



Montgomery County

News and Notes

December 2010

Montgomery County 4-H
18410 Muncaster Road
Derwood, MD 20855
(301) 590-9638
montgomery.umd.edu/4-H/

Alganesh Piechocinski, CFLE
Senior Extension Educator
4-H Youth Development
(301) 590-2804
algapie@umd.edu

David Gordon
Extension Educator
4-H and Agriculture
(301) 590-2813
Dgordon3@umd.edu

Jeannine Shriver
Administrative Assistant
(301) 590-3210
jshriver@umd.edu

Mary Fendrick
Administrative Assistant
(301) 590-2804
fendrick@umd.edu

ACCESS 4-H – Online 4-H
Enrollment System
enrollment.4-h.org/

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[A PDF and an MS Word Version of this newsletter is available on the Montgomery County 4-H Website](#)

Dear 4-H Families,

This is the time of year to think about what we are all thankful for. Here at the Montgomery County 4-H Office we are thankful for our dedicated community of youth, parents, volunteers, alumni and friends who give so much of their time to continue to make the 4-H Youth Development Program in Montgomery County so successful and worthwhile. If you count yourself as part of this community we would like to acknowledge you with a heartfelt "Thank You!"

The 2010 4-H year is winding down and the 2011 4-H year is beginning. We are asking our wonderful and patient club leaders to take on the extra task of re-enrolling their club members for the new year using the ACCESS 4-H online enrollment system, so be extra kind to them! If you haven't already done so, please remember to sign a 4-H Code of Conduct form (and have your parent/guardian also sign it). If you haven't gotten it at a club meeting, it can be downloaded from the Montgomery County 4-H Website (<http://tinyurl.com/4hMembership>). Return the completed form to your club leader or the 4-H office.

Functionality is not yet in place in ACCESS 4-H for members to add new projects to their record, so if there is a new project you would like to add, let your club leader know. They have authority to add new projects for you.

Having a current, working email address on record with the 4-H office is more important than ever. If your email address has changed in the past year, please let your club leader or the 4-H office know so your record can be updated. Members and volunteers will be able to update their own contact information once you receive an email with a link to create your own password. Look for an email from enrollment@4-h.org with this information. Many of you have already gotten it.

We hope that everyone is already working on or planning on starting their record books to document their past year in 4-H. Completed record books will be accepted at the 4-H office no later than January 10, 2011. Please check with your club leader as to when they need your record books to review and sign them. Summary sheets and project record forms are available at the 4-H Office. They can also be downloaded in PDF or MS Word format from the 4-H Website.

As a final wrap-up to the 2010 Montgomery County Agricultural Fair, please make sure you have written Thank-You notes for any special awards you may have received. We have gotten calls at the office from several award

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sponsors wondering if their awards were given because they hadn't received any acknowledgement. Special Awards are not a guarantee. Sponsors who are not recognized may pull their awards from future fairs. If you need the name and address of an award sponsor, call or email the 4-H Office. We can look it up for you.

As winter approaches, keep in mind that 4-H activities will be cancelled when Montgomery County Public Schools or county recreation activities are closed or cancelled. **Also, please be aware that not all 4-H educators and support staff are "on-duty" every day. If you need to come to the office for help with something, please make sure the person you need to see is in the office before you come.** This is even more important as we get close to the end of the year. The Montgomery County Extension Office will be closed on 12/23, 24 and 31 and office staff have personal leave time scheduled.

Out of State Trip Applications due January 10th

4-H Youth from across the state will be selected to represent Maryland at the following events:

- National 4-H Congress
- West Virginia Older Youth Conference
- Virginia 4-H Congress
- Camp Miniwanca in Michigan

Youth who are selected for one of these trips will receive a full scholarship and travel expenses. In order to be considered for this great opportunity, senior 4-H youth, ages 14 and older, must submit a Portfolio to the County 4-H Office by January 10, 2011 along with the Out of State Trip Application available for downloading from the Maryland 4-H website at <http://www.maryland4h.org/Youth/index.cfm> .

