

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

March 2025 Newsletter



WE ARE HIRING!

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

**Coordinator, Nutrient Management
Advisor in the following counties**

- **Allegany**
- **Washington**

**Best Consideration Date:
February 28, 2025**

— **JOIN OUR** —
TEAM

Come join our team as a Coordinator, Nutrient Management Advisor in Allegany or Washington Counties. Click the link below to apply.



Coordinator, Nutrient Management Advisor

Job Description Summary & Additional Information Organization Summary: University of Maryland Extension (UME) Agriculture and Food Systems (AgFS) Program seeks candidates for a 12-month Agricultural Nutrient Management Program (ANMP) Nutrient Management Advisor.

Successful Food Initiative



COMMUNITY EFFORT SUPPORTS 155 FAMILIES



In a display of community spirit, local businesses, non-profits and individuals came together to ensure local families in Garrett County had enough groceries over the Christmas break. The effort started with five Garrett County Public School Community School Specialists working with the Western Maryland Food Council to put together an effort to provide the food. A donation from Morningstar, Inc employees which was matched by the corporate office kicked off the drive.

Melissa Bolyard and Willie Lantz with the Western Maryland Food Council helped coordinate the efforts to bring in other donations. The Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry and Yoder's Butcher Barn donated over 300 lbs. of deer meat. Three members of Red House Lutheran Church donated gift cards from Thrivent. Casselman Grocery in Grantsville provided groceries at cost and donated additional groceries. Mt. Laurel Medical Center provided a cloth tote bag to send food home with the students. The effort was operated through the newly formed non-profit organization, Appalachia Farm and Food Alliance.

The Appalachia Farm and Food Alliance is run locally by a 12 member board and has a mission to assist with farm and food issues in western Maryland and the surrounding areas. Over \$5,000 of food was collected for 155 families from 5 elementary schools in Garrett County.

Mesonet Weather Station Installed At 4-H Camp

MESONET WEATHER STATION



**MARYLAND 4-H
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
AND CAMPING CENTER**



The Maryland 4-H Environmental Education and Camping Center in Bittinger, Maryland is excited to announce a new addition to the facility. In partnership with University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland Mesonet, and Maryland Department of Emergency Management, a new weather station has been installed.

This weather monitoring station will not only enhance emergency preparedness and public safety for the area, but will also serve as a new tool available to both farmers, gardeners, and camper environmental education, and research. The station collects, transmits, and archives real-time weather data to improve weather forecasts, and provide warnings of severe weather to public and decision makers. But it also will allow anyone who accesses the website to see current data along with trends related to temperature, humidity, soil temperature, soil moisture, rainfall and more. This can assist gardeners and farmers in deciding planting schedules, crop harvesting, and more. This will also serve as a useful educational tool for youth camps to learn about weather, data tracking, and making predictions based on evidence collected.

The Maryland 4-H Environmental Education and Camping center is excited to have this partnership and a new tool to continue to fill one of University of Maryland Extension's missions – to grow and share environmental education and research.

To see data at this weather station, please visit <https://mesonet.umd.edu/station?stid=MDMSNT-21> , or for more information about the Maryland 4-H Environmental Education and Camping Center, visit <https://extension.umd.edu/programs/4-h-youth-development/program-areas/environmental-sciences/maryland-4-h-environmental-education-camping-center/> .

Winter Enrichment

Garrett County experienced extremely cold and snowy conditions throughout January. Despite the weather, Garrett County 4-H STEM successfully offered several winter themed programs. These programs featured topics such as snow globe science, snowy owl habitats, and ski gondola robotics. The youth enjoyed the programs and had a wonderful time.



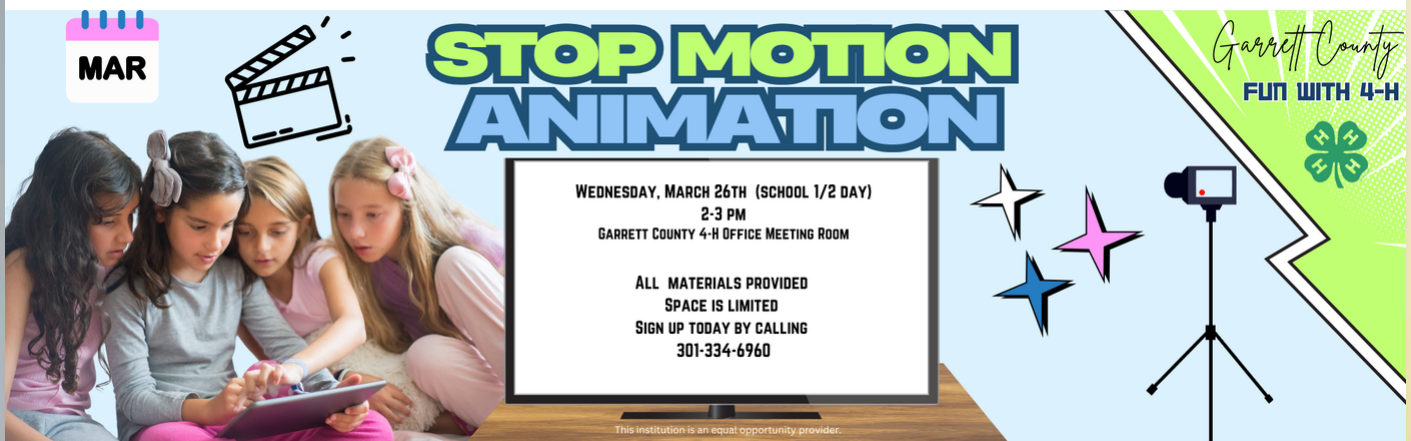
GARRETT COUNTY 4-H STEM ENRICHMENT
Winter

