

Charles County 4-H VOICE

Reminders

Are you getting our weekly updates from Bonnie?

Please email Bonnie at bboyden@umd.edu if you need to be added to the weekly/bi-weekly updates about county 4-H programs and activities.

Facebook Group

Our Facebook page is a closed group designed to keep enrolled 4-Hers, parents, and volunteers up to date with activities and programs. Updates will be posted as available. When requesting membership, please answer all prompts or your request will be denied.

Registration Policy

For fee-based programs, a completed application, other required forms, and payment must be mailed or brought into the office. Email registration is not an option for workshops that charge a fee. At least five youth must be registered for our event to take place.

Please return registration forms and fees to the 4-H office by the indicated date on forms.

You can find most registration forms on the Charles County 4-H website.

2026 Livestock Requirements located on page 5

4-H Team

Kelly Bryant, Charles County 4-H Educator
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Donna Mohler, Administrative Assistant
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University of Maryland Extension
Charles County Office
9501 Crain Highway, Box 1
Bel Alton, MD 20611

Please visit our website for the latest registration forms & updates:

<https://extension.umd.edu/locations/charles-county/4-h-youth-development/>



UPCOMING EVENTS

All dates and times are subject to change. For the most recent updates, please visit the calendar located on our county 4-H website.

<p>April 2026</p> <p>4/13.....Sewing Workshop.....4:30 - 6:30 PM</p> <p>4/13.....New Volunteer Training (Virtual)7 - 8:30 PM</p> <p>4/13.....Experienced Crochet W.S.....5 - 6:30 PM</p> <p>4/14.....Sheep & Goat QA.....6 - 8 PM</p> <p>4/15.....STEM Night: Thinking like a Game Developer.....5 - 6:30 PM</p> <p>4/16.....Vet Science.....5:30 - 7:30 PM</p> <p>4/19.....Teen Training.....1 - 4 PM</p> <p>4/20.....Sewing Workshop.....4:30 - 6:30 PM</p> <p>4/20.....Experienced Crochet W.S.....5 - 6:30 PM</p> <p>4/22.....Clover Night.....5 - 6 PM</p> <p>4/22.....Poultry Judging.....5:30 - 7 PM</p> <p>4/24.....LIT Training.....5 - 6:30 PM</p> <p>4/26.....Teen Training.....1 - 4 PM</p> <p>4/27.....Experienced Crochet W.S.....5 - 6:30 PM</p> <p>4/29.....Robotics Information Meeting.....6 - 7 PM</p> <p>4/30.....Hippology.....5 - 7 PM</p> <p>July 2026</p> <p>7/1.....Livestock Breeding Registration Due</p> <p>7/6.....Robotics.....5:30 - 7 PM</p> <p>7/7.....Overnight Camp Volunteer Meeting.....6 - 7 PM</p> <p>7/7.....First Time Camper Orientation...7 - 8 PM</p> <p>7/13.....Robotics.....5:30 - 7 PM</p> <p>7/15.....MD State Fair Online