July 1, 2024

Agricultural Fair Edition

If you need a special accommodation for a 4-H program, event, or activity at the 4-H Extension Office in Derwood, MD, please call 301-590-3210 or e-mail jshriver@umd.edu.

If you need to reserve a room or need a special accommodation at the MoCo Fairgrounds in Gaithersburg, MD for a 4-H program, please contact the Event and Sponsorship Coordinator, Ms. Monica Monro at Monica@mcagfair.com.

The next issue of The Montgomery County 4-H News & Notes will be published on the first week of September 2024. Please submit your articles to Anna Hamann, ahamann@umd.edu by July 26, 2024.

The Animal Husbandry and Quality Assurance (AHQA)

The Animal Husbandry and Quality Assurance (AHQA) system is now open for 2024! Members must be current on their AHQA to be eligible to exhibit animals at the 2024 MD 4-H Shows. The system can be accessed at: https://ahqa.umd.edu/. The link can also be found on the Animal Science Program Area page of the Maryland 4-H website.

The 2024 Maryland 4-H AHQA Information Sheet can be found at

chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://4honline.com/api/institutions/ins_u/broadcast-emails/bce_6lm/attachments/bca_3l6/queues/bcq_0

The sheet contains specific requirements, tips for navigating the program, and any other relevant information. All 4-H members enrolled in alpacas, beef, dairy, goats, horse and pony, llamas, poultry, sheep, swine, and rabbits are required to have **completed the on-line training before July 15** to be eligible to exhibit their project animals in 2024 Montgomery County 4-H Shows.

The 2024 program must be completed using Firefox, Chrome, Edge, or Safari web browsers. Internet Explorer does not support this program. The narrated program contains two levels, a Junior-aged Level and an Intermediate/Senior-aged Level. The program automatically directs members to the correct level based on their birthdate. 4-Hers are required to complete the on-line training program when they reach each 4-H age division (juniors (8-10), intermediates (11-13), seniors (14-18) – all as of January 1 of the current year) OR when an Intermediate or Senior 4-H member chooses to show a new species since last completing the program within their age division - they must return to the program and complete it for the new species area (The Junior program does not have species-specific sections like the Intermediate/Senior program does). Passcodes issued to members between 2015-2023 should still be viable for returning members.

If you have questions, please reach out to Catherine Savage at Csavage9@umd.edu.

Entomology Workshop

Image by Alberto Ghizzi Panizza / Science PhotoLibrary//Getty Images

Join us at the Montgomery County 4-H Office on Tuesday July 16, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. for a fun night of catching insects, learning all about the types of bugs, and how to display them! This would be perfect for entering the Montgomery County Fair!

4-H Lawn Tractor Contest Run-Through

The 4-H Lawn Tractor Contest (former 4-H Compact Tractor Contest) will have a contest run-through following the Fair Work Day on Saturday, July 27, at 1:00 p.m. The run-through will take place on the upper grounds of the Montgomery County Fairgrounds (near the 4-H Building).

Come learn what is expected before the actual contest in terms of parts ID, driving a lawn tractor and safety components.

Be sure to register for the contest at the fair when you send in your entry information due July 20. The fair contest (listed in the fair catalogue under 4-H Engineering Events) will be held on Saturday, August 17 at 10:00 a.m. on the upper grounds of the fair.

If you are coming to the preliminary Lawn Tractor Contest Run-Through on July 27, please register at joanneleatherman@hotmail.com.

Display your vintage fair entries during Fair Week

Help us celebrate the 75th Jubilee of the Montgomery County Fair! We are looking for vintage clothing or other items you exhibited during your time in 4-H. Items must be at least 20 years old. The items will be displayed in the display case at the 4-H Indoor building.

If you would like to display your item, please send a description and a picture if the item to Catherine Savage,

Decorated Trees and Wreaths 2024

Your group can enter a tree, a wreath, or BOTH. In addition, if you are an individual who wants to participate, give me a call, we will talk.

Wreaths can be hung in your building/barn or we can find a place for them, so you do not need to have a place to hang them – hint, hint, 4H Groups!

Please focus on the 75th anniversary theme. Your building/barn/group may not have been around 75 years ago, so tell us your history. Signage is good, since these will be up all week and fairgoers are curious about them.

