

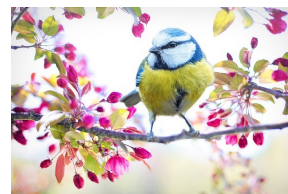


THE 4-H FOCUS Spring 2023



4-H Families and Friends,

What a successful spring season we've had so far! Congratulations to all of our 4-H members who've competed at the local, district, and state level at numerous public speaking and animal project events. Our always popular 4-H in-school embryology program is coming to an end this week. With the support of many local producers and our longtime partnership with LCPS, we were able to reach over 27,000 students this year. That's a 50% increase in participation in just one year! We can't wait to see what 2024 holds.



For those 4-Hers who will be selling animals at the 2023 Fair, make sure you get registered for YQCA. The Loudoun training will be held on May 31st at the fairgrounds. Please refer to Kim's email for more details.

Last but most certainly not least, we want to wish the best of luck to our graduating seniors as they finish out the last few weeks of high school. We know you are going to go on to great things!

Carly Wright
4-H Extension Agent
carlymg@vt.edu

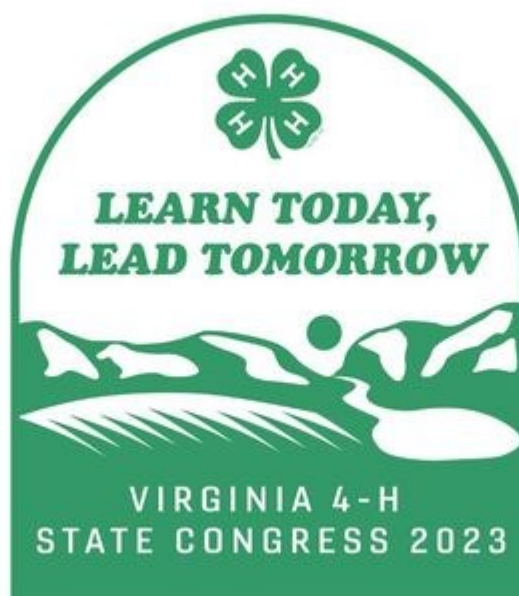
Kim Monroe
4-H Program Technician
kmonroe@vt.edu

State 4-H Congress

Registration is officially open for the 101st State 4-H Congress! State 4-H Congress will be held June 27th through the 30th at Virginia Tech. If you are interested in attending, please review the email Carly sent on April 17th or visit <https://ext.vt.edu/4h-youth/state-congress.html> for more information.

Congress is open to any enrolled 4-H member who will be 14 years of age by September 30th, 2023. *Limited space is available for group transport from Loudoun.

Registration is being done through 4-H Online (<http://v2.4honline.com>) until 11:59pm on Friday, May 26th.





Senior Spotlight on...

Miss Stella Pettit

Graduating Class: Homeschool 2023

College: University of Delaware

Major: Wildlife Conservation and Ecology



4-H Club Membership: Poultry Club (6 years), Honor Council (4 years), and Eastern Loudoun Community Club (4 years)

4-H Leadership Positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, Historian, Honor Council Chairman, State 4-H Cabinet Northeast District Ambassador, 4-H All Star, Youth Fair Committee, and 4-H Junior Camp Counselor

4-H Activities: 4-H Day at the Capitol, 4-H Junior Camp, State 4-H Congress, and State 4-H/FFA Poultry Judging Competition

Outside Activities: Acoustic Guitar, Mixed Martial Arts, and Traditional Tae Kwon Do

"I know I may sound cliché, but I truly would not be the person I am if it wasn't for Loudoun County 4-H. It has taught me leadership, the importance of being involved in my community, and how meaningful it is to have quality relationships with those around you. I would like to thank Carly Wright and Mama Kim Monroe for always supporting me and inspiring me every day to be the best version of myself I can be!"

- Stella P.