Entries Due</p> <p>7/19 - 7/25.....Overnight Camp</p> <p>7/20.....Robotics.....5:30 - 7 PM</p> <p>7/23.....Clover Night.....5 - 6 PM</p> <p>7/27.....Robotics.....5:30 - 7 PM</p> <p>7/28.....Fair Project Night 1.....5 - 7 PM</p> <p>7/30.....Fair Project Night 2.....5 - 7 PM</p> <p>7/31.....AQHA Quality Assurance Deadline</p>	<p>May 2026</p> <p>5/1.....4-H Livestock Ads Due</p> <p>5/3.....Teen Training.....1 - 4 PM</p> <p>5/4.....Robotics.....5:30 - 7 PM</p> <p>5/5.....Sewing Workshop.....4:30 - 6:30 PM</p> <p>5/6.....First Time Exhibitor Q+A.....6 - 8 PM</p> <p>5/11.....Robotics.....5:30 - 7 PM</p> <p>5/7.....Hippology.....4 - 7 PM</p> <p>5/12.....Sewing Workshop.....4:30 - 6:30 PM</p> <p>5/13.....Beginner Crochet Workshop.....5 - 6:30 PM</p> <p>5/14.....Hippology.....4 - 7 PM</p> <p>5/15.....Day Camp Forms Due</p> <p>5/15.....Ear Tag Order Form Due (Market & Breeding)</p> <p>5/12.....Robotics.....5:30 - 7 PM</p> <p>5/19.....Hog Weigh In.....3 - 7:30 PM</p> <p>5/19.....Sewing Workshop.....4:30 - 6:30 PM</p> <p>5/20.....Sheep & Goat Weigh In.....3 - 7:30 PM</p> <p>5/20.....Beginner Crochet Workshop.....5 - 6:30 PM</p> <p>5/21.....Hippology.....4 - 7 PM</p> <p>5/21.....Clover Night.....5 - 6 PM</p> <p>5/27.....Beginner Crochet Workshop.....5 - 6:30 PM</p> <p>5/28.....Hippology.....4 - 7 PM</p> <p>August 2026</p> <p>7/30.....Fair Project Night 2.....5 - 7 PM</p> <p>8/1.....Poultry & Rabbit Cards Due</p> <p>8/3.....Clover Days, Day 1.....9 AM - 12 PM</p> <p>8/3.....Robotics.....5:30 - 7 PM</p> <p>8/3.....Fair Baking Morning.....8 AM - 1 PM</p> <p>8/4.....Clover Days, Day 2.....9 AM - 12 PM</p> <p>8/4.....Lamb & Goat Weigh In.....3 - 7 PM</p> <p>8/5.....Swine & Beef Weigh In.....3 - 7 PM</p> <p>8/6.....Fair Canning Workshop.....9 AM - 4 PM</p> <p>8/10.....Robotics.....5:30 - 7 PM</p> <p>8/15.....LEGO & REC Challenges</p> <p>8/17.....Fair Volunteer Meeting.....6 - 7:30 PM</p> <p>8/25.....Fair Poultry Testing.....4 - 7:30 PM</p>	<p>June 2026</p> <p>6/1.....Overnight Camp Forms Due</p> <p>6/1.....Robotics.....5:30 - 7 PM</p> <p>6/2.....Day Camp Teen Meeting.....5 - 6 PM</p> <p>6/2.....Day Camp Volunteer Meeting.....6 - 7 PM</p> <p>6/4.....Spring Show Pen Set-Up.....5 - 7 PM</p> <p>6/5.....Spring Show- Lamb Show</p> <p>6/6.....Spring Show- Beef & Swine Show</p> <p>6/7.....Spring Show- Beef Show</p> <p>6/8.....Spring Show Pen Clean-Up.....5 - 7 PM</p> <p>6/8.....Robotics.....5:30 - 7 PM</p> <p>6/11.....Hippology.....4 - 7 PM</p> <p>6/15.....Robotics.....5:30 - 7 PM</p> <p>6/22 - 6/26.....Day Camp</p> <p>6/29.....Robotics.....5:30 - 7 PM</p> <p>6/30.....Clover Night.....5 - 6 PM</p>
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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.