**FEATURED PROGRAMS
JANUARY 2025**

- Snow Globe Science w/ lesson on Viscosity and Pine
- Snowy Owl w/ lesson on Habitats
- Lego Robotics Ski Gondola w/ lesson on Pulleys

Stop Motion Animation Class Offered

March's Fun with 4-H will offer an introduction to the captivating art of stop motion! 4-H Educator, Karen Wood will guide youth throughout the process, assisting them in creating their very own stop motion videos. This class guarantees to be a fantastic experience! Get excited—it's time to begin animating! Sign up today!



MAR

STOP MOTION ANIMATION

**Garrett County
FUN WITH 4-H**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26TH (SCHOOL 1/2 DAY)
2-3 PM
GARRETT COUNTY 4-H OFFICE MEETING ROOM**

**ALL MATERIALS PROVIDED
SPACE IS LIMITED
SIGN UP TODAY BY CALLING
301-334-6960**

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

G-Force Scores BIG!



The G-FORCE Team 2818 FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) robotics team from Garrett County is sponsored by 4-H and GEARS. At a recent FTC Qualifier, G-FORCE and its partner Robo Troopers were the winning alliance at the Chesapeake FTC Qualifier held in Moorefield, WV. Not only did the team win the competition, but they set a Chesapeake (MD, VA & DC) record that is also the 2nd highest in the US and 6th in the world at this time with a non-penalty score of 380 points. The competition at the event was competitive with many of the top teams in the region competing in the division of 26 teams. Each team competes in 5 qualifying matches then enters playoff matches with a partner selected by the top six teams. G-FORCE lost their first qualifying match to an alliance which included the Robo Troopers then went on to dominate their other 4 qualifying matches. During the alliance selection, the top seeded alliance, Robo Troopers, selected G-FORCE as their alliance partner. During the playoffs the alliance won three consecutive matches including the final match where they scored. 410 points (30 points came from penalties on the other alliance). G-FORCE now ranks 3rd in the Chesapeake Region with over 240 teams. G-FORCE qualified to attend the FIRST FTC Chesapeake State Championship which will be held on March 2nd featuring 56 of the best teams in the Chesapeake region. The G-FORCE team also received 2nd place in the Inspire Award which is the overall award for best design, innovation, motivation, and connection in the STEM community.

This year's team members are Shayne Beachy, Jett DeWitt, Dustin DeBerry and Riley Thomas. The team is mentored by Phil Malone, Arlene Lantz, and Atlee Wise. The 4-H robotics team G-FORCE began competing in 2008 and has won many state and national competitions and awards. Check out their web page at <http://www.g-force2818.com/>.

VIEW THE RECORD BREAKING MATCH HERE

Beginner Gardening Series Offered

Learn how to grow a portion of your own vegetables this year in this 7 week course designed for the beginner gardener. Lots of garden gifts will be given at each session-- but you must register! Limited to 15 families! See the details below!



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION | GROW IT - EAT IT SEED TO SUPPER | A MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Seed to Supper

FREE

Dates and Topics

- March 31-** Planning a Garden
- April 7-** Getting Started with Healthy Soil
- April 21-** Planting Your Garden
- May 5-** Caring For Your Garden- Part 1
- May 19-** Caring for Your Garden- Part 2
- June 2-** Applying and Practicing- Planting Community Garden
- June 16 -** Harvesting and Using Your Bounty

6:00 -7:00pm @ Kitzmiller Library
288 W. Main St, Kitzmiller, MD 21538

Cost: Free
Registration required by March 20th and limited to 15 families. Please contact Diane at 301-334-8091 or email diane@relib.net

REGISTER NOW

The Ruth Enlow Library of GARRETT COUNTY
re
Community • Opportunity

A beginner food gardening series for adults that want to garden on a budget! Each session will highlight practical, low-cost tips for building, planning, planting, maintaining, and celebrating the harvest of a successful vegetable garden. Hands-on demonstrations at each class. Family friendly-- childrens' activities available if requested during registration.