County News

Pennsylvania State Rabbit Breeders Association Show & Convention Results

Jake Ameen

BOB and BOSB Show A and B
BOB and BOG Show C
BOB and BOSB Polish Specialty Show

Anna Kasianides

BOV Show A and B
2nd Place Show B
1st Place Team Hopping

Grace Kasianides

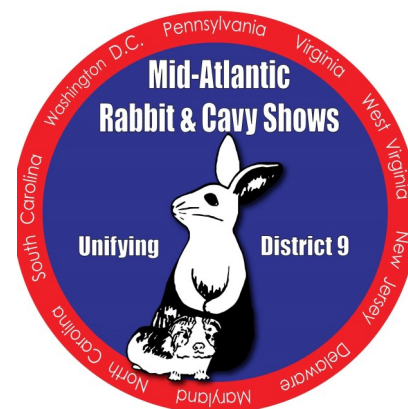
1st Place Fur
1st Place Beginner A Straight Course
1st Place Team Hopping

Mary Grace Menuey

MARCS Queen
1st Place Senior Showmanship
Art Sweinhart Memorial Youth Breeder Award
Best Overall Mini Rex Youth Fun
BOV, BOG, BOSV, Best White Fur
1st Place Team Hopping
1st Place Limited Management
1st Place Senior Achievement
1st Place Youth Project Book
2nd Place Youth Needlepoint
2nd Place Presentation
3rd Place Youth B&W Photo



Congratulations!





County News

Cloverbud Fun Camp

On Sunday, February 19th, the 4-H Honor Council hosted Cloverbud Fun Camp. Seven young 4-Hers learned to recite the 4-H Pledge and the meaning of each of its components—Head, Heart, Hands, and Health. Activities included a scavenger hunt, learning about healthy foods by creating a butterfly snack-pack, crafting toys for the animal shelter, and making friendship cards listing qualities they admire in their family and friends.



4-H County Contest Day

Our 2023 County Contest Day was held on Saturday, March 18th. We had thirty-one participants across four contests this year. Congratulations to all of our competitors—you did a phenomenal job! Our judges were extremely impressed and all learned something new.

Champion Winners

Share the Fun

Intermediate—Katie Negley
Senior—Oishee Sinha

Table Setting

Junior—Ryan Brunner
Intermediate—Anna Verhey
Senior—Brinn McClintic

Presentations

Junior—Colin Brunner
Intermediate—Katie Negley
Senior—Madison Hart

Fashion Revue

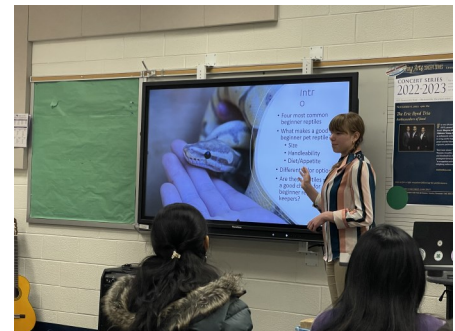
Intermediate—Jennah Mashaal

Judges

Dorothy Butler Landes
Karen Frank
Claire Griffith
Cindy Huddleston
Camryn Monroe
Heather Swart

Thank you so much for your time and expertise! We appreciate you!

Also, a huge shout out to the faculty at Smart's Mill Middle School for allowing us to use their facility and making it a wonderful experience once again!





County News

Northeast District 4-H Contest Day

The 2023 Northeast District 4-H Contest Day was held on Saturday, April 15th in Spotsylvania County. Three Loudoun participants competed across two different contests and had a fantastic showing. Congratulations to all of our successful competitors—we are so proud of you!

Also, a huge thank-you to Dorothy Butler-Landes, Cindy Huddleston, and Heather Swart for volunteering as judges for various district competitions!

Share the Fun

Katie Negley (Int: Dance) - Blue Ribbon & Best in Show
Oju Ramani (Int: Instrumental) - Blue Ribbon

Presentations

Katie Negley (Int: Animal Science) - Blue Ribbon
Sarah-Jane Corbett (Jr: Animal Science) - Blue Ribbon
Oju Ramani (Int: Food, Nutrition, and Health) - Blue Ribbon



MAPACA Spring Alpaca Show



One of our Alpaca & Llama Club members, Sarah Jeffers, took Reserve Champion out of all of the intermediate kids who showed at MAPACA this year! This was a result of her total score for showmanship, obstacle, and public relations (another obstacle class) classes over the course of two days of showing! Way to go, Sarah!





Club News

Eastern Loudoun Community Club

Submitted By: Colin Brunner

During our February meeting, our club learned about our annual Trash to Treasure contest. The Trash to Treasure contest is a contest where our club creates something of use from trash. We got a recap of the Leaders Association meeting. We also discussed having a Fair dinner. We were updated about club projects. Our club got information about birthday bags. At the end of the meeting, we were treated to a presentation demo about poultry feather patterns for County Contest Day.