Looking Ahead

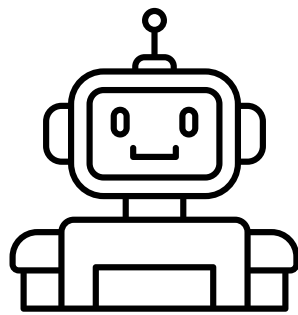
Robotics 2026

Robotics will be kicking off in late April and early May for the 2026 program year! Youth can look forward to both LEGO and REC challenges as they prepare for this year's competition.

This year, our teams will compete at the regional competition, which will be held on **August 15th** at the Talbot County Agriculture Center.

The 2026 4-H **Lego Challenge** is called "Natural Intelligence," inspired by the 2016 novel and 2024 film "The Wild Robot."

This program is for young engineers who might be new to robotics or looking to build their skills in a fun and supportive environment.

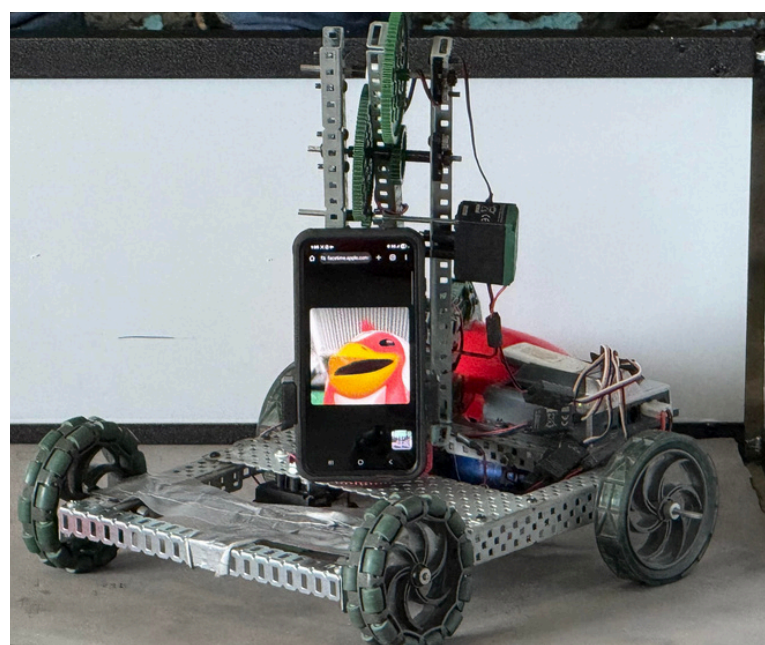
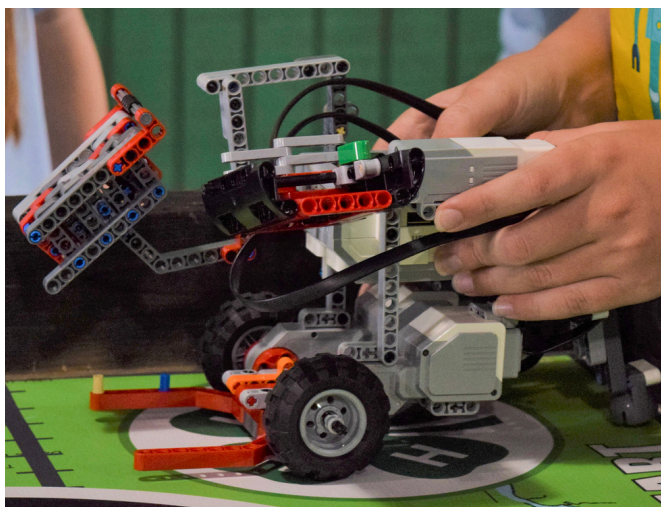


The **2026 REC Challenge** will use the base rules from the 4-H REC game "Space Race," which was created to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Apollo moon landing in 1969. This program is for more experienced youth and will involve using VEX materials and advanced coding.

Additionally, we will be hosting a **Robotics Information Night on April 29th** to go over the challenges and program. Please fill out the google form to RSVP to Information Night.
<https://forms.gle/ffMPQKTK7dbbpP8fA>

Practices will be on Mondays from **May 4th to August 10th from 5:30 - 7:00pm.**

For any questions regarding robotics, please reach out to Mikayla at mdiane@umd.edu.



Maryland 4-H Foundation Sporting Clays Fundraiser

Join the Maryland 4-H Foundation and Maryland 4-H Shooting Sports Program for a fun and meaningful day at their annual Sporting Clays Fundraiser on **April 11** in Henderson, MD.

Proceeds support the Maryland 4-H State Shotgun and Archery Teams as they travel to compete in the National 4-H Shooting Sports Championship in Grand Island, Nebraska this June.

Additional funds raised support the broader Maryland 4-H Shooting Sports Program, which teaches youth safety, responsibility, critical thinking, teamwork, and sportsmanship.



Day Camp: June 22 - 26, 2026

The 2026 application for Day Camp will be emailed to those 4-H'ers enrolled in the 4-H online system. The cost will be \$100.00 and the application will be emailed mid-April. Space is limited so it is a first come first serve basis. Spots may fill before the deadline, so do not delay.

4-H'ers will need to bring a lunch and drink each day. There will be a camp store where 4-H'ers may spend \$2.00 per day for an afternoon snack.

There will be no refunds. Forms are due by May 15th.



Overnight Camp: July 19 - 25, 2026

Cool nights, campfires, canoeing, archery, hiking and lots of fun is what is in store for you at the Western MD 4-H Center. In May, the Overnight Camp Commitment Form will be emailed to 4-H'ers who are enrolled in the 4-H online system. The cost of the camp will be \$425.00. Space is limited, youth will be registered on a first come basis.

There will be no refunds. Forms will be due by June 1st.

There is a required first-time camper orientation for overnight camp on Tuesday, July 7, 2026.