Your portfolio should consist of the following:

- Resume:
 - Leadership, Citizenship, Life Skills based
 - Length – no more than three pages, single spaced
 - Margins – no less than one inch
 - Font Size – no less than 12 pt.
- Essay: (Essay Question: – “With many budgets being cut right now, how would you convince a politician that 4-H is worth funding?”)
 - Length – no more than two pages, double spaced
 - Margins – no less than one inch
 - Font Size – no less than 12 pt.

If you need help with your resume/portfolio call Ms. Piechocinski or Mr. Gordon at the 4-H Office. We hope that parents, guardians and club leaders encourage all senior 4-H youth to apply for these great opportunities.



Have You Earned the Presidential Service Award?

The President's Council on Service and Civic Participation (the Council) was established in 2003 to recognize the valuable contributions volunteers are making in our communities and encourage more people to serve. The

Council created the President's Volunteer Service Award program as a way to thank and honor Americans who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service.

We will be giving the Presidential Service Awards for your volunteer services once again this year. To earn an award, you must submit a record of your volunteer services for a 12 month period (2010 only). A record form for your hours can be downloaded from the 4-H website, at <http://tinyurl.com/NewsNotesLinks>.

Please submit this form to the 4-H Office no later than January 10, 2011 to receive credit for your hours. Award Hour Requirements are as follows:

Actual age – not 4-H age	Bronze Medal	Silver Medal	Gold Medal
5-14	50-74 hours	75-99 Hours	100+ hours
15+	100-174 hours	175-249 hours	250+ Hours
All hours must have been earned during 2010			

New Officer and New Leader Training in January

Have you just been elected President of your 4-H Club? Historian? Treasurer? And you are not quite sure what the job description is? Maybe you are a new club leader. If you are holding an office in your 4-H Club you should take advantage of our 4-H Officer Training Session which will take place here at the 4-H Office on January 27, 2010 starting at 7 p.m. 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 strongly encourage all of our clubs' officers to attend this training.*** Use the registration form at the end of this issue of News and Notes or the online registration form to sign-up. You ***MUST*** register by January 20th.

Scholarships Available to Maryland Dairy Youth



Several scholarships are available to Maryland Dairy Youth. Information about these scholarships can be found on the University of Maryland Extension Dairy Webpage:

<http://ansc.umd.edu/extension/dairy/scholarships/>

Check back often for updated information.

4-H Committees Forming Now for 2011

In Montgomery County we believe that our 4-H programs work best when youth and adult volunteers work together. In fact, without our volunteers, many of our 4-H programs could not continue. We hope that you will consider serving on one or two 4-H committees to help Montgomery County 4-H during the upcoming year.

Even though planning for some of our programs has already begun, the committees work throughout the year to discuss issues and improve programs for the future. We ask that for continuity, if you volunteer to serve on one or more of these committees, that you serve at least two years. Please let us know by January 4, 2011 if you can volunteer on one or

more of the following committees:

- Visual Presentation Day / Healthy Lifestyles
- Fashion Revue
- Club Recognition
- Public Speaking
- Record Books
- Junior Leadership / Officer Training
- 4-H Interstate Exchange

We would like to especially encourage 4-H members to volunteer on these committees. The more youth input that we have, the more able we will be to provide programs that matter.

Details on tasks required for each committee can be found on the Montgomery County 4-H Website under "Volunteer" (<http://montgomery.umd.edu/4-H/>).

Come to the 2010 Healthy Lifestyles Workshop

Want to Learn and Have Fun on Your Day Off From School? Join Us at the 4-H Office for the 2011 Healthy Lifestyles Workshop! January 24, 2011 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

The workshops will explore a variety of topics, like food safety, exercise, and gardening, that lead to healthy living. They will be informative, hands-on, and fun!

Bring Your Lunch Beverages will be provided. We encourage all 4-H members to come. This workshop will be a great entry in your record book and counts as a county level event for your Diamond Clover Plan and your Dairy Card. But 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! Be sure to register no later than January 14, 2011.