For the Wreaths-
   They should be no larger than 24" across.
    You can buy a grapevine wreath or you can build a wreath out of whatever materials you want. *Extra points if you make it yourself.
    Wreaths can be decorated for any "holiday" you want, even something like National Paper Clip Day. You just need to have some signage as to what holiday you are celebrating.
    Decorations must be made yourself – please make sure that they are securely affixed, twist ties work well.

For the Trees-
    They should be no larger than 8' high
    You must build them yourself, no purchased trees are allowed.
    Decorations must be made yourself – please make sure that they are securely affixed, twist ties work well

Ms. Biener needs to know who is playing by the last work day. She needs time to set up judging sheets and plan the route for the judges.

Judging will be the Tuesday of fair week unless there is a deluge that day.

Ms. Biener would like a co-superintendent for this craziness. She would also like some assistants who can walk better than her, and who can help locate the entries, and place the ribbons and take pictures of the entries after judging.

Ms. Biener can always use help especially after judging to place the ribbons, so please let her know if you are willing to help with that.

Kunni Biener, Kdmc523@gmail.com 301-928-4513

39 Days to the 75th Montgomery County Fair

We encourage all our 4-H members to participate and enter many exhibits at the 75th Montgomery County Agricultural Fair, August 9–17, 2024. This is a reminder that we are introducing new Exhibitor classes.

The 2024 MoCo Fair Catalog can be found online at

chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://mcagfair.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/2024-Catalog-4.11.2024-FINAL.pdf

The following classes and information are new to the Fair Catalog.

DIVISION 4 DESIGNER CRAFTS
Bleach Art
Other, not listed in any other classes

DIVISION 5 CREATIVE CRAFTS
Duct Tape, any
Ceramics: glazed—Ready-To-Paint
Ceramics: painted—Ready-to-Paint
Ceramics:—original—pinch pot, coiled, or slab fire glazed or painted
Friendship bracelets
Soap carving
Other, not listed in any other classes

DIVISION 7 EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS AND COLLECTIONS
No item larger than 36"w x 24"d x 24"h will be accepted.
Lego®/K'Nex®, original design: single item
Bionicle, Kit
Bionicle, original design

DIVISION 8: AEROSPACE AND ROBOTICS
Robot of original design by individual. May include toy construction kits such as Lego® or Erector sets, etc.

DIVISION 10: WOODWORKING

Article made by group with photos to show what each member contributed
Refurnished article
Repurposed wood item

DIVISION 11: COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY
RULES
1. Exhibits should be accompanied by a one-paragraph description, which tells the purpose, limitations, unique features, hardware and software used.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING COMPUTER ENTRIES:
Exhibitors must bring a laptop preloaded with the application needed for their program to run. If the exhibitor does not have a laptop, they must bring detailed screenshots of the entry and the program's source code so the judge can evaluate the software entry. There is no internet connection in the 4-H Building. If the exhibitor is entering any internet or mobile applications, they must bring a laptop, the device, or detailed screen shots.

CLASSES
1. Original software written in a programming language (e.g. Python, Scratch, Blockly)
2. Hardware, robotics, and automation (e.g. Raspberry Pi controlling lights, robotics, Lego® Mindstorms®, etc.)
3. Professional development using MS Office software to write a resume, analyze data, or make a presentation (e.g. Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
4. Digital art and animation(e.g. GIMP, Procreate, Adobe Creative Suite)
5. Blog/Website design and development (e.g. designing/writing a blog in WordPress, or developing a website from scratch)
6. Digital music creation using MIDI controllers or electronic instruments (e.g. GarageBand, FL Studio)
7. 3D model printing and design (e.g. Tinkercad or Fusion 360)
8. Game development (e.g. Scratch, GameSalad, Unity)
9. Custom computer build (e.g. assembling a computer, understanding hardware like CPU, GPU, RAM)
10. Internet of things (IoT) (e.g. programming IoT devices for home automation or environmental monitoring)
11. Augmented/Virtual Reality interactive experience (e.g. CoSpaces EDU, Unity)

DIVISION 13: VEGETABLES AND FRUITS
Berries (one pint)
Watermelons (one), any weight
Cantaloupes (one)
Stone fruit (five)
DIVISION 14: FLOWER SPECIMENS
Daisy (Shasta, Gerbera, Gaillardia, etc.)
DIVISION 16: CAKES
Devil's Food or Chocolate, iced (layered)

DIVISION 16A: DECORATED DELIGHTS
Decorated graham cracker house
Social Media themed cake

FOOD PRESERVATION
Jellies, jams, and marmalades should have 1/8"–1/4" of headspace.
Jar lids must be rust-free.

