



Tribune

A Carroll County 4-H Newsletter

September 2025

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

Carroll County Extension

700 Agriculture Center

Westminster, MD 21157

(410) 386-2760

M—F 8:00 A.M.—4:30 P.M.

extension.umd.edu/locations/carroll-county

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Thank You!

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who participated and volunteered at the 2025 Carroll County 4-H & FFA Fair! This event would not have been possible without the wonderful and dedicated volunteers that give back so much to the Carroll County 4-H members and their families. Next time you see one of these volunteers, thank them for all that they do for the 4-H program and the Fair!



Fair T-Shirts

Take a minute to write a “Thank You” note to **R.D. Bowman’s Feed & Pet** for sponsoring the yellow fair shirts.

If you received a fair shirt, please send a “Thank You” note to:

R.D. Bowman & Sons, Inc.

107 Englar Rd

Westminster, MD 21157

And don’t forget to send a “Thank You” to your award sponsor(s)!

Working with Neurodivergent Youth

Calling all UME Volunteers and parents to join us for an amazing opportunity to learn more on working with neurodivergent youth. Learn more about the ways youth process information, how to best diversify the ways you interact with youth and so much more! Kelly Bryant, 4-H Educator from Charles County, will be leading this exciting program and has many years experience working within this topic. The program will be held on **Wednesday, October 8th at 6pm at the Extension Office**. Dinner will also be provided and the program will last about an 1 1/2 hours. This is a great night to come out and learn how we can better support the 4-H youth that we work with throughout the year!

Register at: <https://forms.gle/43eJHbKCwNoUYKgM9>

The annual club leaders meeting will follow directly at the conclusion of this program at 7:30pm.



Cupcake Wars!

The game is set! Bring your aprons and creativity to participate in the 2025 CUPCAKE WARS! Join our teen 4-H teachers to learn some new techniques in decorating in the first part of the evening. Then let the games begin! You will be able to decorate your cupcakes with materials provided. At the end of the night, you will choose 1 cupcake to go out to the public to be voted on for the winner of the 2025 CUPCAKE WARS! Let's get decorating on **Friday, September 26th at 6pm!**



Space is limited and there is a \$5 fee to participate to help cover the cost for decorating items. Each participant must bring a dozen unfrosted cupcakes with them.

Registration is FULL, but email Becky (bridgeway@umd.edu) if you would like to be added to the wait list.

4-H Project Night—Fall Mystery Craft

The weather is changing and we are ready for fall to be here! We will be making a fun fall mystery craft at the **Extension Office on Friday, October 10th at 6pm**. It will be a fantastic and fun filled evening as we make a fall themed craft. There will be a \$20 cost for the class and will need to be paid to the Extension Office prior to the program. You must be 8 years old or older to register for this program.

Limit space is available, so register quickly and don't miss out! Register at: <https://forms.gle/or6Tpgg4jmGPdeU58>

Clover Halloween Party

Tricks and Treats are in store for the 2025 Clover Halloween Party! Fun games, crafts and some trick or treating will take place on **Friday, October 24th at 6pm at the Extension Office**. The 4-H Ambassador Team is taking the lead in providing a fun evening for all! Please RSVP by October 17th at <https://forms.gle/RawVSwfB4hkUiNN9>



Clovers are welcome to bring a friend(s) with them to this event!

National 4-H Week/Promotional Contest

Show your 4-H pride throughout National 4-H Week! Wear the color **green** or your favorite 4-H shirt during the week of October 5-11, 2025! National 4-H Week is a great opportunity for you to tell your friends about 4-H and how they can get involved.

4-H Clubs...don't forget that the National 4-H Week Promotional Contest will be taking place the first week of October. If your club is interested in participating in this contest by setting up a window display, table-top display or a bulletin board, please let us know. You just need to find a local business/location that will let you set up a 4-H display. Please complete the link below with the name of the business, location address and the times your display can be viewed. After that, judges will come out and judge all of the displays! Displays must be ready to judged by Monday, October 6th.