Around the County

The Dedicated Members of the Farm Animal Care Team

By: Stephanie Rager- Back-in-Time Reporting Secretary and FACT Member

The Farm animal Care Team (FACT), with many of its members directly associated with the Back-in-Time 4-H club is a group of families that volunteer to take care of the animals residing at the Montgomery County Agricultural History Farm Park. The FACT project leader, Mrs. Cindy Ryan, holds monthly training meetings and coordinates the animal care schedule among all of the team members. The FACT families volunteer their time, rain, shine, sleet, or snow, to take care of the animals about three times a month on average, with many serving once a week or more. Volunteering for 2-3 hours at a time during their morning or afternoon shift, their care duties include feeding the animals, providing fresh water, cleaning the animals' stalls, refilling/raking straw or hay, administering animal medication when needed, and documenting the completed care and animals' status during their shift. Members of FACT care for adult and kid wethered goats of various breeds, along with recognized heritage breeds of chickens and a well-loved barn cat that are currently at the farm. Each spring, the 4-H Goat club generously donates a few bucks or wethers to add

to the Ag. Farm's goat herd. FACT members especially enjoy bottle-feeding the young kid goats until they are ready to eat grain and hay. The team has also taken care of a variety of animals that have lived at the Ag Farm, including pigs, ducks, and African Pygmy goats. FACT members also care for animals "on loan" to the farm for special events, such as the alpacas that recently visited. Animal care was also provided by the Ryan family for the Close Encounters with Agriculture animals on loan from area farmers.



The reason why these families take time out of their busy schedules to tend to these animals is simple: through FACT, participants are introduced to basic animal science relating to livestock. They learn about normal animal health, diseases, and basic veterinary skills for many varieties of farm animals. As mostly suburbanites, these 4-H members have a very hands-on opportunity to learn about farming and the privilege of sharing their knowledge with the public during events on the farm. FACT members also learn a sense of responsibility, and most importantly, have fun. However, the community at large also benefits from their service. Since the Montgomery County Agricultural Farm Park is a public facility, many hikers, dog walkers, picnicking families, cross-country runners, artists, and horseback riders are often present. It is always a great experience for them to see the happy, healthy animals living on the historical site. Artists that enjoy painting bucolic farm scenes with the goats and chickens also frequent the Farm Park.



One of the most important ways that FACT gives back to the community is through farm animal education and interaction. FACT members serve at many Park's Department events held at the Ag Farm throughout the year, including The Harvest Festival, Springtime on the Farm, Goat Education Field Day, the Little House on the Prairie camp, and Heritage Days on the Farm. They also serve at various Friends of the Ag. Farm events throughout the year. During these events, members of FACT educate people of all ages about the farm animal breeds, eating habits, behavior, and anatomy, and offer visitors a hands-on experience getting to know marvelous animals. The Back-in-Time 4-H Club is currently in the process of trying to raise funds for FACT. The goal is to help support the animal care program at the Ag Farm and to purchase a new set of pygmy goats for our programs geared toward younger children. Montgomery Parks owns the animals and recognizes the FACT program as a vital, on-going partnership with the Agricultural History Farm Park team of volunteers and staff. The Back in Time 4-H Club is happy to be a part of something that is making such a difference in people's lives and enjoyment of the farm. FACT is always open to new members. You do not have to be a member of the Back-in-Time 4-H Club in order to join; simply email Mrs. Cindy Ryan at cindyryan18804@yahoo.com for more information.

Kids N Dogs Club Member Shares Love of Dogs with Class



Chase Diest, from the Kids N Dogs Club, earned the privilege of taking his dog to share with his class. He demonstrated to his fifth grade class at Watkins Mill Elementary some of the agility moves he's been working on with his dog Stella. Chase meets weekly April to November to train at the cattle pavilion. His enthusiasm was contagious. ***Two of Chase's classmates were inspired to join the Kids N Dogs to train with their dogs in September! Way to go Chase!***

Lucky Clover Experiment at National 4-H Center

On September 28th members of the Lucky Clovers 4-H club performed the National Science Day experiment for National 4-H leaders, foreign visitors and industry representatives at the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, MD. You can read the article written by Marlena Nothwehr that appeared on Page 1 of the National 4-H Council Newsletter here:

<http://tinyurl.com/NewsNotesLinks>



Share a Bear (or any new stuffed animal)

For the 19th year, friends of the Bonnie Johns Childrens Fund are requesting donations of *NEW* stuffed animals for children in need. These stuffed animals are given to children in homeless shelters, foster care, and in crisis.

