



Montgomery County

News and Notes

June 2010

Montgomery County 4-H
montgomery.umd.edu/4-H
301.590.9638
18410 Muncaster Road
Derwood, MD 20855
Alganesh Piechocinski, CFLE
Senior Agent
Extension Educator
4-H Youth Development
algapie@umd.edu
301.590.2804
David Gordon
Extension Educator
Agriculture & 4-H
dgordon3@umd.edu
301.590.2813
Jeannine Shriver
Administrative Assistant
4-H Youth Development
jshrivers@umd.edu
301.590.3210
Mary Fendrick
Administrative Assistant
4-H Youth Development
fendrick@umd.edu
301.590.2824
Montgomery County Fair
www.mcagfair.com
16 Chestnut Street
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

It's Time! Summer is almost here. That means it's time to start thinking about the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair. This issue is about all things fair-related, with a little State Fair information thrown in at the end.

Get Ready ...

As this issue of News and Notes is being written, The 61st Montgomery County Agricultural Fair is rapidly approaching. The countdown clock is at 72 days. That sounds like a lot of time, but August 13, 2010 will be here before you know it.

Exhibiting your projects is one requirement for completing your 4-H projects, and the fair is a great place to do just that. Becoming a part of the fair, and not just a visitor is a great experience. If you are enrolled in Montgomery County 4-H and/or the Adventures in Science (AIS) program, you are eligible to enter your exhibits in the 4-H building or in any of the 4-H Outdoor activities.

Everyone Loves a Parade!



Help get the 62nd Annual Montgomery County Agricultural Fair off to a great start by participating in the 4-H Parade on Sunday, August 15th. Clubs may enter walking units or floats. If a club wishes to enter a float, the club must arrange for the wagon/trailer itself. The fair will provide a tractor and driver to pull the float.

The theme of this year's 4-H Parade is "Dancing with the 4-H Stars", so put on your dancing shoes and boogie on down the road! Club Entry forms, rules and regulations will be mailed to club leaders.

We have a few Community 4-H Clubs that would like to enter a float in this year's parade, but they are lacking a wagon or trailer. If anyone would be willing to let them have the use of one, please contact the 4-H

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2010 Maryland State Fair

If items are submitted by June 15th, a general topic newsletter will be published in July.

Items can be emailed to Mary Fendrick at Fendrick@umd.edu

Office and we will put you in touch with the Club Leader.



Plan your projects NOW!

One of your most important tools for planning the exhibits you will enter is the 2010 Montgomery County Agricultural Fair Catalog. It is available online at www.mcagfair.com. Paper copies are available at the 4-H Office and at the Fair Office. You are welcome to take one copy per family. No paper catalogs will be mailed.

Once you have picked your projects, find the Entry Class that it fits into in the catalog. Make sure you read all the rules and regulations that apply to 4-H entries in general and your project specifically. It would be a shame if your project was disqualified because you didn't read the rules or have your project entered in the correct Department or Class. See the example on how to correctly fill out your entry form in the "Get Set" section below.

Volunteer Opportunities

Did you know that the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair is planned, organized and run mostly by volunteers? It seems amazing when you think about it. There are a few very hard-working, paid employees of the Montgomery County Agricultural Center, but most of the work is accomplished by volunteers, adults and youth, just like you!

We ask that you work at least two consecutive hours at a time. If you volunteer through 4-H for four or more hours on any one day, 4-H will provide you with a One-Day pass for entry onto the fairgrounds. Here are some opportunities to volunteer with 4-H at the fair:

- **4-H Building Information Desk** - At least one adult is needed to work at the Information Desk in the 4-H Building at all times while the fair is open to the public. Two people would be ideal. Responsibilities include interacting with visitors; directing them to informational literature, showing them where the different exhibit areas are, and answering general questions about 4-H and the fair. You might also have to answer the phone. The dates and times are as follows:
 - Sunday, 8/15, Noon - 10 p.m.
 - Monday 8/16, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.
 - Tuesday 8/17, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.
 - Wednesday 8/18, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.
 - Thursday 8/19, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

- Friday 8/20, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.
- Saturday 8/21, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Adult Volunteers are also needed during Cake Entry time. This is Saturday, August 14 from 3:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., and during and after the Cake Auction on Sunday, August 15 from 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

These are great opportunities to earn your fair hours. If you are able to spend a few hours helping us out, please contact the 4-H Office or fill out the online form available on the Montgomery County 4-H website at <http://montgomery.umd.edu/4-H>, then click on Montgomery County Fair. You will be contacted by the 4-H Office to confirm your date and time.

- **Kids and Teens in Action** - Kids 12 years old and older can volunteer in the 4-H Building at the 2010 Montgomery County Fair and earn fair hours or service-learning hours! Kids under the age of 12 are welcome to volunteer too, but they must be chaperoned by a parent/guardian or older sibling. Kids must be 12 years of age or older and volunteer at least 10 hours in total to earn fair hours towards a Montgomery County Agricultural Center Membership.

Here are the 2010 4-H Kids and Teens in Action opportunities.

- **Junior 4-H Building Chairman of the Day** - The Junior Chairman of the Day assists the Building Superintendent with whatever needs to be done. They also coordinate the building activities with the other Kids and Teens in Action volunteers. Hours are 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. from Monday - Saturday of fair-week (8/16 - 8/21). You may sign up for a half-day (10am - 1pm, 1pm - 4pm) or a whole day.
- **Building Helpers** - You will be assigned to a department in the building to help with entry days and release day, or Sunday after the Cake Auction.
- **Make and Take Crafts**- Supplies will be provided for you to teach a simple craft to fair visitors. You must volunteer 2 hours at a time. An adult volunteer also needed each day to supervise this activity. Days needed are 8/16, 8/17, 8/19, 8/20 from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- **Vision Screening** - Eye doctors will teach you how to conduct a simple vision-screening test for fair visitors. You will be working with the eye doctors. Days needed are 8/16, 8/17 and 8/18 .
- **Project Show and Tell** - The goal is to have at least one project area being displayed during the following times. This is a great opportunity for a club to "show their stuff"! Ideas include: making airplanes, beading, computer science, needle arts - crocheting, knitting, weaving, embroidery, woodworking, electrical. Days needed are 8/16, 8/17, 8/20, 8/21 from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Please contact the 4-H Office or fill out the online form available on the Montgomery County 4-H website at <http://montgomery.umd.edu/4-H> , then click on **Montgomery County Fair** if you would like to volunteer

for any of these opportunities.

4-H Honor Guard Needs You! - This opportunity is limited to the first eight 4-H Youth Who Contact the 4-H Office. You must be 12 years old or older and strong enough to carry a large flag through the parade route on Parade Night at the County Fair (Sunday, August 15th). You will be our Parade starters, representing the county 4-H program. There will be a mandatory practice session prior to the Parade which will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 3rd at 6:30 p.m. at the fairgrounds. You will receive a 4-H T-shirt to wear in the parade and you will earn fair hours for your service.

VIP Day at the Fair - All 4-H youth, ages 12 and up can perform a very worth-while community service and earn SSL hours at the same time. Hosts and hostesses on VIP Day escort children with disabilities or who are chronically ill around the fairgrounds on Monday, August 16. Remember the 4-H Pledge '...My heart to greater loyalty, My hands to larger service...' Give some of your time to helping these children enjoy their day at the fair.

- There will be a mandatory training session for all interested volunteers on Monday, August 9, at the Heritage Building on the fairgrounds from 7 to 9 p.m. For more information or to sign up, call Besilica Reaves at 301-379-1169 or e-mail besilica.reaves@gmail.com.

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Get Set ...

Reduced Price Season Passes for 4-H Families

The Montgomery County Agricultural Center is once again offering reduced-price season passes to Montgomery County 4-H Families.

4-H Families may purchase discounted passes to the 2010 Montgomery County Agricultural Fair for members of their immediate household. This includes parents, non 4-H siblings, and other family members living in the same household. All discounted passes (season, wristband and daily) must be purchased from the Fair Office by the end of the last Fair Workday, August 7th. The prices for passes are as follows:

- 9-day Pass (Parking at Perry Parkway only included) for ages 19 and up will be \$40. This is almost half the price of season passes to the general public. Passes will be punched for each day, and a hand stamp will be required for re-admittance.
- 9-day Pass Wristband (any entrance, no free parking) for ages 12-18 will be \$15. This is the same price as 2009.
- Discounted Daily passes will also be available to 4-H family members only at a cost of \$5.00 each. This also includes parking at Perry Parkway only.
- Children 11 years of age and younger will be admitted free of charge. This is a change from last year where children under 2 years of age were admitted free of charge.

Project Hints, Tips and Reminders

After every fair, the 4-H Department Chairmen have a meeting. One subject that is discussed is comments that judges would like to pass along to exhibitors. Here are a few comments that were heard again and again:

- **Demonstrations:** Please be on time for your Demonstration. If you know that you will be late, or that you are canceling altogether, it is important for you to call the 4-H Building on the Fairgrounds at 301-926-3100 Ext 240 or Ext. 241. Not showing up for your demonstration reflects poorly on every 4-H member.

Make sure you practice your demonstration at home. Time yourself to make sure your demo meets the time requirement, and don't forget your visual aids! Check the 4-H website for more helpful hints.

- **Cakes:** Please make sure your cake is on a 10-inch cardboard circle. This rule causes more cakes to be disqualified than any other. There is a 4-H Cake Decorating Guide on the 4-H Website (Click Montgomery County Fair) that can be downloaded.



- **Plants and Flower Arrangements:** Please make sure your plants, flowers and their pots and containers are clean. You will be marked down if there is soil on the plants or the containers.

Entries

Exhibitors are encouraged to use the online entry system provided by the Montgomery County Agricultural Center. Using this system cuts down on paperwork and errors in the entry process. If you are not able to enter your exhibits using this system, paper entry forms are available in the back of the fair catalog. Please print clearly. Someone needs to be able to read your writing to get your paper entries processed. Please make sure to mail all paper entry forms to the Fair Office at:

- **Montgomery County Agricultural Fair**
- **16 Chestnut Street**
- **Gaithersburg, MD 20877**

The online entry system has not yet been turned on, but the 4-H Office will send an email to the email list and post a note to the 4-H Website as soon as it is available.

When entering online, please make sure you are entering in the desired Department (4-H or Open). Last year there were many exhibits entered in open classes when the intent was to enter in 4-H classes.

- 4-H Animal entries are due online or at the Fair Office by July 10, 2010. Late entries will be accepted until July 20th, but a late fee will be assessed.
- 4-H Building Indoor entries are due online or at the Fair Office by July 20, 2010. No entries will be accepted after this date.
- 4-H Demonstration Entries (Department 38 and 40) - If you are entering a demonstration in the fair, please check the Demonstration Schedule on page 132 and 133 in the fair catalog. Enter your demonstration on the appropriate day and time. Do not enter a food demonstration on Science and Technology Day.

If you are mailing a paper entry form for your demonstration, there is a mistake on the form. **It should NOT be mailed to the 4-H Office.** Please mail it to the Fair Office at:

- **Montgomery County Agricultural Fair**
- **16 Chestnut Street**
- **Gaithersburg, MD 20877**

How to Fill Out an Entry Form

Jane Green is a 10 year old 4-H member who would like to enter several exhibits in the 4-H building at the fair. She is using the paper form on page 147 of the fair catalog. She start by filling out her personal information. She prints clearly so her information can be read by others. Next, she looks through the fair catalog to find the appropriate Department, Division and Class of her exhibits.

Since she is a Junior 4-H member (between the ages of 8 and 10), she sees her Department is 81. Next, she finds the correct division to enter he popsicle basket. She finds it in Division 6 – Handicrafts, Class 3 – Basketry, Popsicle Craft, Clothes pin craft. She fills out this information on the entry form. She repeats the process for her squirrel feeder and the peanut butter cookies she is planning on baking. Lastly, she mails her entry form well before July 20th to the Montgomery County Fair at 16 Chestnut Street, Gaithersburg, MD 20877.

If Jane had had a question about whether her project should have been entered in one class or another, she could have called the Division Chairperson listed at the beginning of each Division. They are happy to help with questions.

Jane's completed entry form can be seen below:

4 - H INDOOR EXHIBIT ENTRY BLANK
THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY AGRICULTURAL FAIR
 16 CHESTNUT STREET, GAITHERSBURG, MD 20877

Name: Jane Green Exhibitor #: _____
 Address: 123 Main Street
 City: Gaithersburg State: MD Zipcode: 20877
 4-H Age: 10 (as of January 1st) Birth date: 2/1/2000 Phone: 301-555-5555
 E-mail: jane.green@email.com

Office Use Only:
 Received: _____
 Tally: _____
 Letter: _____
 Comp: _____

I have read, understand and agree to abide by all the rules and regulations published in the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair Premium Catalog. I also agree that I will not hold the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair liable for any accidents or injury, which may occur while participating in the Fair.
 I have read the rules and expectations for participation in the MCAC fair and promise to support and practice humane treatment of animals at all times.

I agree to present and MDA self-certification of animal health form to the department superintendent prior to unloading animals.

Exhibitor's Signature: _____ Date: 7/1/2010

Department Number Please Check One Box Below:	Division Number	Class Number	Description of Exhibit
X	6	3	Basket made from popsicle sticks
	10	3	Squirrel Feeder
	17	10	6 peanut butter cookies
Dept. 81 Juniors Age 8 - 13			
Dept. 82 Seniors Age 14 - 18			
Dept. 83 Clovers Age 5 - 7			

Free Health Checks for Small Animals Sponsored by Back in Time 4-H

Dr. Patrick K. Skipton of Woodfield Veterinary Clinic in Damascus will be providing free health checks for the pet entries in the annual Montgomery County Fair 4-H Pet Show. Pet entries will be evaluated for sound health. No shots or fecal tests will be provided. Owners must bring copies of current animal shot records...especially rabies records. Bring your pet with you. Arrive at the Ag. Farm, historic side, in the upper level of the barn, Wednesday, July 7th at 7pm. Note: Fish and Hermit Crab entries do not need a health check. Thank you.

Veterinary Science Demos

4-H Veterinary Science Demos at the Montgomery County Fair are scheduled for Friday, August 20th, in the Heritage Garden Room, 11:30am-1:30pm. This is an excellent place for a 4-H'er to showcase their knowledge on normal veterinary health, animal science, animal breeds and behavior, animal conformations, etc. All demos are classified in the "informal" category, Department 40, and may include either domestic pets or livestock. 4-H members from all clubs are encouraged to participate.

Demos must be delivered in 3- 5 minutes and include props or a science board visual display. 4-H'er's desiring to participate will need to all arrive prior to the starting time of 11:30am. (10:45am is suggested for ample time for set-up) Participants will assist with rating and critiquing peers for the overall presentation. Participation ribbons

will be awarded.

This is an excellent learning opportunity where encouragement and practice is the key to success! Consider participating this year. Space is limited to 18 entrants. Pre-registration is required on the 4-H Demo form. Questions: Contact Cindy Ryan 301-963-7466

Fair Workdays

Dates: July 17, 24, 31, August 7

Work days begin at 8:00 a.m. If you arrive and sign in by 9:30 a.m., you will receive one Free Lunch ticket. Remember, you must be at least 12 years old in order to earn hours for your Fair Membership. You must sign in and out on the Fair computer System in order for your hours to be counted.

The 4-H Building needs volunteers at other times to help set-up areas for entry days. Evenings are needed on Monday August, 9th starting at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday, August 12th all day & evening to arrange the entries from the previous night. Other times will also be needed. Please call the 4-H office to sign up to help or fill out the volunteer form online at <http://montgomery.umd.edu/4-H>, then click on **Montgomery County Fair**. Remember, the 4-H building belongs to all 4-H Youth and we must all take care of it. Even a few hours make a big difference.

Animal Exhibitor Orientations



New this year will be mandatory Animal Exhibitor orientations. A session will be held on each of the four Fair Workdays. 4-H Youth exhibiting any, and that means any, species of animal must attend one of these sessions. Subjects addressed will be the role of the Montgomery County Agricultural Center, exhibitor behavior while on the fairgrounds, proper ways to interact with visitors, dealing with confrontational situations, proper care and treatment of your animal.

Orientations will be held at 1:30 p.m. in the Garden Room of the Heritage Building. Attendance will be taken, so make sure you attend one of these sessions if you plan on exhibiting an animal at this year's fair. If you know that you will not be able to attend any of these four sessions, you must contact David Gordon at the 4-H Office by 5:00 p.m. July 16, 2010. Failure to meet this new requirement will make you ineligible to exhibit an animal at the fair.

4H Showcase - A Fair within a Fair!

Hey 4H'ers, are you looking to promote your club? Want to share all the exciting activities your club members do at the fair and all year long? Do you just think your club is the very best and want to show it

off? Then come out and join us for the 4H Showcase. We'll be setting up tables along Maple Avenue on Saturday August 21st from Noon to 4PM. Each promotional table will be judged by the Fair Queen for appearance, ability to attract attention, club/4H information and fun hands-on activities.

Last year Lucky Clovers 4H Club won first prize and enjoyed a pizza party for their promotional efforts! All the fairgoers really enjoyed the chickens, rabbits, goats and all the fun 4H activities lined up along the avenue. So if your club is interested, please register no later than July 20th with Rachel Harris at rk_harris@verizon.net or call 240-252-4113. Table space is first come, first served and space is limited.

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Go!

4-H Entry Days

- **Club Exhibits** (Divisions 33-35, Club Books, Booth Exhibits, Banner Exhibits): Entries will be taken on Monday, August 9th from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at the 4-H Building on the fairgrounds.
- **Non-perishable, Indoor Exhibits** (Divisions 1-12, 24-28, 31,32, 36, 37, 83): Entries will be taken on Wednesday, August 11th from 3:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at the 4-H Building on the fairgrounds
- If you plan on using your exhibit during fair-week for a demonstration, remember to stop at the table outside the 4-H Building prior to entering so your exhibit can be marked. Otherwise, you will not be allowed to remove it from the building.
- **Horticulture, Food Entries, Citizenship Entries** (Divisions 13-23, 29, 30, 39): Entries will be taken on Saturday, August 14th from 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- A Drop-Off pass can be downloaded and printed from the 4-H Website at <http://montgomery.umd.edu/4-H>, then click on Montgomery County Fair. This pass is only good at the Dalamar Street entrance. It is not a parking pass, it allows you to drive to the 4-H Building during Saturday entry times, drop off your 4-H Youth with their exhibit, and then drive off to park in a regular parking area. All entries, except where noted in the fair catalog, will be released on Sunday, August 22nd from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Fun and Games at the Fair - *Submitted by Stephanie Rager, Back in Time Reporter*

The Back-in-Time 4-H club is sponsoring several afternoon events at the Fair on Monday, August 16th, and a 4-H Showcase on Saturday afternoon August 21st!

The BiT club is cordially inviting everyone to grab a partner and come on down to the good-ol'-fashioned square-dancing and pie social on **Monday August 16th from 3:30-6:00pm** in the Heritage Room at the fairgrounds. Join us to show off your do-si-do know-how or come

and learn with us! Stay after in the Heritage Room and enjoy some great pie while cheering on your favorite team in the **3rd-annual Agricultural Jeopardy game from 6:30-8:30pm**. While enjoying the friendly competition, you may just learn some interesting new facts about horticulture, farm animals, insects, and all things found on a farm. Or better yet, sign up to be on one of the three teams to win a prize! But hurry, because there are only 15 slots available. If you are interested, please contact Ms. Mary Fendrick fendrick@umd.edu or (301)-590-9638.

Make sure you come back to the fair on **Saturday, August 21st from 12:00-4:00pm** along Maple Avenue for the 4-H fair Showcase! Join the Back-in-Time 4-H club representatives and the Flying Tigers to help us 'showcase' 4-H. Last year, even some rabbits, chickens and goats made a special appearance to check out all of the 4-H club tables! Last year, the Lucky Clovers 4-H club won first prize and enjoyed a pizza party for their hard work. The Queen of the fair and Rex, the fair photographer, will again judge the best club table, so be sure to put your best foot forward! Members from all 4-H clubs are encouraged to join us and be ready to share the excitement that is 4-H.

Parking and Vehicle Traffic Concerns During the Fair

Due to limited parking space, it is requested that there be no long term storage of trailers on the fairgrounds during the fair. It is expected that livestock trailers be taken home for the duration of fair week. There can be no parking of vehicles or equipment between the barns. This is a safety issue, and is a violation of fire marshal rules.

No vehicle traffic will be allowed on pedestrian thoroughfares during the hours of 10:00 a.m. and closing time. The only exception to this rule will be the trolleys operating from the lower fairgrounds to the upper fairgrounds.

4-H Cake Auction Sunday, August 15th!

We would like to invite all of our 4-H families to join us in the Cattle Pavilion on **Sunday evening at 8:00 p.m.** for our annual 4-H Cake Auction. This is our main fundraiser for the Montgomery County 4-H Program. All money raised from the auction goes back to our 4-H program to provide programs and opportunities for our 4-H Youth and Volunteers. Some of the things the funds are used for include resource materials, ribbons and awards, registration fees and scholarships.

We need your support for the cake auction. Even if your cake is not in the auction, please join with friends and family to form a syndicate to bid on a cake. If you know a business that would like to make a donation in this way, please encourage them to attend the auction on Sunday. If you need a pass for a cake buyer, please contact the 4-H Office. We have a limited number of passes to use for this purpose.

Do you need to enter the fairgrounds early for a show or contest?

If you need to enter the Fairgrounds before the 10:00 a.m. opening time for a show or contest, you will need to enter through the Dalamar

Street Entrance. You must have your entry passes, as tickets are not sold prior to 10 a.m.

To see the full text of this policy, please see the 4-H website at <http://montgomery.umd.edu/4-H>, then click on **Montgomery County Fair**.

Have Fun!

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2010 Maryland State Fair

The 2010 Maryland State Fair will be held August 27-September 6 at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium. 4-H/FFA entries begin arriving at the fair on August 25th. Visit the Maryland State Fair website for complete information at <http://www.marylandstatefair.com/>. 4-H/FFA information can be found by selecting the "Competitions" tab from the Fair's home page and then selecting "4-H" from the side tabs. Contact Chris Anderson at canders2@umd.edu or Linda Garner at terp23@umd.edu for more information.

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

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