Register at <https://forms.gle/ccUWZ4cEK5kcv1dh8>



Project Records Due

Projects records will be due to the Extension Office on **Monday, December 1st**. Check with your club leader to see when your records are due to them. **RECORDS WILL NEED TO BE SIGNED BY YOUR CLUB LEADER!** If you participated in/exhibited in the following at the 2025 Carroll County 4-H & FFA Fair, you **MUST** turn in a completed project record to be eligible for the 2026 Carroll County 4-H & FFA Fair: **ALL MARKET LIVESTOCK, RABBIT, POULTRY, HORSE, PHOTOGRAPHY AND GARDEN**. See the attached *Tips for Project Records for 2025* for additional information. **Note—Records that are submitted and are identical from the same households will be returned to 4-Hers to re-do. Remember, that each project area (art, crafts, foods, woodworking, etc.) are considered separate projects and will not be accepted if turned in on the same project record form.**

Please follow this link to the Carroll County Extension website for the correct project records:

<https://extension.umd.edu/locations/carroll-county/local-4-h-youth-education/project-records-and-record-books>

Project Record—Communication Requirement Reminder

All project records that are completed will be held to meeting all standards, including the communication section. Remember that 4-Hers must present a speech or demonstration to 3 or more people not related to them to meet this requirement. *This is a speech or demonstration the youth has given, not something they attended.* The speech and/or demonstration **MUST** be related to the project. You cannot use a speech about Crafts for your Market Beef project record. You also cannot use a Market Beef demonstration for your Market Swine project record. Your communication **MUST BE RELATED TO YOUR PROJECT AREA!** You **MUST** also include all information on when you gave the speech/demonstration, including a **TITLE** (don't write FAIR), location, and type of communication. Don't forget that participating in programs such as Skillathon, Bowls, and Judging programs count toward this requirement. If you have questions, please contact the Extension Office at 410-386-2760.

Ambassador Service Project

The 4-H Ambassador Team is starting off the year strong and already kicking off their year with a countywide service project. They will be collecting soda can tabs (any type of aluminum tab will work from soup cans to pet food cans!) for the Ronald McDonald House Charities. Tabs can be dropped off anytime from now until the end of the year at the Extension Office. The hope is that we will be able to deliver the tabs to the Ronald McDonald House and provide families a 4-H experience while there. Be on the lookout for collection boxes at 4-H events and the fair! Anyone is able to collect and donate, so think of places you might be able to put a collection box!



National 4-H Leadership Trips



Calling all Senior 4-H members! Here are some great opportunities for you to apply for National 4-H Leadership Trips for 2026! This opportunity to apply is for the following trips in 2026: National 4-H Conference (held in Washington D.C in April) National 4-H Congress (held in Atlanta, GA in November), Camp Miniwanca (held in Michigan in June), Virginia 4-H Congress and West Virginia 4-H Camp (both in June). These trips all focus on building leadership and lend more to the service side of the 4-H program.

There are specific guidelines for completing the following items such as how many pages each can be, type of font to use, spacing, etc. Please email Becky (bridgewa@umd.edu) for specific guidelines. Also, Becky is more than willing to work with you on these items and we have volunteers willing to help too! Just reach out as we have lots of amazing senior 4-H members who are great and should apply for these national trip opportunities! **A portfolio workshop will be held on Saturday, November 22nd at the Extension Office. Registration will be out in the October Tribune.**

If interested in applying, here's what you need to do:

1. Complete your 4-H Resume which is comprised of showcasing your leadership, citizenship and life skills.
2. Complete the 2026 Essay Question which is, "When faced with the potential of limited funding, how would you advocate to your community the value of funding the 4-H youth development program?"
3. Submit all requirements through 4-H Online by **November 15, 2025 (for National 4-H Conference consideration) and January 15, 2026 (consideration for remaining trips)**

Extension Office Note

As many of you are aware, our office has gone through some major personnel changes over the summer. Torrey Silliman, 4-H Agent Associate, who worked with camp and environmental programs for the last few years resigned in June. Cheryl Hill, our Business Service Specialist also retired over the summer. We wish her all the best! Also, our summer intern, Ashlynn Kidwell is back on campus pursuing her degree. Suffice to say, the office has gone through several transitions this summer.

As we head into the fall, we ask for your patience as we move forward. We are all adjusting our schedules and responsibilities. This not only includes the 2 of us, but Lori and Payton as well, as they are working hard taking on new administrative responsibilities. With all of the new changes, it may take a little longer to reply to emails/phone calls as we move through the next several months. Please also remember that Jennie is part time and is currently working the maximum hours that she is able. It may take a little bit of time to adjust, but we have a great team and are all committed to offering a variety of programs for our 4-H members and their families. We just need a little patience and understanding as we move forward over the next several months.

