



# 4-H Forecast

St. Mary's County  
February 2025

## HEAD — HEART — HANDS — HEALTH

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January 30, 2025

Hello Everyone!

2025 is off to a good start! While January is known for being “the longest month”, it has flown by! It was nice to get some snow, but also nice to see the grass again and for all of the water troughs to thaw out! We have had several great 4-H events already this year. While I know many of you have just finished putting your final touches on your 2024 Record Book, now is the best time to go ahead and print out your Record Book forms for 2025 and write down everything you did in January and set your goals for the year. I hope everyone stays warm and healthy!

Thank you,

Susan Vallandingham



I Pledge

My **HEAD**

to clearer thinking,

My **HEART**

to greater loyalty

My **HANDS**

to larger service

and

My **HEALTH**

to better living,

for my club,

my community,

my country,

and my

world.



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4-H  
GROWS HERE





## *MD 4-H State Council*

Congratulations goes to Delia Vallandingham for being chosen to represent St. Mary's County on the MD 4-H State Council! Here is an article from Delia:

Hi, my name is Delia Vallandingham and I am 14 years old. This year I am a part of the Maryland 4-H State Council. 4-H State Council is a great opportunity for Leadership and being able to make new friends from all across Maryland. 4-H State Council is one of the highest committees you can be on for your state. Many events turn to 4-H State Council for us to vote on things, so they can hear from actual 4-H'ers. Last weekend, I attended an overnight retreat for 4-H State Council in Carroll County. I met teens from all of the counties and even some 4-H educators from other counties as well. We learned all about Leadership, Networking, Etiquette, and how to keep a conversation flowing with people you have just met.



I learned so much and am excited to share what I have learned with everyone in St. Mary's County!

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## *MD 4-H Volunteer & Teen Forum*

The MD 4-H Volunteer & Teen Forum was held on Nov 23 & 24, 2024 in Ocean City, MD. Participants from St. Mary's County included Emma Smith, Lisa Smith, Barbara Dobbins & Charles Hurry.







## *St. Mary's County 4-H Air Rifle Contest Results*

The St. Mary's County 4-H Air Rifle Contest was held on November 24, 2024 at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds.

Here are the results from the contest:

### **Seniors:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> place – Trent Vallandingham
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Waylon Starling
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Matthew Van Ryswick
- 4<sup>th</sup> place – Nathan Raley

### **Intermediates:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> place – Ryan Cory
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Logan Raley
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Delia Vallandingham

### **Juniors:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> place - Levi Vallandingham
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Andrew Russell
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Michael Caywood
- 4<sup>th</sup> place – Evan Hancock
- 5<sup>th</sup> place – Braden DeGarmo
- 6<sup>th</sup> place – Emmy Hancock
- 7<sup>th</sup> place – Cali Stonesifer
- 8<sup>th</sup> place – Morgan Raley
- 9<sup>th</sup> place – Colby Vallandingham
- 10<sup>th</sup> place – Ella Hancock

**Most Bullseyes:** Levi Vallandingham





## *Holiday Workshop*

The Holiday Workshop hosted by Tudor Hall 4-H Club was held on 12/7/24. Lots of crafts were made and fun was had! Thank you to everyone who came to join in! Our most festive members were Leroy, Delia, Ernest, Evan, Emmy and Ella!







## *St. Mary's County 4-H Archery Contest Results*

*12-15-2025*

### **Juniors:**

1<sup>st</sup> place – Levi Vallandingham

2<sup>nd</sup> place – Michael Caywood

3<sup>rd</sup> place – Cali Stonestifer

4<sup>th</sup> place – Colby Vallandingham

### **Intermediates:**

1<sup>st</sup> place - Emma Smith

2<sup>nd</sup> place – Delia Vallandingham

3<sup>rd</sup> place – Ryan Cory

### **Seniors:**

1<sup>st</sup> place – Trent Vallandingham

2<sup>nd</sup> place – Waylon Starling





## Holiday Workshop

### Graham Cracker House Building Workshop

On 12/20/24, Wild Things 4-H Club hosted a Graham Cracker House Building Workshop. The Winner of the traditional category was Josie S., the winner of the livestock theme category was Wyatt Mast, and the winner of the 4-H theme category was a tie between Pierce Helmick and Chandler Sweetman. The St. Mary's County 4-H Champion Graham Cracker House was the house built by Wyatt Mast. Wyatt had extreme detail and neatness. Wyatt received the Champion Banner (donated by Wayne's Signs) and Gift Card (donated by Redgate Farm Enterprises). The winner of our holiday shirt contest was Madelyn Russell. Thank you to the St. Mary's County Fair Board for allowing us to use Tolerance Hall for the event.