Calling All Leaders

Are you interested in being a teen leader at day and/or overnight camps? If so, you are required to take our teen training classes.

Training Dates:

- **LEADERS IN TRAINING (LIT's): April 24 5 - 6:30pm.**
 - This training is for those who have never been a leader before.
- **Returning Leaders: Sunday, April 19 and 26, and May 3, 2026 from 1 - 4 pm.**

Please email Bonnie if you plan on attending:
bboyden@umd.edu.

Celebrating Excellence

Jeanne Williams received Dick Angus Volunteer Award

We are proud to share that our very own **Jeanne Williams** was recognized with the **Dick Angus Volunteer Award** at the Maryland State Fairgrounds during the Maryland 4-H Foundation Awards Program. This well-deserved honor highlights her dedication and lasting impact on the 4-H community.

Congratulations Jeanne!

Skylan Brassell also participated as an emcee, where she did an outstanding job helping lead the program.

Congratulations to both on representing our 4-H community so well!

Skylan Brassell to Represent Charles County



Skylan Brassell was selected by the Maryland 4-H Award and Recognition Committee to represent Maryland at the 2026 National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, GA. She is the President of Horse Masters and STEAM Rollers 4-H Clubs.

Congratulations to Skylan! On behalf of the 4-H office, we are proud to have her represent Charles County!

Claire Bright to receive 2025 Brenda Bourne Star Memorial Scholarship

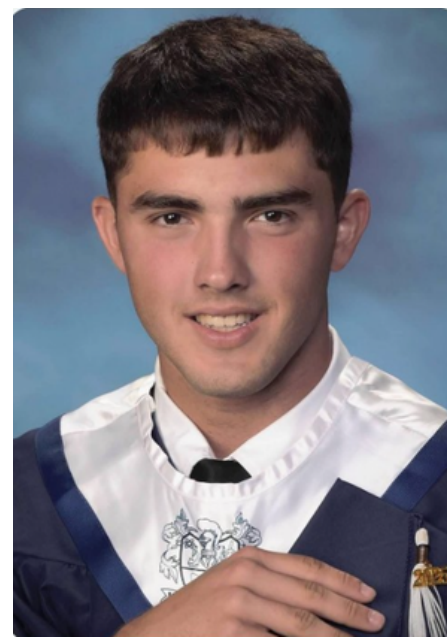
Congratulations to Claire Bright for receiving the 2025 Brenda Bourne Star Memorial Scholarship.

This impressive achievement reflects Claire's hard work and commitment.

Congratulations and best of luck in your studies!



Cole Barrett receives 2025 Edwin D. & Susan C. Fry Scholarship



Congratulations to Cole Barrett on receiving the 2025 Edwin D. & Susan C. Fry Scholarship!

We are incredibly proud of Cole's achievements in the 4-H program and his continued dedication, leadership, and hard work.

We wish you all the best in your future endeavors!

Madilynne Felix to Receive \$1,000 Maryland 4-H Foundation Scholarship

Congratulations to Madilynne Felix for being selected as a recipient of the 2025 Maryland 4-H Foundation Scholarship! We are proud of your hard work, dedication, and achievements through the 4-H program.

Best of luck in your next steps!

What's Been Happening?

Creepy Crawlers

In February, clovers and 4-H members alike had the opportunity to experience the University of Maryland's Department of Entomology's Insect Zoo!

Participants got hands-on with a variety of fascinating insects, including a tarantula named Taco and blue death-feigning beetles, an insect known for "playing dead" as a defense mechanism. Other insects included a millepede, hissing cockroaches, and a phylliidae (leaf bug).



Taco the Tarantula, a fan favorite!



Clovers holding Death feigning beetles

2026 Skillathon Results!

The Maryland 4-H Dog Skillathon took place on February 21, 2026, at the University of Maryland, College Park. It tests youth knowledge of dog science through educational, hands-on stations. Open to enrolled 4-H members aged 8-18, the competition focuses on dog care, health, and management, and does not require ownership of a dog to compete.

Dog Skillathon

- Anna Jane Bell - 6th Overall

The Maryland Livestock Skillathon contest was held on March 7th in Montgomery County.

