

MARYLAND 4-H MARYLAND COOPERATIVE EXTENSION UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

UPDATES

February 22, 2008

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Upcoming Events

Feb 23, 2008
4-H Environmental Science InService/Adventure Day
 Location: Carroll County
 Contact: Denise Frebertshouser
 301-314-7819

Feb 29, 2008 - Mar 2, 2008
Maryland National Guard Youth Symposium
 OMK Leadership and Technology Track
 Contact: Kim West
 301-314-7831

Feb 29, 2008 - Mar 2, 2008
National Youth Horse Leaders Symposium
 The event will have presentations from more than 24 internationally and nationally respected teachers on the keys to successful youth horse programming. Leaders of Youth

Frederick County 4-H Public Speaking Contest

by Michael Kuster

The Frederick County 4-H Presents Public Speaking Contest will be held as scheduled on Saturday, February 23, 2008. At this time, weather conditions and the weather forecast do not warrant the cancellation of any scheduled 4-H activities in Frederick County this weekend. If conditions worsen or the forecast changes, participants will be contacted and information will be posted on the Frederick County 4-H Web Site.

The Contest will be held in Walkersville at the Walkersville United Methodist Church on Main Street. The contest begins at 8:00 a.m. An awards ceremony will be held at the church's Georgetown Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Human Sciences "Every Day, the Healthy Way"

Roll In the Dough Campaign

This information was shared at our 4-H Human Sciences In-Service in January. Here's an opportunity to encourage youth (and adults!) to save and someone will win a \$1,000 certificate of deposit! Here are the basics: Roll in the Dough Campaign is a part of America Saves Week. America Saves Week is an effort aimed at reaching more institutions and individuals to increase awareness that people need to save money, reduce debt and build wealth. The primary focus of America Saves Week is to encourage Financial Action – commitments to save, invest and build wealth.

WHAT: A saving campaign that encourages people of all ages to begin good saving habits.

WHEN: Two weeks, from Feb 25 to March 8, 2008

HOW: Deposit your money in a new or existing saving's account at any participating bank or credit union and enter to win a \$1,000 certificate of deposit (one-year maturity) by random drawing. For more information and participating banks, visit <http://www.mdsaves.org/enroll/RITD.asp>

LifeSmarts ... the ultimate consumer challenge.

This program for teens provides opportunities to learn consumer information in a fun, internet game format. Thanks Anne Arundel County and St. Mary's County for encouraging teams to participate. The Internet Session closes today. We have LifeSmarts t-shirts for participants; contact corridon@umd.edu to get yours! National Contest participants will be announced soon!

Consumer Judging: If you'd like to be a part of the committee to revise our State Consumer Judging event, please contact corridon@umd.edu. We need to breathe new life into this consumer skill building event! 4-H Educators as well as 4-H Youth and 4-H Volunteers are welcome!!!

State Communications Contest: We look forward to a Wonderful Maryland Day on Saturday, April 26th showcasing our Public Speaking Winners from each county. Remember, we need your list of winners in each age group in each category. EACH COUNTY can have 12 champions participate in the State Event! (one Junior, one Intermediate and one Senior in Radio Spot, Prepared Speech, Interpretive Speech and Extemporaneous Speech

Horse Programs, industry professionals and educators are invited to attend.

Time: 8:00am-5:00pm

Location: Raleigh, North Carolina

Contact: Cindy Schonholtz
719-594-9778

Mar 1, 2008

**4-H Environmental Science
InService/Adventure Day**

Location: Eastern Shore

Contact: Denise Frebertshauser
301-314-7819

Mar 3, 2008 - Mar 4, 2008

**New 4-H Employee Orientation,
Session II**

Location: UMES

Contact: Kendra Wells
301-314-7317

Mar 8, 2008

4-H Horse Bowl Contest

Location: UMD-Plant Sciences

Bldg. (College Park, MD)
Contact: Kristen Wilson
301-596-9478

Mar 12, 2008 - Mar 15, 2008

**American Camp Assoc. National
Meeting**

Location: Nashville, TN

Contact: Denise Frebertshauser
301-314-7831

Mar 13, 2008

**Maryland CYFAR Project
Meeting**

*CYFAR Project Team Meeting for
funded sites and interested MCE
faculty and staff.*