DIVISION 27: CLOTHING
Pajama pants
Repurposed item

DIVISION 32: ROOM ACCESSORIES
Home Accessories (hot pads, appliances covers, doorstop, lunch bags, book covers, table runners, etc.)
Machine sewn blanket
DIVISION 33: BLACK & WHITE PHOTOGRAPHY
Selfies
Digital altered image—8"x10"
Picture with filters

DIVISION 34: COLOR PHOTOGRAPHY
Selfies
Digital altered image—8"x10"
Picture with filters

DIVISION 36: CITIZENSHIP and PROMOTION
Hand-made toy, doll, stuffed animal
Christmas ornaments (6)

Fair Tickets and New Parking Location

As a 4-H'er, if you are 12 or older and enter exhibits at the fair, you will get a free weekly pass!

As in the past, free and reduced-price entry tickets will be made available to 4-H members and their families. Purchasing can occur when you enter exhibits online or weekdays at the Fair Office between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. after July 15 or between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on one of the Volunteer Workdays on Saturday, July 20, 27, or August 3. After these dates, tickets are only available at the advertised price.

The following free tickets for Fair admission will be provided to 4-H'ers who enter exhibits:

- 4-H indoor exhibitors and those with poultry, rabbits, pet show, and dog show will be provided with 1 season pass that includes free parking at Perry Pkwy.
- 4-H exhibitors with horses, beef, dairy, swine, goats, and sheep will be provided with 1 season pass including free parking at all entrances.
- 4-H exhibitors with beef, dairy, swine, goats, and sheep or hauling horses whose parents are not Life Members will be provided with an additional season pass including free parking at all entrances.

The following tickets are available for purchase by 4-H member families until 12:30 p.m. on the final Volunteer Saturday Workday.

- Season Pass that includes Free Parking at Perry Pkwy. only - $50.00
- Season Pass – special pass for non-exhibitor sibling of a 4-H member (age 12-18) Perry Pkwy only - $18.00
- 1 Day ticket – 4-H Family, Free Parking at Perry Pkwy. only - $10.00
- 1 Day ticket – 4-H Family, entrance only, no parking - $5.00

New this year. Free Parking and Shuttle buses will be from **Montgomery College Rockville Campus**, located at 900 Hungerford Drive Rockville, MD 20850. Free Shuttle Buses will be available from August 10 -17 starting at 10:00 a.m. every day.

- The last bus leaves for the Fairgrounds at 9:00 p.m. during the week.
- The last bus leaves for the Fairgrounds at 10:00 p.m. on weekends.

Maryland State Fair

The Maryland State Fair, spans three weekends in 2024! Entries are now being accepted for the 2024 Maryland State Fair, which will be held from August 20 to September 8.

There are many different opportunities for 4-Hers to exhibit their 4-H project work in animal and non-animal divisions or to participate in a variety of other competitions at the 2024 State Fair. 4-H members will use one (or both) of two different entry systems, depending on the type of exhibit or contest. Here is a guide to which entry system to use!

Members will use the Maryland State Fair Blue Ribbon Entry System to enter the Division shows and exhibits listed below. Blue Ribbon Entry System entries will be accepted through July 15th at https://marylandstatefair.com/4hffa/. Entries must be verified by the county/city 4-H Extension Office/FFA.

- Divisions A-J (All animal exhibits except Dogs)
- Divisions L-S (All indoor exhibits except Club Booths and Banners)
- Some Division T exhibits (4-H Promotional Posters and 4-H Promotional Graphic Art Design)
- Some Division X events (Costume Animal Parade and 4-H/FFA Shepherd's Lead)

Members will use 4-H Online to register for the 4-H Dog Show and the 4-H Competitive Events listed below. 4-H Online entries will be accepted through July 31st at https://v2.4honline.com/. Some of these events have qualification requirements. Some 4-H competitive events have a small entry fee. Be sure to contact your local 4-H Office before you register for these events in 4-H Online. 4-H Online entries must be verified by the county/city 4-H Extension Office.

