



## Montgomery County 4-H

January 2, 2025



If you need a special accommodation for a 4-H program, event, or activity at the 4-H Extension Office in Derwood, MD, please call 301-590-3210 or e-mail [jshriver@umd.edu](mailto:jshriver@umd.edu).

If you need to reserve a room or need a special accommodation at the MoCo Fairgrounds in Gaithersburg, MD for a 4-H program, please contact the Event and Sponsorship Coordinator, Ms. Monica Monroe at [Monica@mcagfair.com](mailto:Monica@mcagfair.com).

The next issue of The Montgomery County 4-H News & Notes will be published the first week of February 2025. Please submit your articles to Anna Hamann, [ahamann@umd.edu](mailto:ahamann@umd.edu) by January 27, 2025.

### UMD Extension Strategic Planning Town Halls

The University of Maryland Extension is embarking on a strategic planning process to develop a stakeholder-driven plan, granting the university's faculty, staff, students, leadership, and community partners an opportunity to contribute

to the institution's future success. To produce a specialized strategic plan that is consistent with the broader objectives of the University of Maryland, we will prioritize strategies that will uplift our community and complement UMD initiatives.

As we move through the strategic planning process, we will routinely provide status updates and information on engagement opportunities.

Please click on the link below to register for the Central Maryland Session, taking place in Howard County at the Fairgrounds, on January 22 in the afternoon from 12:30-2:30 p.m.

If this session does not work for your schedule, you may register for any of the other sessions listed on other dates at other locations across Maryland: <https://extension.umd.edu/about/extension-impact/strategic-plan/>.

Direct Registration

Link: [https://survey.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8iwC4cNikPyF6Zw](https://survey.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8iwC4cNikPyF6Zw)

## Livestock Workshops and Skillathon

Montgomery County 4-H will be offering a series of weekly Thursday night Livestock Workshops. These workshops will also serve as Livestock Skillathon practices. Practices will start on January 2 and end on March 6. Each week will be focused on a different category of Skillathon, from Meats identification, to wool judging, to equipment, and feed identifications. Youth can attend for just one or two nights, or every week. Participants are encouraged to compete in the State contest on Saturday, March 1, 2025. This is a great way to develop general knowledge around the world of animal husbandry! Exact schedule to come soon.

The first practice/workshop will be Thursday, January 2 on Breeds of Livestock and Parts Identification. The digestive tract, skeletal system, and reproductive tract will be discussed as well.

Date	Subject Matter
January 2	Breeds of Livestock
January 9	Parts and Anatomy
January 16	Quality Assurance: Ear Notching, feed labels, medicine labels, etc.

January 23	Feed I.D.
January 27 ***	Wool Judging
February 6	Hay Identification and Judging
February 13	Equipment Identification and Uses
February 20	Meat Identification and Judging
February 27	Review and Practice Skillathon

## Small Engine Workshop

If you are registered, the workshop series will run every other Wednesday night from January 8 until April 30, 2025. We will have an intro activity, go over goals of the workshop, and give youth a spark for small engines!

For questions, email Catherine Savage at [Csavage9@umd.edu](mailto:Csavage9@umd.edu)

### Workshop Schedule

Jan. 8	Tool I.D. and use, safety, meet the engines
Jan. 22	Four stroke vs Two stroke, pull off and reassemble sheet metal
Feb. 5	Measurements, controls, throttle: fuel-smells, compression test, fuel safety
Feb.19	I.D. engine parts, intro driving course and safety
March 5	Disassemble parts
March 19	Disassemble and reassemble
April 2	Reassembling, test run, troubleshooting
April 16	Work session on county fair-related classes
April 30	Wrap up, Q & A, driving practice, mock test
May and June	TBD if needed
July	TBD to run through county contests

## 2025 Inbound Opportunities

Are you interested in other countries? Would you like to welcome an international student into your home? Host families come in all shapes and sizes and reflect the diversity of the United States. What they have in common is their eagerness to open their homes and hearts to a young person from another culture. Our families are warm, welcoming volunteers who are proud to share their American culture and lifestyle.