Juniors

- Joeseeph Bologna - 2nd Overall
- Maddie Mohler - 3rd Overall

Intermediates

- Charlie Schaecher - 2nd Overall
- Piper Hayden - 3rd Overall
- Elizabeth Bowling - 11th Overall
- Bailey Shlagel - 14th Overall
- Layla Hayden - 19th Overall
- Zoey Herron - 22nd Overall

Seniors

- Cole Barrett - 1st Overall
- Francesca Bologna - 8th Overall
- Sammy Swann - 11th Overall

Good luck to Cole Barrett who will be representing Charles County and Maryland at the national contest in November!

Congratulations on a job well done by all our 4-H'ers at the dog and livestock skillathon contests in 2026!

2026 Public Speaking Results

Room A- Prepared Speech

Coordinator/Timekeeper.....Skylan Brassell

Judges.....Billy Moore & Caitlin Olejnik

Name	Title
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Seniors

Francesca Bologna	"How Social Media Negatively & Positively Affects the Cattle World" - <i>Blue & Champion</i>
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Emilee Lancaster	"How Perspective Changes Experiences" - <i>Blue & Reserve Champion</i>
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Intermediates

Kaiden McKinnon	"Octopus are Ink-tastic" - <i>Blue & Champion</i>
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Juniors

Payton Lancaster	"My Family" - <i>Blue</i>
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Enzo Cingolani	"The Pokémon World" - <i>Blue & Champion</i>
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Room B- Clovers Show & Tell and 4-H Pledge

Coordinators.....Mikayla Johnson & Haleigh Durst

Judge.....Shannon Durst

Name	Title
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Show & Tell

Emmalynn Durst	"Noah's Ark"
Carlie Lancaster	"Polly the Talking Bird"
Casey Mohler	"My Favorite Toy"
Jordan Smith	"My Toy Dogs"
Audrey Williams	"My Favorite Things from Vacation"
Nash Kozloski	"My Plant"
Sofia Cingolani	"My Stuffy, Biscuit"

4-H Pledge

Cade Bennett	"The 4-H Pledge"
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**All Clover members recieved participation awards.*



Room E - Extemporaneous

Coordinator/Timekeeper.....Betty Lou Moore

Prep Room Coordinator.....Jeanne Williams

Judges.....Katie Goddard, Georgia Bowling Tolson, & Sue Knower

Name	Title
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Seniors

Cole Barrett	"My Summer at 4-H Camp" - <i>Blue & Champion</i>
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Intermediates

Charlie Schaecher	"When I First Joined 4-H" - <i>Blue & Champion</i>
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Livestock Updates

Room D - Radio Spots

Coordinators.....Cole Barrett & Luke Barrett

Timekeeper.....Riley Jo Herbert

Name	Title
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Seniors

Luke Barrett	"The 4-H Shotgun Spotlight" - <i>Blue & Reserve Champion</i>
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David King	"Pop In to Join 4-H" - <i>Blue & Champion</i>
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Intermediates

Zoey Herron	"4-H, It's Not Just about Agriculture!" - <i>Blue & Reserve Champion</i>
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Piper Hayden	"4-H Livestock Auction" - <i>Blue</i>
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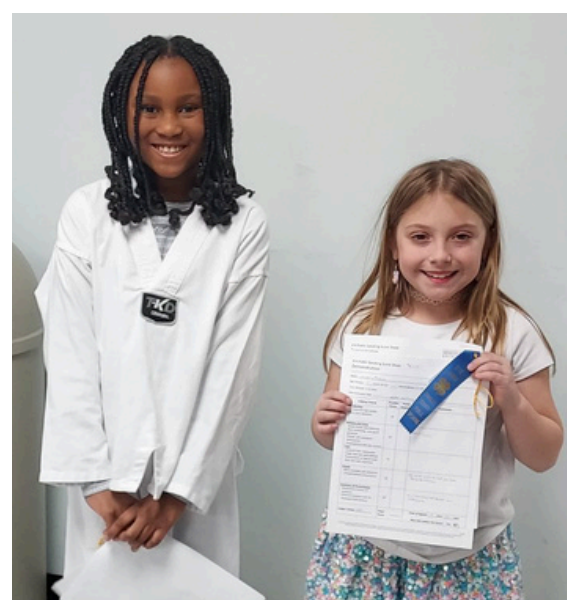
Abigail Zarychta	"4-H Camp" - <i>Blue & Champion</i>
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Juniors