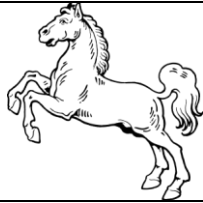
Last year over 2,500 bears were collected by the University of Maryland! The drive ends on December 15th. Bears and other new stuffed animals can be dropped off at the Montgomery County 4-H Office before December 6th.

Livestock Skill-a-thon Team Forming



Are you interested in learning about cattle, sheep, swine and goats? Whether you exhibit livestock or not, if you have a desire to learn we want you!! The Livestock Skill-a-thon Team is forming now and getting ready to start practices.

Some things you will learn include livestock feeds, meats, animal identification and equipment used. If you would like to become part of this winning tradition, contact David Gordon at dgordon3@umd.edu to sign-up. Practices will begin on January, 15 2011 at the 4-H Office. The state Skill-a-thon contest will be held in conjunction with the Maryland Cattlemen's convention in March.



4-H Art Contest at the World Horse Expo

The Maryland 4-H Horse Art Contest will take place again this year during Horse World Expo on January 20-23, 2011 in Timonium, MD. The registration materials can be downloaded from the 4-H Horse Program website at <http://www.4horse.umd.edu/activities/artcontest.html>. Entries must be received by no later than January 10, 2011. Entries will be judged the first day of the expo (January 20th) and will be displayed throughout the expo. You can also visit our website at for contest information and rules <http://www.4horse.umd.edu/activities/artcontest.html>.

2011 AGsploration Winter Institute Accepting Applications

Are you interested in production agriculture, health and/or environmental issues as they relate to Maryland agriculture? Do you enjoy teaching others? Are you interested in meeting other 4-H youth from around the state? If so, then the AGsploration Winter Institute might be for you.

Who: 4-H youth (14-18) and alumni (19-21) to become trained as a Teen Teacher

What: AGsploration Winter Institute

When/Where: February 19-21, 2011, Thendara 4-H Center, Hurlock, MD

Cost: FREE!! (Travel to/from the center on your own)

What You Will Receive: Leadership and teaching skills through workshops and fieldtrips, AGsploration gear, networking opportunities with other 4-Hers, service hours, and door prizes!!!!

What is Your Commitment? Fill out an application by December 31, 2010, attend the training in February, and make a 30 hour commitment teaching the curriculum

The AGsploration development team invites 4-H youth ages 14-18 or 4-H alumni ages 19-21 to become trained as a teen teacher for the new University of Maryland Extension's AGsploration: The Science of Maryland Agriculture curriculum at our Winter Institute on Saturday, February 19, 2011 to Monday, February 21, 2011 at the Thendara 4-H Center in Hurlock, MD. The cost of the training is free, however, you must provide travel to/from the center on your own.

At the training, team members will receive a copy of the AGsploration curriculum and a kit to aid in teaching in. As a team member, your commitment is to fill out an application and evaluation consent form, attend the AGsploration team training in February, and make a 30-hour commitment teaching and evaluating the AGsploration curriculum.

Completed applications and the evaluation consent form (project approved

by the University of Maryland Institutional Review Board, approval # 10-0638) are due by December 31, 2010 to April Hall Barczewski at UME-Cecil County, 200 Chesapeake Blvd, Suite 1500, Elkton, MD 21921. The AGsploration program is limited to 30 participants. Applicants will be accepted by a review process and we encourage at least one youth from every 4-H unit to apply. Applicants will be notified by mid-January if they have been accepted to attend the training. Additional information and required paperwork will be mailed once your application has been accepted.

The application and informational flyer can be downloaded from the Montgomery County 4-H Website at <http://tinyurl.com/NewsNotesLinks> .



Heating with Wood in Maryland

Wood is the time tested renewable energy source that requires a fraction of the investment of solar, wind, or geothermal. Installing an efficient wood stove can provide significant savings for heating your home, regardless of your income.