- Division K (4-H Dog Show)
- Some Division T exhibits (4-H Club Booth & Banner Exhibits)
- Some Division X events (State 4-H Fashion Revue, 4-H Presents!, 4-H Top Chef!, and 4-H Horticultural Communications Contest)
- Division U (4-H/FFA Dairy Judging Contest, 4-H Livestock Judging Contest, 4-H Dairy Goat Judging & Skills Event, 4-H/FFA Poultry & Egg Judging Contest, 4-H Rabbit Judging Contest, and 4-H Horticulture Judging Contest)
- Division W (4-H Robotics Challenge)
- Division V (4-H/FFA Tractor Operator Safety Event, 4-H Bicycle Safety Event, 4-H Small Engine Event, and 4-H Lawn Tractor Event)

For detailed information about the 2024 Maryland State Fair, the Fair schedule. and 4-H/FFA Department information, visit the Maryland State Fair website on the Get Involved / Competitions / 4-H/FFA Competitions page at https://marylandstatefair.com/4hffa/ .

Fair Volunteers Needed!

Please remember to sign-up to volunteer at the fair. Every single 4-H volunteer is very important and very much appreciated!

Youth volunteers: This is a great opportunity to earn Student Service Learning (SSL) hours towards graduation.

You also have the opportunity to become a life member of the Montgomery County Agricultural Fairgrounds and get a free life member pass to the fair (visit the fairground's website for information on this program:

https://www.mcagfair.com/general-information/volunteer-information/
and click on the Volunteer Information tab.

Each Fair workday you will need to find the unique QR code for clocking in and out that day only. These codes will be at the Gazebo, the Heritage building and each Department. You MUST clock in and out to get credit for your SSLhours.

Only people who are 12 and up can receive hours towards a life membership.

You must choose one. You cannot receive SSL hours and hours towards a life membership at the same time.

For General Questions or Volunteer Opportunities, please contact:

301-926-3100 ext. 205 or info@mcagfair.com

Do not forget to Sign In and Out when you get to the Fair!

If you are volunteering during the fair, you need to sign in at that location.

If you leave the fairgrounds, do not forget to get your hand stamped for re-entry. Otherwise, you will have to pay to get back on the grounds.

Fair Workdays
Saturdays, July 20, 27, and August 3

You do not need to register for Fair Workdays in advance—just show up. Sign in on the computer at the Fair Office Gazebo off Chestnut Street, or at the Heritage Building.

Workdays begin at 8:00 a.m., department superintendents will determine when the workday ends, usually between 12:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. If you arrive and sign in by 9:00 a.m., you will receive one free lunch ticket. Do not forget to ask for it.

We need to clean and set up the 4-H Building and animal pavilions, set up tables and chairs, paint fences, and more. Remember, you must be 12 years or older to earn hours for your fair life membership, and must be entering 6th grade in the fall to be eligible for SSL hours.

Fair Workdays

Saturdays, July 20, 27, and August 3 – As always, WE NEED A LOT OF HELP ON THESE DAYS!

You do not need to register for Fair Workdays in advance—just show up. Sign in on the computer at the Fair Office Gazebo off Chestnut Street, or at the Heritage Building.

Workdays begin at 8:00 AM, department superintendents will determine when the workday ends, usually between 12:30 PM and 2:00 PM. If you arrive and sign in by 9:00 AM, you will receive one free lunch ticket. Do not forget to ask for it.

We need to clean and set up the 4-H Building and animal pavilions, set up tables and chairs, paint fences, and more. Remember, you must be 12 years or older to earn hours for your fair life membership, or SSL hours.

Bake Sale Volunteers Needed

Help the Home Arts Department cut and package award winning pastries! If a 4-H member attending is under the age of 12, parents are welcomed to stay, 4-Hers 12 and up do not need to have an adult present.

Please sign up at
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0945A5AB29A5FCC25-50098063-montgomery#/

4-H Youth Volunteer Opportunities

To volunteer for 4-H positions you will sign up using SignUpGenius. Links are provided below We will need volunteers for the following positions.