States' 4-H accepts applications from host families year-round for the month-long and yearlong programs.

For more information visit <https://www.states4hexchange.org/apply/host/>

## **Due at the 4-H County Office on January 6, 2025**

**NEW DATE** - Due to the MoCo 4-H Office by January 6, 2025:

- 2024 President's Volunteer Service Award Forms
- Record Books
- Completed Diamond Clover Reports for levels 1–4
- Youth Achievement Awards Nomination Form
- Volunteer Achievement Awards Nomination Form

Please mail your materials or deliver documents to the Montgomery County 4-H Office, Attn: Sheila Ford, 18410 Muncaster Road, Derwood, MD 20855 or email to [sheilaf@umd.edu](mailto:sheilaf@umd.edu).

Resume

<https://extension.umd.edu/resource/4-h-record-books-and-senior-portfolios/>

Follow the “Senior Records Books - Step-by-Step” and then “4-H Resume” link

Sample of the Diamond Clover Reports

<https://extension.umd.edu/progrAMs/4-h-youth-develoPMent/progrAM-areas/youth-and-adult-leadership/diAMond-clover-awards-and-scholarships>

## **Record Books - NEW DATE**

If you plan to do a Record Book for 2024 4-H projects and other activities, please refer to the guidelines for 4-H Record Books and Senior Portfolios found at

<https://extension.umd.edu/resource/4-h-record-books-and-senior-portfolios/>

For Animal Science projects please refer to the guidelines at

<https://extension.umd.edu/programs/4-h-youth-development/program-areas/animal-sciences/> (scroll down to Animal Science Project Records) or email the office with questions.

What is a 4-H Record Book? A 4-H Record Book is a standard record of your activities in 4-H - your projects, activities, events, skills development and learning experiences. The 4-H Record Book helps improve your skills in record keeping, goal management, and reflection on your achievements and growth in 4-H.

If you are doing a Record Book, please:

1. Place a rubber band around the Record Book so the book stays together.
2. If you are submitting your Record Book personally, or if a Club Leader is submitting Record Books, please contact a 4-H Staff to be available to receive the Record Book(s.)

If you have any questions, please contact Jeannine Shriver at [jshriver@umd.edu](mailto:jshriver@umd.edu).

**NEW DATE** - Record Books are due at the County 4-H Office **on or before Monday January 6, 2025.**

## Terp Young Scholars

Applications will open January 7 for the Terp Young Scholars. The Terp Young Scholars will take place in College Park from July 14 to August 1, 2025.

The program provide the participants the experience of learning how to navigate the college experience with the University of Maryland's Terp Young Scholars. The participants have the opportunity to take college courses in person or online. The students select one three-credit course (offered either in-person or 100% online). Classes are held weekdays, Monday - Friday, with meeting times varying according to the specific course.

### Domestic Applicant Eligibility

- Applicants must be a rising high school sophomore, junior, senior, or graduating senior; and
- Applicants must have an unweighted academic average of 3.0 or better.

- If there are extenuating circumstances that have negatively influenced an applicant's GPA, submit a GPA Exception Appeal prior to submitting the Terp Young Scholars application.
- Submit Exception Appeal: Complete the GPA Exception Appeal form. The form requires an upload of your high school transcript, a letter of support from a high school teacher/administrator and a statement attesting to how you plan to succeed in the program.

#### Select Commuter or Online Option

Applicants who select a course offered through in-person instruction must participate via the Commuter Option. Terp Young Scholars does not offer a residential option.

- Applicants who select a course offered through 100% online instruction must participate via the Online Option.

Applications open January 7, 2025 and close June 1, 2025

For more information go to

<https://exst.umd.edu/pre-college-programs/terp-young-scholars/how-program-works>

## **MC Agricultural Center 2025 Scholarship Applications**

The Montgomery County Agricultural Center, Inc. (MCAC) offers post-secondary scholarships to individuals who are planning to further their education in agriculture, family and consumer sciences or related fields of study. Applicants must provide documentation of volunteer service on the Fairgrounds to be eligible for these scholarships.

