row: Brianna Kelly, Kara Hutchison (Talbot County), Joey Udovich, Shayleigh Hannigan, Lauren Schroeder, Jacob Udovich
The Maryland Communications Team

Congratulations!! The Maryland Communications Team was the 2018 Eastern National 4-H Horse Round-Up Team Communication Champion.

Anthony Righter, Clarksburg Helping Hands, also placed fifth in the individual presentation contest with his presentation “The Equine Buzz.”

(Left to Right) Anthony Righter, Katie Grasser, Coach Karen Scot, Lesa Ramsburg, Kamryn Barth

Back in Time

By Terrin Carpenter


Clover members Carolyn and Silas were working on a Pennies for Peace project and decided to include our Club. Carolyn’s presentation at our October meeting made all of us want to support this cause. All our members took a month to fill the decorative bags with change and returned them at our November meeting. This was a fun and easy-to-do project that provides education opportunities for children in other countries.
On a cold raining evening we handed out 200 handmade thank you cards to our military along with 1,000 handshakes full of gratitude to the veterans/enlisted and their spouses/kids waiting in line at Golden Corral’s Military Appreciation Night. After running out of cards, we also had a free buffet alongside our new friends.

Can you imagine talking to a friend when a pretty peacock walks beside you, then a chic sheep followed by gorgeous goats? There were approximately 20 long tables set up for all the vegan food and drinks people brought to share; and we were able to taste everything. The animals get all the leftovers and fresh vegetables that were saved for them. The last event of the day is to toss the fresh pumpkin displays into the pigsty for their Thanksgiving buffet. After closing we are allowed to pet/hug the deer, chickens, turkeys and pigs in their quarters.

We practiced team work as we learned about health living in the US and overseas by helping distribute peace, bring smiles to our military and children overseas, taste vegan food, feed and interact with farm animals while limiting theirs and our stress.