- Agricultural Fair 4-H Senior Chairman of the Day (14 - 18 yrs.) The Senior Chairman of the day will ensure chairs in demo area are neat. Check for dead flowers and rotten vegetables and throw away if necessary. Straighten 4-H information area. Water plants if needed. Check netting over exhibits and re-adjust as necessary.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A4DABAC2BA5FA7-50214126-4hsenior

- Agricultural Fair 4-H Youth Vision Screening (12 -18 yrs.) Youth work with optometrists as they perform simple vision screening tests for fair visitors.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A4DABAC2BA5FA7-50213982-moco

- 4-H Thursday Building Set-up (must be 12–18 years old). Adults are welcomed. Finish arranging non-perishable items, place netting over exhibits, and help arrange and set up the tables for the perishable entries on Saturday.

https://www.signupgenius.com/index.cfm?go=w.manageSignUp#/50214545

You may also help in the following ways:

- Saturday, August 10, 6:00-9:00 p.m. Help arrange baked good items on the shelves.
- Project Show and Tell–This is a great opportunity for a club to show their projects! Individuals or groups working together can show and tell the projects they have worked on throughout the year —demonstrations are encouraged! Bring whatever supplies you need for your exhibit with you.

Adult Volunteer Opportunities

We need at least two 4-H parents or UME certified Volunteers to work at the Information Desk in the 4-H Building during every hour that the building is open to the public, 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. 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.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A4DABAC2BA5FA7-50213401-moco

Building Take Down, Sunday August 18, starting at 10:00 a.m. We encourage 4-H members and their families to contribute and increase their participation especially during take down day. We need your help placing exhibits in alphabetical order, folding down tables and tablecloths, taking down signs and buntings, and storing all the 4-H Fair equipment in the trailer.

Want to be a member of the 4-h Honor Guard?

Be the leader of the 4-H Parade! We are looking for an adult leader/guide for the 4-H Honor Guard. The 4-H Honor Guard is also seeking eight youth to carry flags to lead the parade route. You need to be at least 13 years old and strong enough to carry a flag in a harness for the entire length of the parade route. Remember, it could be hot!

The parade is Sunday, August 11 at 5:00 p.m. We will have a short mandatory 30-minute training session on Monday, August 8 at 6:00 p.m. at the fair office at 16 Chestnut Street. You will receive a free 4-H T-shirt and fair hours for your service on the honor guard.

If you are interested, please register by July 31 by contacting Catherine Savage at csavage9@umd.edu or 301-590-2813.

VIP Day at the Fair

All 4-Hers ages 12 and up can perform a very worthwhile community service and earn fair hours or SSL hours. Volunteer hosts on VIP Day escort children with disabilities or who are chronically ill around the fairgrounds on Monday, August 12, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

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 training session for all interested volunteers on Monday, August 5, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Heritage Building at the fairgrounds. PIZZA dinner will be provided.

If you have any questions, call Dennis and Besilica Castaneda at 301-379-1169 or e-mail at dennisandbesilica@gmail.com.

Volunteer at the Big Cheese Booth

The Montgomery County Agricultural Fair is just around the corner! This year the Fair will be August 9-17, 2024. Volunteers are needed during the Fair preparation and the Fair days for the Cheese Booth. This is a fun and easy way to earn Student Service Learning hours or Agricultural Center Membership hours. Training sessions are scheduled so everyone becomes familiar with the responsibilities. The Cheese Booth also needs help before and after each training session to help prepare the booth for the Fair. To register for preferred work shifts, you MUST attend ONE of the below sessions. This requirement is for everyone, new volunteers and prior year volunteers.

July 20, 11:00 a.m.-noon
July 27, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Aug 3, 11:00 a.m.-noon

Sessions will meet at the Cheese Booth. The above Saturdays are Fair workdays and the Cheese Booth will need help preparing the building for the Fair. Fair workday sign-in begins at 8:00 a.m. each Saturday. Volunteers who sign in before 9:00 a.m. will get a free lunch ticket. Your help is always welcome. Volunteering is more enjoyable with friends and family, so bring them along too!

Direct questions regarding the Cheese Booth to, Sue Sullivan, 301-325-4384 email at Suesownline@aol.com

Volunteer at the Information Booths

The Information booth is a great way for 4-H'ers, 12 years old and up, to volunteer and start working toward their fair memberships or SSL hours. IN ADDITION, we need parents and other adults to help supervise.

We have four booths throughout the fair grounds. Teams of two to three people work each booth for a minimum of four-hour shifts. Shifts are 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., 2:00–6:00 p.m., and 6:00–10:00 p.m.

Friends and families can work together and entire clubs can sign up together if they want. We would like 4-H'ers to be in the booths while adults help by monitoring each booth and by visiting the booths at intervals and dropping off any needed information materials. Good public speaking is great, but an enthusiasm for

the fair is all that is needed. In order to volunteer, you must attend one of the orientation meetings. Clubs that want to sign up together may request to receive training at one of their meetings.