The scholarship winners will be notified in March and presented at the annual meeting in May.

Applications must be submitted online by January 10, 2025 by 11:59 p.m.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GkaYJzs\\_RbNC1WEwpXEWgqogqGpQLq5m/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GkaYJzs_RbNC1WEwpXEWgqogqGpQLq5m/view)

If you have any questions please contact the Fair Office at 301-926-3100 x205

## **Montgomery County Achievement Night**

The Montgomery County 4-H Achievement Night will be held on Saturday February 22, 2025 in the Heritage Building at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Light Refreshments will be provided.

Join us to celebrate all of our wonderful youth and volunteers in Montgomery County 4-H! We will recognize our graduating seniors, cake auction bakers, teen leaders, Diamond Clover participants, and more! All youth in attendance will receive a free Montgomery County 4-H T-Shirt.

Please send all award nominations and information to Sheila Ford at [Sheilaf@umd.edu](mailto:Sheilaf@umd.edu) by January 6. Please note the new nomination form for both youth and volunteers at the end of the newsletter. Some of these awards have slightly changed, been expanded, etc. Anyone can submit a nomination for these awards, not just club leaders.

## **2025 Maryland 4-H Dog Skillathon**

The tentative date for the 2025 Maryland 4-H Dog Skillathon is Saturday, February 22 at the University of Maryland campus in College Park. Registration will open and the 2025 contest rules will be posted on 4-H Online.

## **Ignite by 4-H**

March 12-16, 2025, Marriott Marquis, Washington D.C.

Join 4-H'ers from across the U.S. in Washington, D.C. for Ignite by 4-H! The four-day interactive summit helps teens find their spark through inspiring speakers, hands-on workshops, off-site experiences, career exploration, and connecting with peers.

Ignite is a step forward in the journey of becoming beyond ready. At Ignite, teens collaborate, create, and cultivate a passion for expanding their minds and their world—becoming resilient and READY for everything life has to offer. The possibilities are endless at Ignite by 4-H.

Registration is open at <https://ignite2025.powerappsportals.com/>

## Central Cluster Public Speaking Contest

Central Cluster Public Speaking: March 15th with location TBD in Frederick Co.  
More information to be released soon.

## Montgomery County Fair Updates

Changes to Division 15 Eggs and Honey

Division 15 name has been changed to “Agricultural Products”. In addition to the Division’s name change, new classes were added. The new Division is as follows:

**DIVISION 15: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS**

Chairperson: Debbie Tallman, 240-793-6599

Chairperson: Meredith Null 301-908-0589

**PREMIUMS**

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
\$5	4	3	3	3

**RULES**

1. All exhibitors must comply with Building Rules and Regulations.
2. If quality warrants, five premiums will be awarded.
3. Exhibitor should have age appropriate knowledge of varieties, maturities, and harvest dates as applicable. The exhibitor must have raised, helped raise, and/or harvested the products exhibited.
4. Exhibits of hay and straw must be one flake and securely tied two ways. If the exhibit is taken from a round or large square bale, the exhibit must be compressed and securely tied four ways. Maximum size is 18”W x18”D x 6”H
5. Any exhibits containing mold will be removed before display.



6. For classes 9-25, a 3x5 index card must be attached to exhibit with tape or string. The following information should be included on the card.

- a) Crop Variety
- b) Intended use
- c) Date of seeding
- d) Harvest date
- e) Date ensiled (if applicable)