Newer EPA approved stoves have low emissions as well. This new fact sheet provides detailed information to help MD homeowners understand wood burning options and how to be efficient, be safe, and reduce emissions. It also discusses the heating value of different types of wood and how to purchase, store, and/or cut firewood.

Available online only at:

<http://www.naturalresources.umd.edu/Publications/PDFs/FS926WoodFuel.pdf>

January 29th Animal Science Leaders Forum

The Animal Science Leaders Forum is scheduled for Saturday, January 29, 2011 at Patuxent Research Refuge in Laurel, MD. This event is open to adult volunteers, teens (14 to 18 years of age), and UME staff working with all Animal Science project areas. As you can see by the agenda, we have talks on livestock, horse, and small animal areas. Registration materials and the agenda can be downloaded from the Montgomery County 4-H Website at

<http://tinyurl.com/NewsNotesLinks>. Registrations are due by January 7, 2011.

Morning refreshments, lunch, and a notebook with materials from all sessions are included in the registration fee. Please note that we have a snow date of Saturday, February 12, 2011 for this event. Keep your receipt and a copy of your registration form. Montgomery County 4-H will reimburse the registration fee for Montgomery County Adult and Teen Volunteers who attend this forum.

We hope that you can join us! Please contact Kristen should you have any questions!

Kristen M. Wilson
Extension Horse Specialist

University of Maryland Extension
11975 Homewood Road
Ellicott City, MD 21042
Email: kswilson@umd.edu
Ph: 301-596-9478
Fax: 410-531-2397

County Participation on National Science Day Earns Award!

Over 50 Montgomery County 4-H youth participated in the National 4-H Science Day event that took place at the 4-H Office in October. A large number of those youth reported their results afterwards at www.4-H.org/NYSD. Your participation was amongst the highest of any county nationally! ***This has earned Montgomery County 4-H a \$500 award*** to use towards science, engineering and technology programs in the county.

If your club has an idea for a SET project, let the office know. You might be eligible to a portion of this award to help with your project.

The Montgomery County 4-H Office was able to organize this event with the help of Cathy Dobos and some teen volunteers from the Lucky Clovers 4-H Club.

Record Book and Portfolio/Resume Judge's Training

Training for record book judging will be held on Tuesday, January 4, 2011 at the 4-H Office. Training will begin at 7:00 p.m. and last about two hours. The training is appropriate for adult volunteers who have never judged record books before and for those who would like a refresher.

Please call the 4-H Office at (301)590-9638 or use the form at the end of this newsletter to register by December 28th. A minimum of six registrants is required for this training to be held.

2011 Communications Workshop

The Montgomery County 4-H Office is providing a great opportunity for all 4-H youth to participate in a workshop that allows them to express themselves and to improve their ability to speak before an audience.

Those who participate expand their speaking talents, and learn many valuable lessons that will help them in school, in college and in the job market.

This workshop will help you plan, write and deliver a speech, or give a demonstration. You can use what you learn in many arenas including the 4-H Public Speaking Competition and 4-H Visual Presentation Day.

The Communications Workshop will be held here at the 4-H Office on Thursday, March 3, 2011 from 7p.m. to 9p.m. Register by using the form at

the end of this newsletter. Deadline to register is Monday, February 21, 2011.

4-H Day in Annapolis February 21, 2011

Come spend the day with other Maryland 4-H Youth and Volunteers as we:

- Tour historic Annapolis, our state capitol
- Meet with Maryland Legislators to share information about University of Maryland Extension and the 4-H Youth Development Program
- Meet new friends Learn how a bill becomes a law in Maryland
- Listen to various government officials describe their roles and learn how we, as citizens, can be involved in government

County 4-H groups will make appointments to meet with their own county delegation members after a brief overview and general program in the morning. For more information about this unique opportunity, contact the Montgomery County 4-H Office (301.590.9638). Registration for this event closes on Friday, January 28, 2011.

Looking for an Udderly Terrific Parade Theme



The theme of the 2011 Montgomery County Agricultural Fair is "It's Udderly Terrific." This year there will be a contest to choose a theme for the 4-H Parade that is based on the fair theme.