Champion Graham Cracker House



Holiday Shirt Contest  
participants





## *MD 4-H Countdown to Christmas Building Block Challenge*

Check out these awesome builds that were among the entries in the 2024 4-H Countdown to Christmas Building Block Challenge! Such creative ideas! Each entry earned the member a spot in the drawing for the prize. The winner of the challenge is Leroy Kershaw! Great job everyone! Thank you to Tudor Hall 4-H Club for organizing this event!

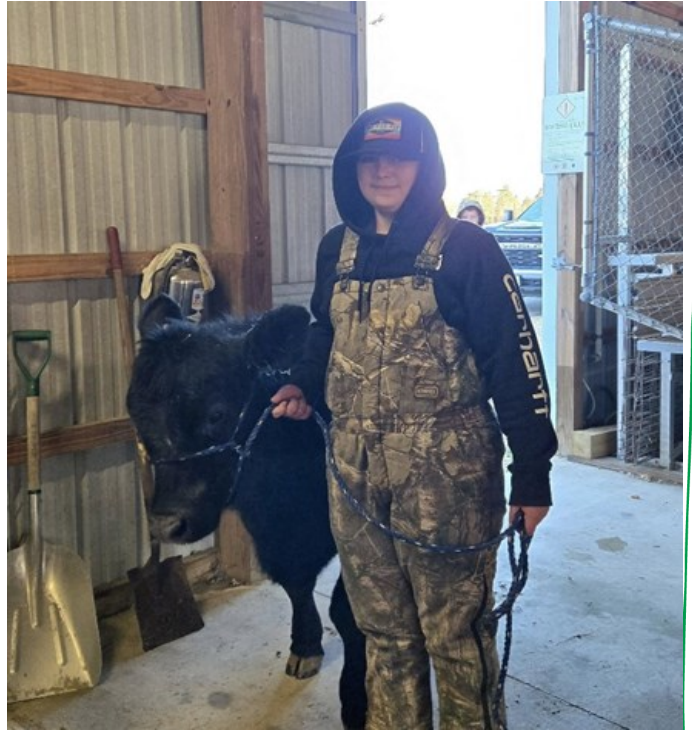






## Beef Weigh In

On January 4, 2025, we weighed in 20 steers to start their projects. These projects will be completed come Fair time, when they are auctioned off. Good luck this year!







## Officer's Training

Our County Officer's Training was held on January 18<sup>th</sup> at the Fairgrounds. We had a great turnout, learned leadership skills and had some FUN! We would like to send a big THANK YOU to the following 4-H Volunteers & Teen Leaders who helped teach the new officers: Lisa Smith, Cathy Kershaw, Heather Pierce, Delia Vallandingham, Emma Smith, Barbara Dobbins & Susan Vallandingham!



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# 4-H Forecast

St. Mary's County  
February 2025

## Officer's Training







## Club Reporter News



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### REPORTER'S NEWS

**Tudor Hall 4-H Club Report**

**December 13, 2024**

**Submitted By: Leroy Kershaw**

The December meeting of the Tudor Hall 4-H Club was held on December 13, 2024. The meeting was called to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Kyle W. and the 4-H pledge was led by Trent V.. We then paused the business meeting to eat dinner together. Next, roll was called with the roll call question being "What is your favorite animal?". The minutes of the last meeting were said by Delia V. and the Treasurers report was said by Delia. Demonstrations for this meeting were: Braden D.: My Tractors, My homemade instrument. He then played his banjo for us, and he was awesome! Joe B. and Trenton R.: What we feed our pigs.

Under old business, we discussed the holiday workshop. Next, we discussed the petting zoo we helped provide for Southern States. We were reminded about the Lego Building block challenge. Then we discussed our plan for helping with the holiday market at Tractor Supply. We sold hot chocolate and members brought their animals to share with the public.

Under new business, we were reminded that record books are due on January 19<sup>th</sup>. Next, we heard from all of our nominees for offices. We then voted. Our 2025 officers are:

President: Trent V.

Vice President: Emily G.