Thank you for your support and understanding!

Becky and Jennie





UME Volunteer Training

If you are interested in becoming a UME Volunteer, please email Becky (bridgeway@umd.edu) to start the process. She will send an email with the requirements that must be completed as part of the on-boarding process.

You may register as a volunteer in 4-H Online, but until you complete all of the required trainings and background check, you are not certified to serve as an official volunteer for the 4-H program. The training can all be completely done from the comfort of your home.

Volunteer and Teen Forum

Are you 4-H Beyond Ready to Lead the Future? If so, then make plans to join the Maryland 4-H Program and others from across the state at this year's Volunteer and Teen Forum. The forum will be held in Ocean City, Maryland, November 14-16th. Early Bird registration is open until July 15th, for \$100 and then the price will go up to \$120 after. Lodging is separate from the registration price. There will be 16 sessions, multiple activities and information sharing through the forum! Registration takes place through 4-H Online.

Payment Policy Reminder

NEW POLICY in regards to payments for county 4-H programs. We will be sending invoices to those who register for our programs that cost over \$5. As we plan programs, we work on making sure we can cover the cost of the supplies of the program and keep program costs as low as possible. We previously asked that families "pay at the door" for these programs. What we have been experiencing recently though is that some families are signing up for programs and then not attending without letting the office staff know of that change. We typically have 4-H members on a waiting list that would like to attend the program, but can't when we are unaware of someone not attending. Moving forward, if you register for a program that has a cost associated with it and do not show for the program, you are still responsible for paying for the program as supplies have already been purchased.

This is not a decision that we have made lightly. We do need to take into consideration the costs we are taking out of our program funds when individuals are a no call, no show for programs. We also need to consider the other 4-H members who would like to participate in the program, but are on a waiting list. Thank you for your understanding.

Fair Reminders

Everyone is welcome to participate in Fair Board meetings held at the Extension Office/ Ag Center. The next meeting will be on **September 3rd and 24th at 7:30pm.**


Too many ribbons? Don't throw them away. If they are in **good** shape, drop them off at the Extension Office and we will recycle them for next year. Ribbons should not be wrinkled, written on or missing strings. We cannot accept State Fair ribbons.



Dates to Remember

September 1	CC Extension Office Closed, Labor Day
Sept 4—7	Maryland State Fair—Third Weekend
September 26	Cupcake Wars, CC Extension Office, 6pm
October 8	Working with Neurodivergent Children, CC Extension Office, 6pm
October 8	Annual 4-H Leaders Meeting, CC Extension Office, 7:30pm
October 10	4-H Project Night, CC Extension Office, 6pm
October 13	CC Extension Office Closed
October 24	Clover Halloween Party, CC Extension Office, 6pm
November 11	CC Extension Office Closed
November 14	4-H Project Night, CC Extension Office, 6pm
November 15	National 4-H Conference Portfolio DUE, 4-H Online
November 22	Portfolio Workshop, CC Extension Office, 9am
November 27-28	CC Extension Office Closed
November 29	Holiday Kick-Off, CC Extension Office
December 1	4-H Project Records Due to Extension Office
December 6	4-H Project Record Judging, CC Extension Office, 9am
December 12	4-H Project Night, CC Extension Office, 6pm

4-H is a **community** of **young people** across America who are learning **leadership, citizenship** and **life skills.**



Carroll County 4-H Team

Becky Ridgeway

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Jennie Chamelin

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The Carroll County 4-H Website. Find the *Tribune* online, plus other forms and information for youth and leaders.

<http://extension.umd.edu/locations/carroll-county>

The MD 4-H Youth Development Website, news & information from all over the state, plus forms and information for youth & volunteers. <http://extension.umd.edu/programs/4-h-youth-development>

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.



Tips for Completing Project Records

Here are some tips and helpful hints as you work on your project records.

Don't forget that the following project records are required to show at the 2026 Carroll County 4-H/FFA Fair – ALL MARKET ANIMALS, Horse, Poultry, Rabbit, Garden and Photography (if exhibited at the 2025 county fair.)