## CLASSES

1. Eggs, brown (one dozen)
2. Eggs, white (one dozen)
3. Eggs, other (one dozen)
4. Honey, dark comb (one pound)
5. Honey, light comb (one pound)
6. Honey, dark extracted (one pound)
7. Honey, light extracted (one pound)
8. Honey, Educational Exhibit, size: 24"W x 12"D x 36"H
9. Baled hay, single legume variety, field cured.
10. Baled hay, single variety- timothy, field cured.
11. Baled hay, single variety- orchard grass, field cured.
12. Baled hay, mix, field cured.
13. Baled straw, any variety, field cured.
14. Haylage, any variety, one quart jar with lid, ensiled at least 7 weeks.
15. Silage, any variety, one quart jar with lid, ensiled at least 4 weeks.
16. Corn, five stalks, green with ear attached, this year's crop only.
17. Corn, Sweet, five ears with closed husk, this year's crop only.
18. Corn, Indian or Popcorn variety, five ears, current or previous year's crop acceptable.
19. Corn, any other variety, five ears, current or previous year's crop acceptable.
20. Corn, shelled, one quart jar with lid, current or previous year's crop acceptable.
21. Soybeans, black or yellow variety, one quart jar with lid, current or previous year's crop acceptable.
22. Sorghum, one quart jar with lid, current or previous year's crop acceptable.
23. Wheat, one quart jar with lid, this year's crop only.
24. Barley, one quart jar with lid, this year's crop only.
25. Rye, one quart jar with lid, this year's crop only.
26. Other farm product.

SAVE THE DATES!!!! Camp Tawasentha will be July 20-25, 2025. The camp is ACA certified, and all adult volunteers are certified through the University of Maryland's Extension program.

Camp is open to all children ages 8-18 as of January 1, 2025. Those that are aged 14-18 as of January 1 must hold a teen leadership position.

## **SPOTLIGHT**

The 2024 Maryland 4-H Dog Bowl Contest was held on December 8 at the University of Maryland campus. Twenty-one youth from Frederick, Harford, Kent, and Montgomery counties participated in the event.

Two very competitive double-elimination brackets were held (Junior/Intermediate, Senior). Congratulations to Montgomery County's Seniors in Individual Category; Lela S., Grace D., Clara S. Congratulations also to the Senior Montgomery County Team.

## **From the Editor**

Winter started on December 21, and will end on March 20. Yet, seed catalogs began appearing in my mailbox before the holidays! I already received several catalogs, and I started my list of what I want to plant. My favorite catalogs are the ones with glossy pages and pretty pictures.

Choosing vegetables or flowers to enter at the fair will require some planning. If you are seasoned gardener, you may choose plants that will be ready at fair time. If on the other hand, you are a beginner gardener, you will find a lot of useful information in the catalogs. You will learn how many days it will take to harvest, whether seeds are best started indoors or outdoors, if they prefer full sun, partial shade, wet, or dry soil. You will also have to make the decision on what sort of seeds you want, organic, heirloom, or hybrid, and how much the seeds cost.

Whether you are a seasoned gardener or a beginner, talk with other gardeners or compare notes with other 4-H'ers on what vegetables and flowers did well this past summer.

Remember to plant enough of each vegetable and flower so you can select the best specimens to enter at the fair.

In addition, when it is finally time to register for the fair, register all of the vegetables and flowers you anticipate being ready at fair time. Although pre-entries are required by the end of registration, pre-entry will not be a requirement, but is still encouraged, for Divisions 13: Vegetables, Division 14: Flower Specimens, and Division 15: Agricultural Products only.

Happy Gardening!

## CLUB CORNER

### 4-H Zenith Club

By Olivia H-C.

This past year the 4-H Zenith Club was filled with activities and fun! The first meeting of the year was a day of cooking demonstrations, and many scrumptious dishes were prepared and presented. Apple pie, cookies, spaghetti, bread, fudge, and mochi were some of the delicious foods! In April, the club met at the 4-H Agricultural Farm to play wiffle ball and fly kites.

In the summer, they brainstormed ideas and built their booth and banner for the county fair. The work was difficult but the results were amazing! At the county fair, they placed second for their booth and third for their banner! The club also planned a field trip to Monocacy National Battlefield in Frederick County. They saw the battlefield memorial museum and checked out historic artifacts. A park ranger even gave them a visualization of the entire battle, showing the individual decisions that were made on that day that changed the course of history!

