



4-H Voice



Welcome 2024 and a new 4-H year!

We also want to welcome 2 new 4-H staff to Charles County.

Mrs. Kelly Bryant, 4-H Educator &
Ms. Sydney Garner, Program Assistant

We look forward to them becoming a part of the team and the new exciting programs they will bring to our 4-H families

If the schools are CLOSED due to weather conditions, then all 4-H programs are CANCELLED!

Why is registration so important?



- 1) To be notified in case the activity is canceled.
- 2) To have enough handouts.
- 3) To give staff time to prepare.
- 4) To have the correct size room for the activity.
- 5) To have enough staff and volunteers to manage the participants.
- 6) Never assume that we know you are going to attend.

FOR 4-H INFORMATION GO TO OUR WEBSITE....

<https://extension.umd.edu/locations/charles-county/4-h-youth-development/>

FOR WEEKLY UPDATES, JOIN OUR ONE-LIST.

Email Bonnie at bboyden@umd.edu to be added to the list.

Visit the State 4-H Website for information on State Events

<https://extension.umd.edu/programs/4-h-youth-development/>

4-H MINI CALENDAR



JANUARY

- 2 – Steer Registration Due
- 6 – State Fair Steer Weigh In 9 – 11 a.m.
- 11 – Officers’ Training 6 p.m.
- 9-31 – Skillathon – (Tues & Wed) 5 – 7 p.m.
- 15 – Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday – Office Closed
- 20 – Public Speaking Workshop 9 – 10:30 a.m.

FEBRUARY

- 6 – County Fair Steer Weigh In 9 – 11 a.m.
- 6-29 – Skillathon – (Tues & Wed) 5 – 7 p.m.
- 9 – Public Speaking Contest
- 15 – Broiler Quality Assurance 6:30 p.m.
- 19 – President’s Day – Office Closed

MARCH

- 2 – State Skillathon Contest – (3 – Snow Date)
- 14, 21, 28 – Hippology 5:00 p.m. (Thurs)
- 15 – Camp Teen Training (Fri)
- 15 – Maryland 4-H Scholarship Application Opens (Tentative)
- 20 – Beef & Swine Quality Assurance 6 p.m.
- 23 – Project Day
- 29 – Holiday – Office Closed

2024 CAMP DATES:

DAY CAMP – JUNE 17-21

OVERNIGHT CAMP – JULY 14-20

REMINDER ALL DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE – PRIOR REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR ALL WORKSHOPS!

Upcoming Events



OFFICERS INSTALLATION

Elections and installation of club officers are in full swing and if your club would like Bonnie to attend your officer installation, please let her know in advance so she can put it on her schedule. bboyden@umd.edu

OFFICERS’ TRAINING WORKSHOP

The 2024 Officers' Training Workshop will be **Thursday, January 11th** at the 4-H Office at **6:00 p.m.** The training is to help your new officers understand their role as President, Vice President, Reporter, Secretary, and Treasurer. All of our clubs should be represented. Alternates may also attend. Email Bonnie Boyden to register bboyden@umd.edu

PUBLIC SPEAKING WORKSHOP

On **Saturday, January 20, 2024**, there will be a Public Speaking Workshop from **9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.** At this workshop, you will learn about the different types of speeches you can present at the Public Speaking contest in February. You will learn the basics of writing and giving a speech, too. Email Donna Mohler to register. dmohler@umd.edu

4-H Volunteers Corner

NEW VOLUNTEER TRAINING

We will be starting our new adult volunteer training for 2024. If you are interested in sharing your skills and abilities with the 4-H'ers in different program areas or just helping out at events, contact Donna Mohler for more details. dmohler@umd.edu

PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

We are excited to share that the 2024 Public Speaking Contest will be held on **Friday, February 9, 2024**, in-person. The registration form will be sent out and posted on the website, as we get closer to the date. Please call 301 934-5404 or email Donna Mohler at dmohler@umd.edu with questions.

Livestock News

The 2024 Livestock project year is getting started with Steer Weigh-Ins and tagging. You need to email Bonnie to register. bboyden@umd.edu

STEER WEIGH-IN

The 2024 steer weigh-in and ear tagging for State Fair will be held on **Saturday, January 6th** at the Charles County Fairgrounds from 9 – 11 a.m. County Fair weigh-in will be **Saturday, February 3rd** from 9 – 11 a.m. This is a requirement if you plan on showing a steer for 2024.

2024 Quality Assurance Classes

All youth participating in livestock are **required** to take these classes. There are two separate classes: 1) an **online 4-H State Quality Assurance** training is required if you are:

- a. First time shower
- b. Have moved up an age division
- c. Added a species that you have not shown in the past.

We will send out the date once the site is open.

2) an **in-person species workshop** at the county level. These are required to show at the fairs. The dates are listed below.

In-Person Quality Assurance

This is a reminder that there are **MANDATORY** in-person Quality Assurance sessions that you **MUST** attend if you plan to show livestock in 2024. There is a Beef and Swine class, a Sheep and Goat class, and a first-time showers class.

The in-person quality assurance classes will be:

Beef & Swine- March 20, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Sheep & Goat- April 2, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

First Time Showers- May 15, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

If you have any questions about any of these meetings and requirements either call or email Bonnie. bboyden@umd.edu

SKILLATHON PRACTICES START

On **Tuesday, January 9th at 5:00 p.m.** we will host our first Skillathon practice. If you would like to learn more about your beef, sheep, swine or goat then this is a great opportunity to learn about feeds, meat, breeds and equipment. You can attend 1 practice a week, or both; however, it fits into your schedule.

Practices will take place January 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30 and 31. February 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28 and 29. The mock Skillathon Contest will be Sunday, February 25, 2024. To register email Bonnie or Jeanne at bboyden@umd.edu or jeanneh@umd.edu

The state contest will be held on Saturday, March 2, 2024. Snow date March 3, 2024

2024 Requirements and Deadlines for Livestock

1) You **must own and register** a market steer by **January 2, 2024**. Registration form is in this issue of the VOICE. All Beef Animals must have a USDA 840 electronic tag.

2) **All breeding animals** must be registered with 4-H and a copy of breed association registration papers must be submitted to the office by **July 1, 2024**. If you do not register the animals, you will be unable to show them in 4-H. If you do not have registration papers, they will have to show in the crossbred class (commercial) in all species. Heifers, ewes and does must have a state breeding tag to be eligible to show in a 4-H class. Breeding animals may be leased but must have the lease agreement on file with the office by **July 1, 2024**

2024 Requirements and Deadlines for Livestock - Continued

3) All market swine, goats and sheep must be owned and registered with the 4-H office by **May 15, 2024**. They will be ear tagged and weighed prior to Spring Show. **Sheep and Goats on May 22nd and Swine on May 23rd**.

4) All Swine and Beef must have an USDA 840 electronic tag and Sheep and Goats must have a MD scrapie tag.

5) 4-H'ers must own their Livestock project market animals. Sheep, Swine and Goats must be born after January 1 of the current year.

6) There is no substitution of market animals once they have been registered and tagged. You may tag only 5 beef, and sheep, , 5 swine (**but only sell 3**) and 3 goats. If you intend to show at the state fair, you may tag more than these limits, but they may only be shown at the state fair.

7) If your animal loses its state ear tag, save the tag and contact the office at once for a replacement tag. No animal will be shown or weighed in at the fair that does not have a 4-H tag.

8) All male animals **must be** castrated and show signs of healing prior to ear tagging or they will not be tagged.

9) Female animals shown in a breeding class are not eligible to be shown in market classes.

10) You **must** turn in a record book to the 4-H office by the deadline to be able to show livestock the following year.

Any questions, please reach out to Bonnie, bboyden@umd.edu

Horse News



ALL YOUTH PARTICIPATING IN THE HORSE AND PONY PROJECT MUST TAKE THE STATE ONLINE QUALITY ASSURANCE.

The date will be announced when the site is up and running. You must take the training if:

- 1. First year showing your horse**
- 2. Moved up an age division**

DATES TO REMEMBER FOR REQUIRED PAPERWORK:

Horse and Pony Cards due – **May 31st**!

Horse Leases due – **May 31st**!

HORSEMANSHIP STANDARDS

Horsemanship Standards are a means to measure youth's knowledge and riding ability. All 4-H'ers must pass riding and knowledge levels 1 & 2 to participate in county 4-H horse shows. If you need to be tested for any levels, please contact the 4-H Office. We will be hosting a testing in the spring. If you need to be tested, please email Jeanne at jeanneh@umd.edu

Hippology Starting

You don't own a horse, but want to learn more about them? Then come and participate in our Hippology workshops. Hippology is the study of horses. Learn anatomy, care, nutrition and equipment. The first session will be **Thursday, March 14 at 5 p.m.** at the 4-H Office.