Nolan Kozloski	"Find Your Spark with 4-H" - <i>Blue</i>
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Joseph Bologna	"So You Want to be a 4-H Livestock Judge?" - <i>Blue & Reserve Champion</i>
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Reid Hancock	"4-H is a Good Experience" - <i>Blue & Champion</i>
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Room F - Demonstrations

Coordinator/Timekeeper.....Lauren Mohler

Judges..... Cecilia Chandler & Chuck Wakefield

Intermediates

Layla Hayden	"How to Make Waffles" - <i>Blue</i>
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Juniors

Maddie Mohler	"Walking Water" - <i>Blue</i>
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Peyton Kemp	"Taekwondo is Fun!" - <i>Blue & Champion</i>
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Room G - Visual Presentations

Coordinator/Timekeeper.....Patricia Hopkins

Judges.....Joe Boswell & Sage Phillips

Name	Title
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Seniors

Blaine Boyden	"NASCAR Knowledge" - <i>Blue & Champion</i>
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Juniors

Clayton Bennett	"What is Quidditch?" - <i>Blue</i>
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The Maryland State 4-H Public Speaking Contest will be held in College Park on April 25th 2026

Congratulations to all champions!

Mandatory County Quality Assurance for Beef, Goats, Sheep, & Swine

Due to the cancellation of the Beef and Swine QA class, we have rescheduled it with the Goat and Sheep class. It will be on **TUESDAY, APRIL 14 at 6:00 pm**. This is a **required** meeting. If you cannot attend this meeting, the make-up date is at the FIRST-TIME showers class on **Wednesday, May 6 at 6:00 pm**. Please email Bonnie to register: bboyden@umd.edu.

First-time showers must attend the meeting on May 6th. This meeting is very important to make sure that youth are prepared for the show season, and to ask any questions that you may have about your project. Email Bonnie to register: bboyden@umd.edu.

Mandatory State 4-H Online Quality Assurance

The Maryland State 4-H online quality assurance program will be opening soon. Please complete this online training by **August 1, 2026**. Youth are required to complete the State 4-H online training if you:

- Are a first-time shower
- Have moved up in age division (junior to intermediate or intermediate to senior)
- Are showing a new animal species
- Youth in the beef, sheep, swine, goat, horse, poultry, or rabbit projects.

Livestock Requirements for 2026

- ALL BEEF AND SWINE MUST be tagged with an USDA RFID premises ID tag.
- All sheep and goats must have their scrapie's ID tags BEFORE weigh in and tagging.
- Breeding animals MUST be owned before July 1st with the registration paperwork on file in the office.
 - This includes association and commercial paperwork.
 - Commercial animals must be tagged with a commercial tag.
- Market goats must be less than one (1) year in age, have their milk teeth, and may not show any breaking or eruption of either of the two permanent front teeth.
- Market lambs must be born after January 1 of the current year.
- Market swine must be born after January 1 of the current year.
- 4-H youth must attend 6 club meetings/events in the project year.
- In order to exhibit at State Fair you must list the project on your re-enrollment by July 1st.
- Must turn in a record book in December 2026.
- New Animal CVI regulations for timeline on your vet visit timeline for showing. Maryland CVI's are now valid for ONLY 60 days (NOT 120 days) Visit MDA website for all the show requirements:

<https://mda.maryland.gov/AnimalHealth/Pages/Fairs-Shows.aspx>

Ear Tag Orders

If you are planning on showing livestock this upcoming year you need to fill out the Ear Tag Order Form attached to the back of this newsletter.

Please email the form to Jeanne at: Jeanneh@umd.edu.

Livestock Weigh-In

Swine: The 2026 swine weigh-in and ear tagging will be held on **Tuesday, May 19** at the Charles County Fairgrounds from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. If you are planning to show market swine for 4-H **you must bring** your pigs to the fairgrounds at that time.

Sheep & Goat: The sheep and goat weigh in for 2026 will be held on **Wednesday, May 20** from 4 p.m. – 7:00p.m. If you are planning on showing market lambs or goats for the 2026 fair **you must bring** your animals to the Charles County Fairgrounds to be weighed in and tagged.

If you have any questions about weigh-ins, please email Bonnie at **bboyden@umd.edu**.

Spring 4-H Livestock Show will be **June 5th, 6th, and 7th**. Pen set-up will be on Thursday **June 4th** starting at 5pm. Clean-up is on Monday evening.