Free garden gifts per session and each family that attends the entire series will receive an EarthBox self-watering system- a \$50 value!



University programs, activities, and facilities are available to all without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, political affiliation, physical or mental disability, religion, protected veteran status, genetic information, personal appearance, or any other legally protected class. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in any event or activity, please contact University of Maryland Extension @ 301-334-6960 at least 2 weeks prior to the class that you want to attend.

Horticulture Needs Questionnaire

Provide your input by April 1, 2025, to help shape the residential horticulture outreach program with University of Maryland Extension in Garrett County. For anyone that completes the task by the deadline listed above, your name will be entered into a raffle for a "repotting/transplanting mat".

Direct Link: <https://forms.gle/wQ6sCFU66K1My2Ae8>



Do You Enjoy Gardening and Live in Garrett County, Maryland?



UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

MASTER
GARDENER

<https://forms.gle/DVEouEhz7r1K26s79>

If so, please complete the needs questionnaire by
April 2, 2025 to help shape programs offered by
University of Maryland Extension.

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Lunchtime Food Gardening Series

Take your lunch break and learn how to grow a garden in 2025! Mostly aimed at the beginner gardener, but anyone that wants to learn more about the topics are encouraged to register. Attend in person at the University of Maryland Extension Office in Garrett County or join virtually during the live session or watch the recorded lesson. An option to meet everyone's desire! Free gardening incentives at every class! Register [HERE](#).

Dig In:

Lunchtime Food Gardening Series

Transform your lunch break into a green thumb – start growing your own food today!



March 14
Explore Garden Types & No-Till/Low-Till Systems

March 28
Seed Your Own Transplants- Tips, Tricks, and Timing

April 11
Making the Most of Our Growing Season- Using Row Cover, Other Tools, & Cool Season Crops

April 25
Intro. to Permaculture, Perennial Food Crops- Horseradish, Rhubarb, Asparagus, & Easy Small Fruit

May 9
Container Gardening on a Budget & Watering

May 23
Making the Most of Your Space- Vertical Growing, Square Foot Gardening, Succession Planting, -Laying It All Out

Time: 12:15pm -12:45pm EST

Join in-person in Oakland, MD or Virtually- (live or watch the recording at your convenience)

Childrens activities are available for those attending in-person. Limited availability.

Cost: Free

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION | MASTER GARDENER

Registration Required



<https://forms.gle/7h1k1Gpbo17XJ2wR7>

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Workforce Development & Extension Internship Applications Available



Applications for Extension's Workforce Development Internship Summer 2025 are open! Visit the [University of Maryland Extension website](https://www.umd.edu/extension) to learn more and apply. **This is a paid internship!**

The University of Maryland Extension (UME) is seeking undergraduate students interested in careers in Extension and agriculture industries. Our Workforce Development Internship is a ten-week full-time Summer experiential learning and professional development opportunity for undergraduate students currently enrolled in a in a two-year, four-year degree or certificate program and who are interested in a career in agriculture and natural resources.



“I’ve learned that, within Extension, education is like the tide. There is a combination of listening and learning and teaching and sharing. This internship also showed me that I love working collaboratively!”

- ‘24 Intern
Frederick, Howard, and
Montgomery County Extension
Offices



COLLEGE OF
AGRICULTURE &
NATURAL RESOURCES

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

This Institution is an equal opportunity employer.

Update AG Client Contact Information



Agriculture & Food Systems

Are you receiving our monthly AG Newsletter? If not, please [click here](#) to update your contact information and to stay updated on everything agriculture-related in Garrett County and the tri-state area.

Keeping Connected

We are here to serve you in person, by phone, email, or by Zoom. If you have questions, contact one of our experts to provide solutions.



Area Extension Director Western Maryland Cluster	4-H Youth Development	Agriculture & Food Systems	Family & Consumer Sciences	Maryland SNAP Ed	Environment & Natural Resources
Dr. Jennifer Bentlejewski jthorn@umd.edu	Lacie Ashby Principal Agent lashby@umd.edu	William Lantz Principal Agent wlantz@umd.edu	Dr. Lisa McCoy Senior Agent lmccoy@umd.edu		Ashley Bachtel-Bodkins Senior Agent Associate Master Gardener Coordinator abachtel@umd.edu
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UME-Garrett County

Email: rcvetnic@umd.edu

Website: <https://extension.umd.edu/locations/garrett-county>

Location: 1916 Maryland Hwy., Suite A, Mt. Lake Park, MD 21550

Phone: 301-334-6960

Office Hours: M-F 8:30 am-4:30 pm excluding holidays

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/4HGarrettCoMD>

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personal appearance, or any other legally protected class. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in any event or activity, please contact us at least two weeks prior to the event at (301) 334-6960.



Roberta Cvetnick

Roberta is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters