February
8-16 Food Drive Challenge. (New – All food delivered and weighed at Achievement!!! Thanks JLC!) Beth Hill out of Office. Please contact Theresa Rich for assistance. trich@umd.edu or 410-778-1661
15 President’s Day – Extension Office Closed
16 DEADLINE: To sign up for Achievement Banquet Youth Leadership Positions
20 Winter 4-H Project Day, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon, Ext. Office
22 UME F2F 4-H Volunteer Training, 6:30 pm, Ext. Office. Must register by 2/22 at 12:00 noon.
23 4-H Thank You Writing Workshop, 7:00 – 8:00 pm, Ext. Office. Strongly recommended for all 4-H’ers!
27 Club Officer Training, 10:00 – 11:30 am, Ext. Office, Must register by 2/24

March
1 DEADLINE; Sign-up up for 4-H Potato Project (5 or 10 pounds). Details in next newsletter
5 Achievement Practice for MC’s and all 4-H’ers who have leadership positions, 9:00 am, Extension Office
6 Annual 4-H Achievement Banquet, 12:30 pm, Millington Firehouse
7 Jr. Leadership Council (JLC), 7:00 pm, Ext. Office
8 4-H Tractor Safety Class, 6 – 8 pm, Binkley & Hurst, Kennedyville. Must register by 3/1. (see description in wksp)
8-10 Beth Hill out of Office for State 4-H Team Retreat, St. Michael’s.
11 County 4-H Public Speaking Night, 6:00 pm, Ext. Office
12 Ag Center Clean-up for Auction, 9:00 am, Kent Ag Center
19 Annual Ag Center Auction, 10:00–11:00 am Silent Auction, 11:00 am – until 2 Live Auction, Ag Ctr. Tolchester
UME Kent Seed Swap, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm, Kent County Library, Chestertown
20 4-H State Council, All Day, MD 4-H Center, College Park
24 DEADLINE: to register for 4-H Tractor School, April 8-10th, QA Co 4-H Park (see description in workshop section)
25 Good Friday Holiday – Extension Office Closed
28 UME Online 4-H Volunteer Training, 6:30 – 8:30 PM. Must register with Kent Office 1 week prior to reserve spot.
29 4-H Leaders Council, 7:00 pm, Ext. Office
State 4-H Horse Advisory Council Mtg., 6:30 pm, Webinar

*** Note: You must register for almost all 4-H activities. If you want to participate, contact the Extension Office – 410-778-1661

Inclement Weather Policy for Kent 4-H Activities - If Kent County schools are closed or dismiss early due to inclement weather, all 4-H events are cancelled. For weekend activities, a decision will be made by Friday at 12:00 noon. 4-H cancellations will be sent from the 4-H Office by All 4-H Email and posted on Facebook. Listen to WCRT (102.3 FM or 1530 AM), WBAL and media for local closings.

DEADLINE MONDAY FEB 8TH: 4-H’er 2016 Re-enrollment: All 2015 4-H’ers (and volunteers) must reenroll by Monday February 8, 2016.

Club Officer Training - Saturday Feb 27th, 10-1:30 pm. All 4-H Club Officer need to attend. Register by 2/24

4-H Annual Achievement & Recognition Banquet – Sunday March 6th, 12:30 pm, Millington Firehouse. See attached Flyer.

4-H Winter Project & Craft Day originally scheduled for Saturday February 20th is now rescheduled for SUNDAY MARCH 20th, 1:00 – 3:00 pm. My apologies to the archery folks who practice that day. A detailed list of activities will soon be available. Participants will complete multiple projects they can enter in the Kent Co. Fair. Registration deadline 3/11/16. Look for the Spring 4-H Project Day on Saturday May 21st, 9 am – 12 noon.

4-H Thank You Writing Workshop – Tuesday February 23, 2016, 7 – 8 pm, Extension Office. This workshop is geared to ALL 4-H’ers especially those who write 4-H thank you’s like livestock
auction, cake auction and fair donor thank you’s and all of you that receive a gift or service of any kind (yes, that is everyone!) Learn why to handwrite thank you’s and what to write. All participants will receive a packet of thank you cards to take home. Thank you to 4-H Volunteer Georgina Marshall who is teaching that class. Sign up by Monday Feb. 22nd.

**Creative Photography 4-H Workshop Series** – Instructor Dawn Graney with assistance from Steve Atkinson, offers 3 classes to improve your creative outlook on photography. Critical thinking on a unique level that will have you look at photography in a new light. It is not just knowing the capabilities of your camera that makes a great shot, but the thought and timing that helps create a distinct difference in the image. Preference given to those who can attend all 2 classes. 4-H is covering the costs for the class. Register by March 7th

1. **Class 1 – Sunday March 20, 1-3:30, “Photography Basics”** - Learning the basics of your camera, functions and testing the boundaries. Meeting Location: 14190 Metasequoia Ct, Gentle Winds Galena MD
2. **Class 2 - April 3rd 1-3:30, “Photography Composition and Thinking Outside the Lens”** - How to identify unique photo opportunities or create your own opportunity by setting up your shot using creative thinking. Meeting Location: TBD
3. **Class 3 - May 1st - 1-3:30, “Photography Review, Digital Manipulation, printing and Matte 3 of the best field work shots.”** Review and matte three of the best field work shots in preparation for fair entry. Meeting Location: TBD

Classes are limited to 10 participants in order to cover the amount of info needed. The approach of the class is from a creative art directive point of view in order to enhance critical creative thinking and get out of the habit of “just taking a picture”. This is not just another photography class on how to use a camera - but how to create unique shots even when there isn't one. The first class would take place at instructor Dawn Graney’s residence in Galena, who has trails that are perfect for field work and a computer set up to view field work photos. Parents would be welcome to stay. The goal is for each participant to come out of the class with (3) high quality artistic photo entries for the fair.

**2 Tractor Safety Opportunities:**

1. **Tractor Safety Class**, Tuesday March 8th, 6:00 – 8:00 pm at Binkley & Hurst, Kennedyville. Get the basics of tractor safety for youth interested in competing in the Tractor Drive Contest at the Kent Co. Fair – youth are required to have a safety class to compete. Must sign up by March 1st!
2. **4-H Tractor School** – April 8-10th at the QA Co. 4-H Park. Required for youth 14-15 years working on a farm not owned by parents. 4-H will pay $60 registration fee for any Kent 4-H’er who attends. Full registrations are available in the 4-H office or by email. Must register by March 24th.


The University of Maryland, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources programs are open to all and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, or national origin, marital status, genetic information, or political affiliation, or gender identity and expression.

University of Maryland Extension
Kent County, 4-H Youth Development
709 Morgnc Road, Suite 202
Chestertown, MD 21620
Annual 4-H Achievement and Recognition Banquet

1. Join us in recognizing 4-H'ers, volunteers and special friends for their achievements and service to 4-H. All families with someone being recognized will be notified by postcard. Questions? Call the 4-H Office.

2. Award Nominations — All 4-H’ers nominated for awards will appear in the Banquet brochure.

3. All 4-H Families — are invited and encouraged to attend.

4. Families are asked to bring: If you attend the banquet, please bring a covered dish to share with your family and 10 more. Salads, meat dishes, breads, fruit dishes and casseroles are welcome and appreciated. Extra desserts are welcome also (see #6 & #7 below). Please remember the following “H” in food preparation: Hands – prepare your dish using safe food handling techniques (see fact sheet or go to http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Basics_for_Safe_Food_Handling.pdf or http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Cooking_for_Groups.pdf). Ice is available at the firehouse for dishes that need to be cold.

**Food should not be served if unrefrigerated for over 2 hours.

5. 4-H Youth Leadership Positions! These are county-level youth leadership positions that are fun! All 4-H’ers serving in these roles, will received a mailing. Please sign up by Feb 16th at the latest!

- MC’s, 5-10
- Greeters — 4-6
- Banquet Director — 1
- Pledge Leaders — 2
- Food Table Attendants — 2-4
- Photographer — 2-4
- Photo. Assistant — 1
- Guest Book Attendant — 1-2
- Guest Book Assistant — 1
- Beverage Dispensers — 2
- Awards Presenters — 4-6
- Ushers — 2
- Audio Visual Technician — 1-2
- Dessert Table Assistants — 1-2
- Government Official Liaison — 2

*4-H’ers with positions are asked to attend an orientation and practice on Saturday March 5th, 9:00 am at the Extension Office

* 4-H’ers with positions should arrive at the Firehouse by 11:45 am.

6. Each Club — asked to bring at least 2 desserts — 1 to serve and 1 cake to sell in the 4-H Dessert Auction. MORE DESSERTS ARE WELCOME ESPECIALLY WITH SHOOTING SPORTS CLUB MERGER. THANKS!

7. Dessert Auction — The purpose of the dessert auction is to help defray the cost of the Achievement Banquet. Funding also comes from the Kent County Commissioners, MD 4-H Foundation and donors like you. Please plan to support the auction generously.

8. Club Responsibilities — Each club has a job for Achievement. Here is your club assignment:

- Kent Triple Shots Shooting Sports — set up, slice and plate desserts then serve desserts
- Fuzzy Tails & Shiny Scales
- Kent Clover Calf, Puppy Pals, Bits & Bridles, Udder Delights: Cleanup

9. NEW in 2016! Bring Canned Food for the 4-H Have a Heart Food Drive. 3 4-H’ers have signed up to take and process your donations. The winning club will be announced at Achievement and will receive an Ice Cream Social sometime this year.

**Food Goal: over 300 pounds! We can do it!**

The University of Maryland, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources programs are open to all and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, or national origin, marital status, genetic information, or political affiliation, or gender identity.