Secretary: Madison A.

Treasurer: Levi V.

Historian: Leroy K.

Reporter: Olivia F.

Sergeant at Arms: Susannah W.

We then gathered ideas for 2025 planning. Members had ideas such as: going to the pool, going on a nature walk, fossil and lego workshops, welding workshop, hosting a trunk or treat and kickball game again. Trent V. told us about his time on the Maryland livestock skillathon team where he traveled to Kentucky for the National Skillathon Contest. Congratulations Trent! We then exchanged secret santa gifts. The meeting adjourned at 8:19pm.



**REPORTER'S NEWS**  
**Chesapeake Crabs 4-H Club Report**  
**December 20, 2024**  
Submitted By: Bethany Weathersbee

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	
December 20, 2024	7:00-7:35pm	St Mary's Ag center	
TOTAL AT-TENDEES	MEMBERS	ADULTS	VISITORS
15	8	7	0

### Minutes (Notes):

#### Old Business

1. Demonstration— NA
2. Treasurers Report— NA
3. Fundraising— Dec 7 Tractor supply
4. Committee Reports— NA
5. Community Service— Donated to Mikes Bikes food fund
6. Past Club Activities— Annual leader elections

#### New Business

1. REMINDER MEMBERS: please give your demonstrations! They can be anything, even just giving a demonstration of how to do a simple craft or cool fun facts about your favorite animal / insect.
2. Record book workshop: JAN 11 as well as next meeting is JAN 11
3. Election results.
  - *President:* Rebecca Weathersbee
  - *Vice president:* Wren Waters
  - *Secretary:* Bethany Weathersbee
  - *Jr Secretary/ Secretary in Training:* Eleanor "Ellie" Waters
  - *Treasurer:* Josey Dyson
  - *Historian/ Reporter:* Norah Hicks

Votes: 1. start/end meeting 2. office elections





## REPORTER'S NEWS

### Wild Things 4-H Club Report

January 14, 2025

Submitted By: Brooke Buckler, Club President

The first meeting of 2025 was held on January 14, 2025. The meeting was called to order by Vice President, Wyatt Mast. We discussed hosting a Livestock Skill-A-Thon. The Skill-A-Thon will be open to all St. Mary's County 4-H members. Clover members will be encouraged to participate too. January 31st and February 7th are the dates being considered.

We discussed our Annual Club Achievement Celebration. The club decided to have the celebration at Nicoletti's Pizza on February 11th.

We discussed our club plans and activities for 2025. Members were reminded to complete the club survey. We discussed holding a Livestock Round-Up during the public school spring break. We discussed April 16 and 17 as tentative dates. A Livestock Round-Up Committee has been formed to plan and organize the event. Members of the committee are Brooke, Wyatt, Kamber and "W". The club discussed some ideas for sessions at the round-up. Ideas discussed were nutrition, showing and showing etiquette, judging, and meat evaluation. Our Club Leader will reach out to see if the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds will be available on April 16 and 17.

We discussed having another livestock event in August as a refresher before the fair. Our club leader has reached out to the 4-H Office to see if perhaps we could have a livestock track during the county 4-H camp or adventure days. We agreed this would be a good idea. Our club leader will follow-up with the 4-H Office.

The club discussed a possible trip to see a jackpot show. Observing jackpot shows can be an opportunity to learn showing skills by observing. There is a show May 30 - June 1st in Queen Anne County. We will discuss this further at our March meeting.

For our April Community Service project, members are to submit to "W" (our Community Service Officer) ideas for a project the club can do. We will discuss at our March meeting.

Members interested in volunteering to help with the County Banquet should let the club leader know before February 3rd. Members were reminded to sign up to bring snacks to one of the monthly meetings and to sign up for communication events/demonstrations to be done at each club meeting. Officers were reminded about officer training on January 18th at 10:00am.

The meeting was adjourned. Kamber completed three demonstrations to complete her 2024 projects. One on sheep products, one on woodworking tools, and one on how to make an ice cream cone bird feeder. Club members each made a bird feeder to take home.



#### REPORTER'S NEWS

##### South County Patriots 4-H Club Report

January 26, 2025

Submitted By: Emma Smith

The monthly meeting of the South County Patriots was held on January 26, 2025 at 2pm in Ridge, MD. Savannah Pierce, Vice-President, called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm. Roll call was answered by 8 members and answered the question, "What are your main goals for 4-H this year?". Kayla Wilson, President, arrived after the roll call was completed. Cali Stonesifer led the Pledge of Allegiance and Emma Smith led the 4-H Pledge.