Time: 9:45 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Location: Maryland 4-H Center

Contact: Kendra Wells
301-314-7317

Mar 26, 2008

**Marketing Value-Added
Products Online Seminar**

*eXtension online workshop on
marketing value added products.
Featuring Ginger Myers, MCE's
own ag marketing specialist!*

Time: 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Participate online at the

URL below - log in at 1:20 p.m.

Contact: Lisa Chase
802-257-7967

Mar 29, 2008

Annual Agriculture Open House

*Free Family Fun Day Highlighting
Farmers, Food Supply and the
Environment*

Location: 50 Harry S. Truman

Parkway, Annapolis

Contact: Julie Oberg
410-841-5888

- please send the name of the reserve champion, too, just in case the champion cannot attend.)

In-Service Announcement: 4-H Volunteers and Staff

The Volunteer Curriculum Committee is pleased to announce an upcoming training that all 4-H volunteers and staff are encouraged to attend. It will be held on Saturday, March 29, 2008 at the Maryland 4-H Center in College Park. You may have received a "Save the Date" flier stating this training would be held at the Howard County Fair Grounds but we have since changed the location. An official registration will be coming out March 1st.

Registration will be \$20.00. Please check with your local county extension office to see if there is a scholarship available.

Topics of this training include food permits, keys to effective club meetings, completing all the many reports, engaging 4-H clovers, and much more. A specific agenda will be sent with registration materials.

Contact Lisa Dennis at ldennis@umd.edu or Leeann Boyce at boyce@umd.edu for more information.

Youth Sheep & Wool Skillathon

There will be a Youth Sheep & Wool Skillathon at the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival on Sunday, May 4, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Any youth between the ages of 8 and 18 is eligible to compete as an individual and member of a 3 or 4 person team. There will be junior (8-10), intermediate (11-13), and senior (14-18) age divisions. Youth will compete according to their actual (not 4-H) age. The top ten individuals and top three teams from each age group will be recognized.

A skillathon provides youth with the opportunity to blend knowledge and skills acquired in livestock judging, demonstrations, and care and exhibition of livestock into a single activity. The Sheep & Wool Skillathon will consist of a series of stations where youth will be tested on their knowledge and abilities related to sheep and wool. Last year's stations included equipment ID, feed and forage ID, breed ID, disease ID, meat ID, fleece (wool) judging, sheep judging, hay judging, a written test, and a senior group problem.

Last year was the second year of the Sheep & Wool Skillathon at the Festival. Ninety-five youth from six states and nine Maryland counties competed. The first place junior team was from St. Mary's/Calvert County. The first place intermediate and senior teams were from Carroll County.

The registration deadline for this year's Skillathon is April 20. There is no registration fee. For information or to register, contact Susan Schoenian at (301) 432-2767 x343 or sschoen@umd.edu. Study materials can be found on the Skillathon web page: Click [HERE](#)

Up for the Challenge Training

"Up for the Challenge" training will be held May 29th & 30th. For all the details, download the flyer by clicking **HERE!**

Experts List

What do you consider your expertise to be? Is there a subject you feel passionate about and would enjoy sharing with others? The volunteer curriculum committee is designing an **experts list** to be included as a part of the new on-line volunteer handbook.

Please send Lisa Dennis at ldennis@umd.edu the following information to be included in the handbook: Name, County, Contact Information, and Expertise. Having this information available will allow us to expand MCE's outreach to our clientele. We want this information by February 28, 2008.

Partner Operations Positions at National 4-H Council

The 4-H Leadership Team is pleased to provide more opportunities to support the work you do on behalf of the 4-H movement. Two job announcements are now available at National 4-H Council. The overall goal of these positions is to provide coordination, overall strategic and tactical management and support, in partnership with leadership from National 4-H Headquarters, to initiatives and programs of the national 4-H movement as they relate to the three mission mandates. I would appreciate if you could share this announcement.