- **Friday, June 5th**
 - Sheep Show
- **Saturday June 6th**
 - Swine Show
 - Beef Show
- **Sunday, June 7th**
 - Goat Show



Club News

Rebels Club Report

By: Zoey Herron , club reporter

The Rebels 4-H Club has kicked off another great year of growing and learning with our wonderful leader Mrs. Bailey! Our January meeting included our annual pot luck dinner and officer installation ceremony. We had great food and lots of laughs.

February brought ice and snow causing our usual meeting place to be inaccessible. We sadly had to cancel our meeting.

We met again in March and Ms. Mikayla stopped by to lead a STEM activity! We made catapults out of spoons and popsicle sticks to launch a ping pong ball. We partnered up to work on them, then tested them, and made adjustments. It was a really fun activity! During our business meeting, we were informed that the church we meet at had damage during the ice storms from pipes bursting. Unfortunately, most of the building was damaged. Our club is working on ideas for fundraising to help the church with repairs. We are so thankful for the church to let us meet in their hall that we really want to assist them. Hopefully we will have updates for the next Voice that everything has worked out.

Our club is planning a fishing day again this spring at the Bailey's farm . This is always a fun day for our club , and we look forward to every year!

We have club members who have attended the public speaking contest , livestock skillathon, crochet, and sewing workshops. Archery, air rifle, and shotgun are starting up soon and several members will be participating.

We also have members doing Broiler Projects this year. Please reach out if you would like to purchase fresh chicken from 4-H kids!

Lastly, it's that time of year when we are getting our animals ready to show this spring! We have members showing rabbits, goats, sheep, and pigs. It is a busy time of year. Good luck to everyone! Until next time, keep making the best better!

Introducing the STEAM Rollers 4-H Club

By: Maya Hill, reporter & historian

The 4-H STEAM Rollers are excited to be one of the newest 4-H clubs in Charles County, Maryland.

Our club meets once a month at the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) La Plata Campus, where members explore science, technology, engineering, art, math, and hands-on learning through fun projects and activities.

Our club is led by a group of enthusiastic youth officers who help guide meetings and activities:

- President: Skylan Brassell
- Vice President: Sevy Varcel
- Treasurer: Haley Adams
- Secretary: Ruthie Bridges
- Historian/Reporter: Maya Hill

Even though we are a new club, we have already had a busy and exciting start. To help support our activities, members organized a yard sale fundraiser at La Plata United Methodist Church, which brought our community together and helped raise funds for future projects.

During our meetings, members participate in hands-on STEAM learning experiences. Some of our recent projects have included a "Mighty Molecules" clay activity, where we learned about molecules by building them with clay, and a fun science experiment where we made butter in a jar while learning about food science.

This month, we had a special visit from Kelly Bryant from the Charles County 4-H Office, who taught our members about raising backyard chickens and the basics of poultry care. Members had a great time learning about chickens and asking questions.

We are also excited that Mrs. Kelly will be returning in April and May to lead additional workshops. In April, members will learn about raising rabbits, and in May, they will explore sewing and basic textile skills.

The STEAM Rollers are proud to be part of the Charles County 4-H community, and we look forward to many more projects, service opportunities, and learning experiences together!

Updates from Creative Critters

By: Jacob Schauer

Over the past two months, the Creative Critters 4-H Club has been busy with meetings, activities, and community service. In January, the club met at the Humane Society of Charles County and kicked things off with our usual opening, pledges and attendance, before getting into reports. The treasurer shared that the club had about \$1,894 at the time, and there were a few announcements, like leaders attending a volunteer appreciation dinner and officer training earlier in the month. One of the biggest parts of that meeting was the installation of new club officers, where new leaders were officially welcomed, and outgoing officers were thanked for their work. Our group also started planning upcoming activities, including making no-sew blankets to donate, creating Valentine's Day cards for a nursing home, organizing litter pickups, and doing dog walks.

After the meeting, everyone stayed to celebrate a retiring leader, Mrs. Sue, which made the meeting feel more personal.



In February, the club continued building on that momentum. Attendance grew, and the meeting followed a similar structure with reports and updates. The club's balance was slightly lower at around \$1,869, showing that money is being used for activities and projects.

One of the biggest highlights was that three members—Kaiden, Abigail, and David—did really well in the public speaking contest and even qualified for the state competition, which is a big achievement for our club. The group also officially started planning regular dog walks at Tilghman Lake Park, adding more hands-on volunteer work.