Bruce Wilson read his Treasurer's report, explaining to the club what their current balance is and what the outstanding expenses are for January and funds set aside for camps.

Heather Pierce reminded the club that record books are due to the 4-H office by February 3, 2025. Anyone who does not submit a record book cannot enter exhibits in the fair the following year in 4-H. Everyone who is turning in a record book had it with them and will complete their final review and signatures with Heather Pierce after the meeting. All club members were asked to sign up by the end of January if possible, but no later than the day before the February meeting. Anyone who has not enrolled should not attend the next meeting. Heather said that she can help anyone having trouble getting enrolled or deciding what projects to sign up for and explained how projects are linked to certain awards.

All club members were given copies of the 2024 plans and reviewed them to make sure there were no issues that have come up since the last business meeting. A few of the meeting dates were adjusted and a new copy will be given to everyone and submitted to the 4-H office. The Firehouse is reserved for February and Heather will work with them for the remaining dates.

The 4-H banquet will be held on March 15th at the Ridge Firehouse. Emma and Savannah volunteered to help at the registration table, Kayla for the 50/50 raffle, and Garrett as a greeter. Savannah Pierce made a motion for the club to vote whether to pay for the parents for the banquet with club funds. Emma Smith seconded the motion. The club voted unanimously to pay for the parents and the motion carried.

Discussions were held on the Friend of 4-H nomination, but the club was unable to come to a decision.

The club decided last year that a fundraiser would be held again this year to raise funds that would go towards 4-H camps for any club members who wanted to go. Heather Pierce explained that it has been difficult to find a date early in the year that works for both the quarter auction group and the fairgrounds. She selected March 9, 2025, as that was the only date that married up for the February/March timeframe.

The next meeting will be on February 23rd at 2pm at the Ridge Firehouse.

Kayla Wilson moved that the business meeting adjourn at 2:35 pm. Motion seconded by Emma Smith and carried. After the meeting, snacks were served and club members and parents stayed to work with Heather on the signatures for their record books, 2025 Diamond Clover plans, and to go through the Outstanding 4-H'er of the Year form to see how many points each club member would have.





## Upcoming Event



### Livestock Knowledge Workshops



Come learn about pigs, sheep, cows & goats!



Topics that will be covered: Breeds, Anatomy, Wholesale & Retail cuts of meats, Diseases, Equipment id, Feed id, Quality Assurance, Hay, Meat & Wool Judging.

*You do not need to carry a livestock project to join us.*

January 27<sup>th</sup> - 6 - 8 pm (Ag. Services Conference Room)

February 7<sup>th</sup> - 6 - 8pm (Ag. Services Conference Room)

February 10<sup>th</sup> - 6 - 8 pm (Ag. Services Conference Room)

February 20<sup>th</sup> - 6 - 8 pm (Ag. Services Conference Room)

February 27<sup>th</sup> - 6 - 8 pm (Ag. Services Conference Room)

**\*\*Please RSVP to Susan @ [susanv@umd.edu](mailto:susanv@umd.edu) if you plan to attend.\*\***

Other important dates that these classes will prepare you for:

TBD – St. Mary's Co. 4-H Livestock Skillathon (St. Mary's Co. Fairgrounds)

3/1/25 – MD 4-H State Livestock Skillathon (Montgomery Co. Fairgrounds)

3/22/25 – MD 4-H Dairy Skillathon (Carroll Co. Extension Office)

5/4/25 – Junior Sheep & Goat Skillathon (Howard Co. Fairgrounds)

If you need reasonable accommodation to participate in any event or activity, please contact Susan Vallandingham at 301-475-4479, at least 2 weeks prior to the event.

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# 4-H Forecast

St. Mary's County

February 2025



## ST. MARY'S COUNTY 4-H HORSE BOWL PRACTICE

Hosted By Stirrup Trouble 4-H Club

**COMPETITION DATE: MARCH 8**

### PRACTICE DATES:

- 1/29 • 2/11
- 2/4 • 2/18
- 3/4



### LOCATION:

**AG SERVICES  
CONFERENCE ROOM**  
26737 Radio Station Way  
Leonardtown, MD 20650  
6 PM-7PM

- Learn about horse anatomy and physiology, equine nutrition, tack and equipment, horse breeds, etc.
- Learn how to participate in the state 4-H contest.
- Practice camaraderie with other 4-Hers

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If you need reasonable accommodation to participate in any event or activity, please contact the St. Mary's County 4-H office at [bdobbins@umtd.edu](mailto:bdobbins@umtd.edu) or 301-474-4478.