The info booth orientations take place on the fair workdays (Saturdays) at the following times:

July 20, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
July 27, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
August 3, 11:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m.

To register, and for more information contact Sue Sullivan at suesownline@aol.com

Tram Spotters Needed

If you will be 18 years old or older at the time of the fair (calendar age, not 4-H age), we need you as a spotter on the tram that ferries visitors around the fair. You will assist those who need on and off the tram and hand out fair brochures to riders. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Leslie Swartzwelder at Leslie@mcagfair.com,
301-926-3100 ext. 205.

Animal Exhibitor Orientation Required To Show!

All 4-H animal exhibitors (this includes ALL animals, even the pet show) at this year's Montgomery County Agricultural Fair will be required to attend an exhibitor orientation meeting. Topics will update you on new rule and procedural changes for animals, public health, 4-H rules, fair policies, and other helpful tips to make sure you have a positive fair experience.

The session will be held at 8:30 a.m. sharp on all three workdays (July 20, 27, and August 3), in the Heritage Building at the fairgrounds. Doors will be closed promptly at 8:30 a.m. and no late entry will be allowed once the program begins. A parent must be present to sign the attendance form. If you have any questions, please contact Catherine Savage at csavage9@umd.edu or (301) 590-2813.

Pet Show Requirement

The Pet Show is a super fun casual dress contest. Pets entered should be friendly and have no history of aggression.

ALL PET SHOW EXHIBITORS: The 4-H'er and a parent or guardian must attend one of the quality assurance meetings held in the Heritage building at 8:30 a.m. sharp on one of the workdays.

Please check the fair catalog for all requirements of pets entered in the pet show. All required identification and testing requirements/certificates for all species will be enforced the same as any other livestock event at the fair. This could be tattoos, RFD tags, etc.

Dogs and Cats MUST have a current rabies certificate at check in. Rabies tags will NOT be accepted as proof of current vaccine.

Please read the rules carefully for everything, including promotion. Pets shown in the pet show cannot be shown in any other fair event.

We want 4-H'ers to have the most positive, fun experience possible. Feel free to contact Lisa Righter, LocustSprings@aol.com, 301-538-0004 with any questions. Email is best.

Rabbit Exhibitors

As per Maryland Department of Agriculture, all rabbits must be tattooed in the left ear for positive identification. This is a rule that must be enforced as animals in the pet show are subject to inspection and held to the same standards as all other livestock. The Montgomery County Rabbit Club has generously offered free tattoo(s) for any rabbit(s) entered in the pet show on the last workday, August 6 in the morning. Please look for the Fair Veterinarian if your rabbit needs a tattoo.

The Pet Show is about having lots of FUN! Please join us.

Share at the Fair

Exhibiting your projects is one requirement for completing 4-H projects, and the fair is a great place to do just that! If you are enrolled in Montgomery County 4-H, the Adventure in Science program, or a 4-H afterschool program you are eligible to enter your exhibits in the 4-H Building or in any of the 4-H outdoor activities.

The 2024 Fair Catalogue is available online at the fair website.

Parade Floats

The 2024 4-H Parade Theme for the Montgomery County Agricultural fair is "Marching through time".

The 4-H Parade theme complements this year's Agricultural Fair theme of "Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow".

For comprehensive parade rules, please check the printed and online catalog when available. In the meantime, please use the following guidelines for brainstorming and constructing your float.

Each float or special unit must send a float entry form and narrative script to the 4-H Office by July 15. The narrative should not exceed 40 words. The float should not need to be explained by a script.

For more information, please contact Chuck Schuster, cfs@umd.edu, 410-596-2159.

Entering Your Work At The Fair

4-H Indoor and demonstration entry registrations must be entered online by July 20. Each exhibit must have a pre-printed tag firmly attached to it on entry night.

An exhibitor may enter only one exhibit per class.

Exhibitors are responsible for verifying the accuracy of their entries. If you have a problem or correction, you MUST contact the Fair Office in person or by phone at 301-926-3100. It is highly recommended that all exhibitors bring their On-Line Entry Receipt with them to entry night.

Entries can be found at the top left corner of the Montgomery County Fair website or at https://montco.fairwire.com/default.aspx These entries are due by July 20th, 2024. If you have any questions or concerns, reach out to the Montgomery County Fair Team.