Submissions may be made by individual 4-H Youth or 4-H clubs.

The due date for submissions is February 1st. The winning individual or club will be awarded a special prize at the Award Ceremony on the last day of the 2011 Montgomery County Agricultural Fair.

9th Annual ASSE Kids' 'SAFETY-ON-THE-JOB' 2011 Poster Contest Rules for Children Aged 5-14

Contest runs from Monday, September 19, 2010 through Monday, February 14, 2011 (Valentine's Day!)

Celebrating North American Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) Week May 1-7, 2011 and Occupational Safety and Health Professional Day May 4, 2011

Please read and follow all the rules carefully so that all posters/drawings will be eligible. The posters that best illustrate Safety on the Job will be selected as winners out of each of the five age groups. Before the children begin drawing, we urge you to talk to them about your job and workplace safety and provide examples of what risks occupational safety, health and environmental professionals address every day on the job, and if possible, provide them with examples of workplace situations. Visit www.asse.org/naosh for examples of children's workplace safety posters and ASSE's "Safety Through the Decades" timeline. Have fun and, as they say in the in the Wild, Wild, West, "Draw Partner!" Also, we hope to see you

at our annual poster contest awards ceremony in Washington, D.C, May 2, 2011!

Rules and entry forms can be found at
<http://www.asse.org/newsroom/naosh11/poster-contest.php>

Montgomery County 4-H Calendar

December	2010
4	4-H Learning Day - Cancelled
28	Record Book Judging Training for Adult Volunteers – Last day to register for training
January	2011
4	Record Book Judging Training
9	4-H Beef Weigh-In at the Fairgrounds
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record Books due • Resumes/Portfolios due • Presidential Service Award Applications due • Completed Diamond Clover Plans due
13	Record Book Judging 3pm – 8pm. Adult volunteers that have been trained are welcome to judge record books. Please call the office to volunteer.
15	Livestock Skillathon orientation meeting 7pm at the Montgomery County 4-H Office. Call or email David Gordon if you would like to join the team. No experience is necessary.
16	State 4-H Gala
22	Dog Advisory Council Meeting – Saturday, January 22, 10:00-2:00, State 4-H Center. Deadlines for Submissions for next News and Notes
24	Healthy Lifestyles Workshop 8:30am-2:00pm. Participants should bring their lunch. The first 30 registrants will be accepted. Please call or email the office.
27	New Officer and New Leader Training
29	Animal Science Leaders Forum
February	2011
7	News and Notes Published
10	Recognition Ceremony prep day 10am – 1pm. If you can help please call the office.
12	Montgomery County 4-H Recognition Ceremony 7pm at the Heritage Building on the Montgomery County Fairgrounds. (snow date 2/19)
21	4-H Annapolis Day
March	2011
3	Communications Workshop

12	DOG BOWL CONTEST - Saturday, March 12, Fallston High School, Harford County – Same resources as 2010
19	Create a dish garden workshop 9am – 1pm. There is space for 12 senior 4-H youth, and 12 intermediate and juniors (24 total).
26	Public Speaking Contest 8:30am-2pm
28	Deadline for submissions for the next News and Notes
April	2011
4	News and Notes Published
9	Healthy Lifestyles Contest and Visual Presentation Day 8:30am-2:00pm at the Montgomery County 4-H Office.
May	2011
7	Fashion Review Beef Field Day State Dairy Bowl contest
31	Deadline for submissions for next News and Notes
June	2011
6	News and Notes published
TBD	Teen Focus
July	2011
10-15	Montgomery County 4-H Camp Tawasentha
August	2011
12-20	2011 Montgomery County Agricultural Fair

Compiled and published by **Mary Fendrick**
For the latest news & events, please visit <http://www.agnr.umd.edu/news>

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The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources' three units—Academic Programs, the Agricultural Experiment Station, and Maryland Cooperative Extension—work in concert to educate students and citizens about critical issues and to solve problems in agriculture, food systems, and the environment. The college is an equal opportunity employer and provides equal access programs.