## Crazy Critters 4-H Club

**\*\*\*Yard Sale\*\*\***

Our club will be holding a yard sale to help raise funds  
for Drill Team saddle pads

**Saturday, February 8, 2025**

**7:00 am – 1:00 pm**

**27108 Mt. Zion Church Road**

**Mechanicsville, MD**

**Thank you for your support!!**



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**AgFS**  
Agriculture & Food Systems

### Backyard Farming Zoom Sessions Lamb and Kid Series

- **What to Expect When They're Expecting:  
Parturition Through the First Weeks**  
February 6, 2025
- **Bottle Feeding Lambs and Kids**  
February 13, 2025
- **Lamb and Kid 911**  
February 20, 2025
- **Lamb and Kid Nutrition**  
February 27, 2025

*You may register for any of the above sessions  
at <https://go.umd.edu/lambandkid>.*

The Small Ruminant  
sessions will be held  
on Thursdays at 7 pm  
EST.

Registration is required.  
If you do not have  
adequate internet  
access, contact Maegan  
at 301-226-7543 or  
[mperdue@umd.edu](mailto:mperdue@umd.edu) for  
call in options. Sessions  
will be approximately  
one hour.

If you need reasonable  
accommodations, please email  
Maegan Perdue 2 weeks prior to  
the session.

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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.





*Get your lambs and kids off to the best possible start!*

## CLIP • DIP • STRIP • SIP

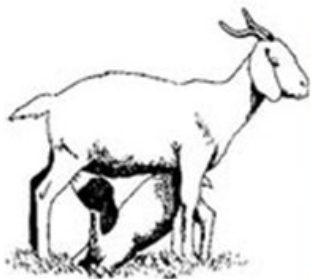


CLIP means to trim the umbilical cord to a length of 1-2 inches. Some cords do not require clipping.

DIP means to treat the navel area with a disinfectant to help it dry and prevent infection. Iodine is the "gold standard" for navel disinfectants.



STRIP means to strip the teats to remove the wax plugs and make sure the dam has enough colostrum. Stripping can be done while the female is standing, or you can set her on her rump. The most likely cause of little or no milk is mastitis.



SIP means to make sure the newborn(s) consume enough colostrum (first milk) and as soon as possible. The "rule of thumb" is *at least* 10% of their body weight in the first 24 hours.



By Susan Schoenian, Sheep & Goat Specialist Emeritus, University of Maryland Extension.  
For more information, go to [www.sheepandgoat.com](http://www.sheepandgoat.com) and/or [www.sheep101.info/201/](http://www.sheep101.info/201/). 2025.



## *Fair Survey*

Have you completed the St. Mary's County Fair 4-H Survey yet?

We are working on planning the 2025 Fair and would like to know your thoughts! Here is the link to take the survey:

<https://forms.gle/bwtiXV4E3T5CuCpB9>



## *Upcoming Event*

Livestock Knowledge Workshop – Feb 7<sup>th</sup> @ 6-8pm Conference Room

Livestock Knowledge Workshop – Feb 10<sup>th</sup> @ 6-8pm Conference Room

Horse Bowl Practice – Feb 11<sup>th</sup> @ 6-7pm Conference Room

MD 4-H Achievement Event – Feb 16<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm MD State Fair Horse Sales Pavilion

MD 4-H Dog Skillathon – Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 9:30 UMD College Park

MD 4-H Livestock Skillathon – March 1<sup>st</sup> @ Montgomery County Fairgrounds

MD 4-H Horse Bowl – March 8<sup>th</sup> @ 9am UMD College Park

MD 4-H Volunteer & Teen forum – Nov 15 & 16<sup>th</sup> Ocean City

Be on the lookout for your St. Mary's County 4-H Achievement Banquet invitation to be coming in the mail soon. The 4-H Banquet will be March 15<sup>th</sup> at the Ridge Volunteer Fire Department. We look forward to celebrating all of our 4-H'ers and their 2024 accomplishments!