(Items in green are REQUIRED FOR COMPLETION)

Remember to EXPAND on all of your answers. The more detailed responses you give help the reviewers understand your projects and what you learned and achieved through them.

- 1. What goals did you set for your project this year and did you achieve them?**
 - a. Explain three different goals you had for your project and expand on how you did or didn't achieve them.
- 2. What were four things you learned from completed this project this year?**
 - a. Juniors and Intermediates – You only need to list 2 things you learned from your project.
 - b. Seniors – Need to list 4 things you learned from your projects
- 3. What is one thing you would like to improve or do differently with your project next year?**
 - a. What is something that you want to improve on your project next year? Give an example on what you want to do differently on with your project.
- 4. What I learned as a result of using this life skill...**
 - a. Under each section (Head, Heart, Hand, Health) write the life skill you are using from the life skill wheel.
 - b. Juniors and Intermediates need to write 1 life skill for each section. You will have one life skill for Head, one for Heart, one for Hand and one for Health.
 - c. Seniors need to write 2 life skills for each section. You will have two life skills listed for Head, two for Heart, two for Hand and one for Health.
- 5. Project Activities**
 - a. Everyone needs to list project activities in how they relate to your project. This can be attending the Mid-Winter Blahs, Livestock Workshops, Quality Assurance, County or State Fair.
- 6. Project Communications**
 - a. Everyone **MUST** have some type of communication related to their project that you have given to at least 3 people who are not related to you.
 - b. Example – If you are filling out a project record for Photography your communication needs to be something relating to Photography and not a speech related to building a birdhouse.
- 7. Project Exhibits**
 - a. Everyone must have exhibited their project at some event. This can include County or State Fair, a community or school event.
 - b. List all exhibits separately. This includes all classes to be listed separately (example – Market Hog – you would list, Market Hog, Showmanship and Rate of Gain on 3 separate lines, not all together).
- 8. Project Financial Section (General Project Records)**
 - a. List all expenses related to your project and put a value on them, even if your parents paid for them, they still have a value associated to them.



- i. Even if you bred your own market livestock project, there is still an associated value to that animal. What would you have sold it for or what was market value at the time you would have bought a market project?
 - ii. Example – If you baked a cake, you would list your ingredients (Sugar, Flour, Chocolate, etc. and the cost \$13.50)
 - b. Income includes any premium checks you have received for your items. Remember to keep your copy of your premiums from the fair, this will tell you what your premiums were for each item you entered at the fair.
- 9. Supplemental Piece**
- a. If you are completing a General Project Record a supplemental piece can be included. This is one additional piece of paper (8x11) attached to the end of your record. This can be a picture with a couple sentences written about your project or a story, crossword puzzle, etc. It needs to be something that related to your project.

10. ANIMAL PROJECT RECORDS

- a. **Market Livestock Project Record Forms**
 - i. Table 1 – Information of Project Animal – This is **REQUIRED** to be completed. Make sure to fill in all information related to your animals. All animals you tagged should be included on this table, even if you didn't show them. Remember to bring your totals down to the total line.
 - ii. Table 2 and 3 – Include information on what you fed your animals and the cost of feeding those animals, along with other expenses you have had with your project including bedding, equipment, etc.
 - iii. Table 4 – Health and Veterinary Expenses – Everyone should have something listed here. To show at the fair you had to have health papers, which would be listed on this table.
 - iv. Table 5 – Sale Animal Income – List the information related to any animals you sold. This can be from selling at the fair or private sales.
 - v. Table 6 – All Other Income – Include any other income from your animals. This could be premium monies, selling wool or hides, etc.
 - vi. Financial Summary – Add up all of your income and expenses to see you have a profit or loss from your project.
- b. **Poultry/Rabbit/Horse/Dogs Project Records**
 - i. Make sure to fill out tables related to your animal information, along with each table that related to your project. If you didn't do something in the project (Example – Didn't sell eggs), just put N/A in that table, so the project record reviewers know you didn't just skip the table.
 - ii. Include a supplemental piece that showcase your project!

Make sure to have **ALL SIGNATURES** (4-H Member, Parent and Club Leader) a 4-H Educator will sign off on the forms when they are considered complete.

Also, if you have siblings that participate in the same projects, make sure your records are DIFFERENT. If they are the same, they will be returned to be redone.