During our March meeting, our Cloverbuds told us about what it is like at Cloverbud Fun Camp. We learned about what was going to happen at County Contest Day. We learned about what the 4-H Day of Service is. We also learned about the upcoming club and county dates. After the meeting we played a game while the Trash to Treasure people were getting judged. We also saw the Share The Fun dress rehearsal. Critics were raving about the performance!

During our April meeting, our club discussed fundraising opportunities. We chose to have a Fair dinner. The kids who participated in Trash to Treasure got their awards and scores. Two kids from our club informed the club about what it was like at County Contest Day. Our club also learned what the service project is going to be for this year. It is going to be cleaning up Sykes Hall's flower beds.

Shooting Education Club

Submitted By: Avannie Ure

For the past few months, the club has been using air rifles in an indoor range. Each time, we are getting better and more accurate, thanks to Mark and Josh and the other supporting parents. This past month we got to shoot vertical playing cards, trying to shoot them in half. Several of our members were able to do this. The rest of us will keep practicing.

In the future, we will be returning outside for club meetings now that the weather is nicer.

Dairy Club

Submitted By: Ashley Williams

Our first meeting of the quarter was held on February 14, 2023. Our discussion started with us figuring out how to do more community service. We thought about two options: Hugs for Soldiers and Backpacks for Kids. We decided that we would do the Hugs for Soldiers at our April meeting. We then talked about future field trips the club could take, and most members wanted to go to a dairy farm with a rotary milking system! Our conversation then covered Fair prizes, Share the Fun, and care and housing forms. The last thing we did together was the Hoard's Dairyman cow judging.

The second Dairy Club meeting was on March 14, 2023. This meeting was not too long. We did the basic reports/pledges and again talked about care and housing forms. The rest of our time together consisted of finishing the harder classes of the Hoard's Dairyman.

Our final meeting of the quarter was our April meeting on the 11th of April. We started with the reports as per usual, then discussed our Fair dinner and what we should serve. We continued deliberating about Fair prizes for a while and voted on what exactly club members wanted to receive. The only other thing we discussed was Fair qualifiers. After the meeting concluded, the club members and leaders wrote letters for the organization Hugs for Soldiers.



Club News

Poultry Club

Submitted By: Jennah Mashaal

Our February meeting was held on Feb 16th. After the business portion, we got to the activity, where everyone brought supplies (ping pong balls, tape, fabric scraps, plastic mats, etc.). We all thought up some creative ideas for pet toys. Some tables had pre-planned designs ready to go, such as cat toys, blankets, dog tug ball toys, and more! It was really nice because in the end, we got to donate them to the Loudoun County Animal Shelter! We also went to the chick Q & A at Southern States, where we used our poultry knowledge to answer questions for the public about raising poultry. We also brought in some chicks, which was pretty cute. Until next time!



Rabbit & Cavy Club

Submitted By: Grace Kasianides



Hoppy Spring everyone! In February, during our meeting, we discussed PaSRBA results and our past community service project of cookies and cider! We had a lesson on Rabbit Diseases lead by multiple of the club officers and leaders.

In March, we held our meeting on the 28th. We shared the results of those who competed at County Contest Day—everyone did really well! We also talked about the upcoming Baltimore & Howard rabbit show that some of our members went to. We had our Roll the Dice homework presented and our lesson was on Showmanship. We also discussed our club putting on a rabbit show! After discussion and planning, our club will be hosting a LoCo Rabbit Show on June 3rd.



For our April meeting, we discussed Fair, community service, and some of the statewide upcoming 4-H events. We also announced the Rabbit Bowl date will be June 17th, but you must be registered by the 14th. Our lesson was showmanship in more detail explaining the meaning of the terms with practice after that.

Our club has multiple exciting events coming up in the next few months so stay tuned for details! We will be having a youth contest day and rabbit show at the fairgrounds on June 3rd. Our next meeting will be May 23rd, 2023, at Sykes Hall. I hope to see you there!