When entering online, please make sure you are entering in the desired department - 4-H or Open. Please print a receipt for your records.

If you are not able to enter your exhibits using the online system, paper entry forms are available in the back of the fair catalog. Please mail all paper entry forms to the Fair Office (NOT THE 4-H OFFICE): Montgomery Co. Agricultural Fair, 16 Chestnut St., Gaithersburg, MD 20877.

Once the fairground receives all 4-H entry registrations, they generate the display tags for each entry. Leaders will be notified when tags are ready to pick up.

Display tags must accompany each indoor entry at the fair. You must make an appointment to pick up your tags at the 4-H office. Alternatively, you can pick up your tags at the Fairground on entry day. If you wish to volunteer to help sort tags, contact Jeannine Shriver at jshriver@umd.edu.

New Rule for information for Division 13 - Vegetables and Fruits, and Division -14 Flower Specimens

Although pre-entries for Fair are required by July 20th, under divisions 13 and 14 (Horticulture) pre-entry will not be a requirement but is still encouraged, before the indoor entry days. This includes all vegetables, fruits, and flower specimens. We understand that many times the weather and other environmental factors play such a vital role in these entries and their success, making it difficult to know what your entries might be a month ahead of time. We encourage you to enter your project online, but on-site entry is allowed for Divisions 13 and 14.

Blank entry tags will be provided at check-in for divisions 13 and 14. These items will be received on Saturday, August 10th, from 3-6 p.m. as usual. Remember to arrive early to give our youth enough time to fill out their tags. Poster boards will be placed with a "how-to" on filling out your tag and volunteers will be stationed at the check-in to help our youth fill these out.

How to bring your indoor entries to the 4-H Building at the Fair

Monday, August 5 – only day to enter club booths and banners, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Club books are optional on Monday.

Wednesday, August 7 – 4-H non-perishable entry drop-off, 4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
DOORS WILL BE CLOSED AT 7:30 P.M. NO LATE DROP-OFFS WILL BE ACCEPTED!

Saturday, August 10 - Perishable entry drop-off, 3:00–6:00 p.m.

Pick up day—Sunday, August 18 from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. All exhibits unclaimed by Sunday, August 18 at 2:00 p.m. will become the property of the fair.

EXHIBITS WILL NOT BE TAKEN BACK TO THE 4-H OFFICE.

The Fair or the 4-H Office will NOT be responsible for any damage to an exhibit while at the fair.

Booths and Banners State Guidelines

Please remember, the State Fair guidelines for entering booths and banners are different from the Montgomery County Fair.

Banners: ALL clubs may enter their banners in the State Fair. However, Clubs must enter them themselves using the online State Fair entry system.

Booths: ONLY County Fair champion "State Fair Themed Booths" can be entered at the State Fair.

If you wish to enter your banner or booth, make sure it complies with the State Fair Catalog rules.

You are responsible for getting your booth or banner to and from the State Fair.

The 2024 State Fair Booth/Banner Theme can be found under "Department T - 4-H/FAA Promotion".

Banner dimensions: 50" wide X 38" tall. The opening for the pole should to be a minimum of 3", and is included in the overall size of 38" long. Do not bring your own pole. You MUST use these dimensions or you will be disqualified.

4-H Cake Auction Sunday, August 11

You are cordially invited, along with all of your friends and family, to join in the annual 4-H Cake Auction. The Cake Auction will take place in the Cattle Pavilion on Sunday, August 11 at 6:30 p.m. Cakes that won blue ribbons at the fair will be auctioned off to the highest bidder—this is our main fundraiser for the Montgomery County 4-H Program. All money raised from the auction goes to Montgomery County 4-H 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 child's cake is not in the auction, please join with friends and family to form a group to bid on a cake. If you know a business that would be interested in participating in this charity event, please encourage them to attend the auction on Sunday.

If you know someone, or a group of people, who want to bid on a cake and need fair passes, please contact Jeannine Shriver at jshriver@umd.edu. We have a limited number of passes to use for this purpose.

Ag Education Display Contest

The Ag Education Display Contest (Department 86) is designed to educate or promote agriculture. Each club can create a display. Displays will be shown either in your barn, or in the area designated by the Ag Education Committee. Displays from previous years may be brought up to the Fair but will not be judged for premiums.

Please contact the Fair Office at 301-926-3100 ext. 205 if you need space.