The cold weather in November kept the club members inside doing fun and interesting activities like making colorful cards with food coloring and shaving cream. For their last meeting of the year, they decorated sugar cookies with frosting and sprinkles and drank creamy hot chocolate.

The 4-H Zenith Club had tons of fun learning about many different topics that were presented by their members as well! They learned about technology from Darren's robotic car and Evelyn's computer program. Calvin and Theo presented plant displays, and Landon's project on disinfectants helped the members

appreciate science. History and art were incorporated with Joshie's, Addie's, and Karie's demonstrating the Chinese jump rope, Perri's presentation on Sacajawea, and Addie's theater monologue.



Photos by Addy B.

Group Picture: Darren B., Karie C., Peter C., Vivie C., Joshie C., Zackie C., Addie C., Landon H., Matty L., Janiyah J., Kanai J., Perri H., Calvin L.

Evelyn H.

## **Damascus Community Club**

By Chace B.

In December, the Damascus Community 4-H Club installed the club's 2025 new officers. The new officers were elected at the Club's November elections. As is the Club's tradition, Spaghetti was passed down from the previous officers to new officers to represent the jobs being passed on, and wishing the new officers best of luck in their new position.



Back row left to right:

Brent K, Chace B., Charlie G., Jesse A.

Front row left to right: Addy B., Luca G., Allie K.,  
Zoe S.

## 4-H Calendar Due dates and Events

### JANUARY

- 2 Livestock Workshop and Skillathon. Breeds of Livestock
- 4 Steer Weigh-In, 7:00 a.m. Montgomery County Fairgrounds
- 6 **NEW DATE** - President 's Volunteer Service Award nomination, Record Books, Diamond Clover Levels 1-4 Reports, Youth Achievement Awards Nomination Forms, and Volunteer Achievement Awards Nomination Forms due at the MoCo 4-H Office
- 8 Small Engine Workshop. Tool I.D. and use, safety, meet the engines
- 9 Livestock Workshop and Skillathon. Parts and Anatomy
- 10 MC Agricultural Center 2025 Scholarship Applications due date
- 10 Montgomery County Teen Leadership Council due date
- 15 2025 National Leadership Trips Portfolio due to State Office (National 4-H Congress, Camp Miniwanca, West Virginia Older Member's Conference and Virginia Congress)
- 16 Livestock Workshop and Skillathon. Quality Assurance: Ear Notching, feed labels, medicine labels, etc.
- 22 Small Engine Workshop. Four stroke vs Two stroke, pull off and reassemble sheet metal

- 23 Livestock Workshop and Skillathon. Feed I.D.  
27 \*\*\* Livestock Workshops and Skillathon. Wool Judging

## **FEBRUARY**

- 5 Small Engine Workshop. Measurements, controls, throttle: fuel-smells, compression test, fuel safety  
6 Livestock Workshop and Skillathon. Hay Identification and Judging  
13 Livestock Workshop and Skillathon. Equipment Identification and Uses  
15 Maryland State 4-H Awards Celebration  
19 Small Engine Workshop. I.D. engine parts, intro driving course and safety  
20 Livestock Workshop and Skillathon. Meat Identification and Judging  
22 Maryland 4-H Dog Skillathon (or Fun Day) 1:00-3:00 p.m. (Tentative)  
22 Montgomery County 4-H Achievement Night, 5:00-7:00 p.m.,  
MOCO Fairgrounds  
27 Livestock Workshop and Skillathon. Review and Practice Skillathon

## **MARCH**

- 1 Maryland 4-H State Livestock Skillathon Montgomery County Fairgrounds  
5 Small Engine Workshop. Disassemble parts  
8 Maryland 4-H Horse bowl Contest, Plant Science Bldg., UMD, College  
Park  
12-16 Ignite by 4-H, Marriott Marquis, Washington D.C.  
15 Public Speaking Contest, location TBD in Frederick County  
19 Small Engine Workshop. Disassemble and reassemble parts  
22 Maryland 4-H Skillathon, Carroll County Extension Office (Tentative)  
29 Horticulture Workshop, 4-H Derwood Bldg.

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