Download the following position announcements:

Project Manager/Partner Operations

VP, Partner Operations

Thank You

Donald T Floyd Jr.
President and CEO
National 4-H Council

Biosecurity for Birds AI Fairs Program

The Biosecurity for Birds AI Fairs program is being offered again for 2008. As you may recall, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has a "fair package" of educational materials for 4H clubs and FFA chapters. If your group is interested in setting up an informational booth at your county or state fair or a similar event to educate backyard poultry owners about what they can do to help protect their birds against avian influenza (AI), APHIS will provide a "fair package." Free materials include banners, posters, brochures, calendars, and giveaways such as cups or fans, and other items that contain useful information about AI prevention.

To request materials for your fair, please visit www.AIFairs.org. To ensure that you receive materials in time, please allow four weeks for delivery.

Groundbreaking Web Site Holds Answers to Life's Questions

A groundbreaking new Web site launched this week, eXtension.org, promises to be a gateway to answering all of life's little questions—from parenting, saving and investing to entrepreneurship and vegetable gardens.

Faculty at the University of Maryland and other land-grant universities around the nation are the brains behind eXtension.org, an online information resource unlike any other. Think of it as a sort of "next-gen Google," where curious consumers can easily find information on a wide range of topics, including how to calculate a retirement readiness score, ease credit card debt, grow the best tomatoes on the block or set a schedule for a new born baby...all at no cost.

[eXtension](http://eXtension.org) is affiliated with Cooperative Extension, a nationwide,

non-credit educational network based at land-grant universities in each U.S. state and territory. Due to its relationship with Cooperative Extension, eXtension.org is able to offer:

- Credible expertise;
- Reliable answers based upon sound research;
- Trustworthy, field-tested data;
- Creative solutions to today's complex challenges; and
- Customized answers to meet specific needs.

In addition to providing unbiased, credible experts to answer knowledge-seekers' questions, eXtension.org also offers opportunities for consumers to interact with each other to increase their knowledge in a particular field. Individuals interested in a specific topic or subject matter area can "gather" online to form a Community of Interest. As a Community of Interest grows, professional educators with expertise in that topic or subject matter area join together and form a Community of Practice. eXtension.org currently has 16 multi-institutional, multi-state and multi-disciplinary Communities of Practice.

Not only does eXtension.org bring consumers the best knowledge from the sharpest minds in higher education, it also uses the most innovative and advanced features available on the Web to enhance the learning experience. Users can rate eXtension.org articles based on their usefulness, with the "most useful" articles ranking the highest on searches. If an article does not answer a user's question, he or she has the option to "Ask an Expert."

Further, articles receive tags showing what users are searching for most often. For example, as can be expected with the state of today's economy, the Personal Finance Community of Practice shows that most users are searching for topics relating to financial security. In the Consumer Horticulture Community of Practice, it appears most searchers are looking for the right way to groom their vegetable gardens. Users can also subscribe to RSS feeds, and eXtension will automatically send updates on topics of interest.

For more information, click on www.eXtension.org.

Healthy Homes In-Service

An enthusiastic group comprised of FCS and 4-H educators, members of the School of Public Health, and Maryland Cooperative Extension met at the 4-H Center on February 7 to learn about ways to integrate Healthy Homes into their work. Dr. Nick Place provided a great launch to the day. Dr. Joe Wysocki, National Program Leader at CSREES for Housing and Indoor Environment shared a broad perspective on national initiatives in Healthy Homes. Dr. Elisabeth Maring and Dr. Bonnie Braun discussed the Healthy Homes Focus Team and the activities that are supported by the generous funding of Maryland Cooperative Extension mini-grant. The four activities of the multi-method approach are: needs assessment, website development, citizen engagement/policy development via deliberative forums, and leveraging partnerships. Lynn Little and Jean Austin presented excellent resources, thought-provoking questions, and examples of teaching techniques. Recipients of mini-grants from CSREES presented on their program successes: Susan Morris highlighted Aging in Place; Megan O'Neil-Haight prepared a presentation on Consumer Products which was presented by Crystal Terhune; Joanne Hamilton and Debbie Rhoades provided insight into Delivering Healthy Homes programs to child care providers. A participant commented in the evaluation on the merit of having "actual, real examples of how others have gotten involved to help us know how to proceed." The afternoon was dedicated to a research and training perspective with School of Public Health professors, Dr. Edmond Shenassa and Dr. Amir Sapkota