Club News

Alpaca & Llama Club

Submitted By: Sarah Jeffers

Throughout the past few months, the Alpaca & Llama Club has been very busy. As a community service project, we went and helped Mountain View Homestead to clean up their farm and help with the rescued alpacas that they had taken in. To increase our fundraising, we held multiple Makerspace Days where we would go to the Brambleton Public Library and use their makerspace materials. We created designs for totes, shirts, bookmarks, and more, which were all very popular sellers.

During the February business meeting, our host Farmer Bonnie held a fiber education session. We learned how to brush fiber so that it could later be spun into yarn. This was then continued onto the next meeting in March, where Farmer Bonnie, as well as special guests Sean and Lauren Torstrom from Sparkbug Hallow Fiber Farm, gave a lesson on drop spindles and how to form fiber into yarn by hand. Our club learned a lot and appreciated both the Torstrom's and Farmer Bonnie's help.

Another big event for our club was preparing for and going to MAPACA. Our club members had to train with their alpacas to get ready for this big alpaca show. We worked on showmanship and obstacles skills and techniques throughout those sessions. We'd like to give a shoutout to all our members, as they all did amazing. It was a first show for many of them, yet many of our members came home with ribbons.

On our host farm, we've held many herd health sessions. During herd health, we go out and weigh the animals, then give them proper dosing of Ivermectin, which is a medicine that prevents meningeal worm. The meningeal worm is a parasite that alpacas and llamas are susceptible to. It's spread by deer and can be very infectious. Our host farmers find that giving their alpacas a monthly dose of Ivermectin can help protect their alpacas and keep them healthy. We've also had a couple of Friends of Farm sessions, where we go out and help Farmer Doug and Farmer Bonnie. We clean manure, fill water dishes, feed the alpacas, and help with any other farm chores that may need to be done. Our club has a credits system, where helping our host farmers out can earn us credits that can later be used to use their alpacas for another activity, such as community service projects. Regarding our host farm Double 8 Alpaca & Llama Ranch, we are awaiting many cria births throughout the Spring. A llama cria, named Stella's Bella, was born in late March.

One of the events that we are looking forward to in the month of May is the Community Table at the Leesburg Farmer Market on May 6th. As a club, we plan to set up lemonade and donuts that are free to the public, but we will be accepting donations. This should hopefully bring our club some more funds. The next event is the Spring Farm Tour on May 20th. We will help out Double 8 Alpaca & Llama Ranch and will have an on-farm picnic afterwards.

Our next business meeting will be on Thursday, May 4th at Sykes Hall. It will be the checkpoint for our project books, which are due by the September business meeting.



PIC•COLLAGE



Club News

Temple Hall Non-Ownership Sheep Club

Submitted By: Christina Andreyko

February's business meeting Loudoun Valley Sheep Producers did a lambing 101 presentation. The topics that they covered were going over items you should have ready for lambing, area for lambing, making sure mama has a good delivery, and after care for the newborn and mama. Dr. Margi also talked about lambing from a vet's perspective. After the presentation there were kit setup examples to take.

March's business meeting Sofia helped members better understand how to fill out the club project book. Because of spring break we did not have an April meeting.

Our May meeting is scheduled for the 3rd at 7:00pm.

Swine Club

Submitted By: Hailey Hendershot

The February Swine Club meeting was held on the 8th. We had our Valentine's Day Dance at Harvest Gap. We all had a great time dancing, talking, and hanging out with each other.

The March Swine Club meeting was held on the 6th. We discussed a summertime/ beach basket raffle as a fundraiser to do at Glenwood, planned dates for our swine barn clean-up and painting, and discussed weigh-ins on May 6th along with a movie night and cook out in the evening. We discussed getting a bench as a memorial and decided to put \$500 towards it. The education for March was all about showmanship. The club was taught how to show their pigs and they were given tips on how to get their pigs in front of the judge and questions that the judges may ask them during showmanship.

In April, the Swine Club had a breakfast and lunch fundraiser during Glenwood where many club members and parents volunteered. The meeting was held on the 12th. We discussed Glenwood and how that went. We also discussed having a showmanship clinic on the 11th of June to teach the new and old members how to show their pigs. We talked about how they are planning to add new lights and fans to the swine barn. We discussed the weigh in on May 6th and decided to move May's meeting to the cookout and movie later that evening. The education for this month was by Jo and she made a presentation on swine diseases. She went through a few diseases and taught us the symptoms and treatments of those diseases. Members met on April 21st and 22nd to help clean up and paint the swine barn.



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