Inventors Club Science Demonstration

The Inventors Club is looking forward to showing several of the projects they have designed and built at the Montgomery County Fair. Stop by and see them Wednesday August 14 from 12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m. There will be hands on projects. The club will be demonstrating its most complicated Rube Goldberg machine yet, this year we have a catapult and zip line! We build a new one each year. Come try your hand at the Giant Robot Operation Game and pick your color for the HarmonGraph, you can take the paper graph design with you.

The Inventors have also built a 9-foot Giant LED display built on a Raspberry Pi and Tinsy 4.0, and will be on display showing messages in the Rabbit Barn.

Project G Street Calling All Sewers!

Love shows like Project Runway and Next in Fashion? Feeling inspired to see what you can design & create in a real 1-day team challenge? We want to see you in action!

What: G Street Fabrics is bringing Project G Street back to the 2024 MoCo Fair!

Who: Creative teams of 2, 3, or 4 designers (all ages, at least one team member 18+)

Why: To challenge yourself, express your creativity; maybe win a $300 gift card to G Street Fabrics, and to have F-U-N!

When: Saturday, August 10
Register by 7/31/24

Where: Heritage Hall at the fairgrounds in Gaithersburg

"Entry forms must be received by Montgomery County Ag Fair by July 31 via email: kmndakota@gmail.com (please put Project G Street in subject line) or hand delivered to 16 Chestnut, Gaithersburg MD 20877."

"At least one member of each team must pick the team's materials packet at G Street Fabrics during store hours August 3rd-9th and a $25 G Street Fabrics gift card for you to purchase notions. NO OTHER FABRIC CAN BE USED. The $25.00 gift card can be used for any items you would need for the outfit that were not included (thread, closures, etc.) You may make or use your own patterns. You do not need to purchase patterns with the gift card."

Rules are on page 178, and Entry form on page 179 of the Catalog. The Catalaog is available on line at
chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://mcagfair.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/2024-Catalog-4.11.2024-FINAL-1.pdf

For questions or clarification, please contact Kit Noonan at kmndakota@gmail.com or Maureen Levy at mlafl@comcast.net

SPOT LIGHT

The editor of the Newsletter is looking for articles, no longer than 300 words, to spotlight the remarkable Montgomery County 4-H members. The Spotlight section highlights special experience(s) or awards the members have had/received in the past several months.

Please send your articles to ahamann@umd.edu

CLUB CORNER

Damascus Community 4-H Club

By Renee H.

In June, the main event in the Damascus Community 4-H club was the annual picnic. Despite being in the middl eof a heatwave, the club came together to share the joy of family, friends, and food.

Among the project groups, they had DnD getting lost in abandoned houses and saving ghost children. The baking group made apple pie and brownies to share with teachers and the foods group navigated rolling up

sushi. The crocheting group weaved beautiful works of art with yarn and a hook. Woodworking chipped up wood and used power tools to sculpt it into a chessboard and toys. The Club cannot forget the sewing group of course, which was sewing up a storm making dresses, skirts, pants, aprons, and more!

Make sure to be on the lookout for the club's projects in the upcoming Montgomery County Agricultural Fair! They will be sure to impress.

Photos by Chace B.

Calendar

JULY
1   Start of the new 4-H Club/Unit Fiscal Year
7-12   Camp Tawasentha
14   AHQA on-line training - Entry deadline
1-19   MD 4-H Virtual Equine Art & Photography Contest
15   Maryland State Fair - Entry deadline
20   MoCo Agricultural Fair - Entry deadline
20   Lawn Tractor Contest - Entry deadline
20, 27 MoCo Agricultural Fair - Work days
27   Tractor Contest run-through

AUGUST
3   MoCo Agricultural Fair - Work day
9–17   Montgomery County Agricultural Fair
22-25   Maryland State Fair, Timonium

29-Sept 2   Maryland State Fair, Timonium

Editor's note: Clip art appearing in this newsletter are copyright free from National 4-H Foundation, Shutterstock.com, Clipart-library.com, the Graphics Fairy, NASA, and Freepik.

Catherine Savage, Agent Associate, 301-590-2813, csavage9@umd.edu

Sheila Ford, Extension Program Assistance, sheilaf@umd.edu

Jeannine Shriver, Admin Asst., 301-590-3210, jshriver@umd.edu

Anna Hamann, Admin Asst. (part-time), Newsletter Editor, ahamann@umd.edu