presenting their research and potential areas for field faculty to collaborate in exploring pediatric injuries, asthma, and other health-related problems associated with indoor environmental conditions. A participant wrote in the evaluation, "We would love to be directly involved in assisting with these projects—we are where the feet hit the street..." The final presenter was Tom Neltner, the Director of Training and Education with National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH) who arrived with a moisture meter, glue traps, and a short introduction to NCHH's Essentials for Healthy Homes Practitioners course. Registered participants walked away with a box of Healthy Homes materials purchased and organized by Lynn Little and Jean Austin with funds from the Healthy Homes Partnership Grant funded by CSREES. There was even a lunch hour surprise baby shower for Crystal Terhune! The day provided us all with a way to think about Dr. Nick Place's eight overarching principles for MCE-- the existing impact and potential for growth of a Healthy Homes program in Maryland that makes a difference in the quality of life for our citizens.

A New Resource for Youth Workers

The new Youth Today website – youthtoday.org – is now live.

Keep in mind that this is only a step toward building an online community for youth workers. Eventually, the site should enable you to communicate with each other and to have a greater hand in what we publish both in the paper and online.

Here's some of what's new:

- For the first time, the current issue of the paper is online at the same time the print issue is delivered to your desk.
- Grants Available, Calendar and Job Announcements are expanded online and updated throughout the week so you don't have to wait for the next newspaper to browse these listings or, in the case of Job Announcements, to add your own online notice.
- Archives going back to 2002 are FULLY SEARCHABLE by keyword. Getting reams of information on (just about) everything we've done by subject, agency, author or date is amazingly easy. One example: On Wednesday, someone asked me about youth-related family foundations. The searchable archive returned 43 Youth Today items, from feature stories to news briefs to grant announcements.
- Online Updates are Web-only breaking news and special feature items, such as databases, documents and recordings of events that enhance the print edition.
- Soon you'll be able to sign up for specific e-mail lists covering such topics as new Grant Announcements and news from specific sectors of the youth work field. We'll let you know as these become available.

A few important notes:

* * SUBSCRIBERS have access to all of the online content. Our expanded coverage and online features are designed to add value to your Youth Today subscription.

Gaining access is fast and easy: Click **HERE** to create your online account now – your information will be automatically submitted.

Please let me know what works for you, what doesn't or what features you'd like to see. Our goal is to make this site a vital component of your work for youth.

All the best,
Patrick Boyle
Editor, Youth Today

**Institute of Applied Agriculture (IAA) Open House
Announced**

Please spread the word to anyone who may be interested in the Institute of Applied Agriculture, the College's two-year program.

The Institute of Applied Agriculture (IAA) at the University of Maryland is hosting a Spring Open House, an event for prospective students and their families.

Guests will learn about admission to the IAA, majors, financial aid, scholarships, facilities, campus life, and more.

Friday, March 7, 2008
University of Maryland College Park Campus
9 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

Free Event. Reservations Required
Respond to Carole Dingess
cdingess@umd.edu or 301-405-4685

Compiled and published by Anne Tompkins
For the latest news & events, please visit <http://www.agnr.umd.edu/news>

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The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources' three units—Academic Programs, the Agricultural Experiment Station, and Maryland Cooperative Extension—work in concert to educate students and citizens about critical issues and to solve problems in agriculture, food systems, and the environment. The college is an equal opportunity employer and provides equal access programs.