For more information call or email Jeanne at jeanneh@umd.edu

RABBIT NEWS



All youth who participate in the Rabbit Project must have a 4-H Rabbit Card on file with the office by **August 1st**. If you already have a card on file and plan to use the same rabbit for 2024 all **you need to do is let Jeanne know you want to update your card.**

ALL YOUTH PARTICIPATING IN THE RABBIT PROJECT MUST TAKE THE STATE ONLINE QUALITY ASSURANCE.

Dates will be announced in the future when the site is up and running.

You must take the training if:

1. First year showing your rabbit
2. Moved up an age division

Poultry News



ALL YOUTH PARTICIPATING IN THE POULTRY PROJECT MUST TAKE THE STATE ONLINE QUALITY ASSURANCE.

Dates will be announced in the future when the site is up and running.

You must take the training if:

1. First year showing your poultry
2. Moved up an age division

In-person Broiler Chicken Quality Assurance will be on **February 15, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.** If you plan on participating in the Broiler Chick Project for 2024 you must attend this training.

For more information on the Poultry project and activities contact Jeanne at jeanneh@umd.edu

DOG NEWS



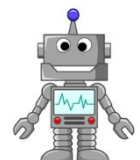
All youth who are planning to participate in the Dog Project for 2024 must register their dog(s) with the 4-H office. If you have participated in the past and plan to use the same dog for this year, you can email Jeanne to update your 4-H Dog Card for 2024. You must also have an up-to-date rabies certificate on file. This information must be on file by **May 31st** or earlier if you are already participating in any 4-H Dog Activities.

Shooting Sports Updates

Are you interested in learning the skills of shooting with an air rifle, archery or shot gun? If so, reach out to Jeanne for update information. These classes are set up as our instructors are available to host the classes. The classes usually run for 8 weeks. Please call Jeanne at (301) 934-5404 or email her at jeanneh@umd.edu

Robotics

Charles County 4-H will be offering Robotics workshops again this year. We are excited that Sydney Garner will be starting on January 16th and she will be working with Mr. Bob and Mr. Gary to set our Robotics program for 2024. If you would like more information, please email Sydney after the 16th at sgarner1@umd.edu





4-H Youth Membership Requirements

4-Hers: to be a member in good standing, you **must attend a percentage** of club meetings established in your club by-laws (EXAMPLE: The BYLAWS state your club will have 10 MEETINGS A YEAR, AND YOU NEED TO ATTEND 5 OF THE TEN) to be eligible to participate in events, such as but not limited to, fairs (county and state), showing animal projects, participating in county and state contests.

There are also enrollment deadlines for participation. For some projects or events, members **MUST** be enrolled by a certain date to be eligible for participation.

2024 4-H Online Enrollment Procedure

The Maryland 4-H Online Enrollment System will be open for new enrollments and re-enrollments in early January 2024. Returning members and UME adult volunteers will re-enroll by logging into the website using the family email address and password that they used to set up their initial profile. If you have forgotten your password, there is an option to request a new one. If you have forgotten your email address, you must contact Donna Mohler at dmohler@umd.edu for her to assist you in enrolling.

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK!

We have a Facebook group for our 4-H program. Search “Charles County 4-H” in the groups tab and request to be a member. This is a members’ only page for 4-H members and 4-H volunteers. You must be enrolled to have access to the page. This page is maintained by the 4-H office and includes information about 4-H activities going on around the county and state!

Are You Getting Our Weekly Updates From Bonnie?

These updates contain a lot of information about what is going on in 4-H, the deadlines, cancelations and upcoming camp information. Please email Bonnie bboyden@umd.edu to be added to the list.

4-H Camp Teen Leader Requirements

Are you interested in being a teen leader at one or both of our camps? If so, this is a reminder that you are **REQUIRED** to take our teen training classes. **The first training will be Friday, March 15th at 6:00 p.m.**

32 hours of training are required for individuals that have never gone to a training before and 30 hours of training are required for our past leaders each year. Email Bonnie if you plan on attending the training or have questions. bboyden@umd.edu