



Prince William 4-H

Our Clubs, Our Community



Upcoming Events

- Jan 10** - PW 4-H
Cloverbud Club
- Jan 13** - PW 4-H
Association Meeting
- Jan 21** - VA 4-H Day at
the Capitol
- Jan 23** - PW 4-H Share
the Fun Dress
Rehearsal
- Jan 30** - PW 4-H Share
the Fun
- Feb 5** - PW 4-H Club
Leader Professional
Development Zoom
- Feb 10** - PW 4-H Rabbit
Project Kickoff
- Feb 14** - PW 4-H
Contest Day
- Feb 28** - PW 4-H Food
Challenge
- Mar 1** - VA 4-H Meats
Evaluation
- Mar 3** - PW 4-H Dog
Project Kickoff

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Click to Visit



December 31, 2025

Virginia 4-H Day at the Capitol



Mark your calendars - January 21, 2026 is your chance to step inside Virginia's state government and make your voice heard! 4-H Day at the Capitol gives teens a behind-the-scenes look at how laws are made, lets you meet legislators, and shows how your ideas can shape your community.

This year is extra exciting - it's right after the inauguration of a new governor! You'll explore Capitol Square, take part in Voice Your Choice, join the 4-H Rally at the Bell Tower, and even deliver clover plants to legislators as a symbol of 4-H pride. Plus, you'll build leadership and public speaking skills while connecting with other 4-H'ers from across the state.

Don't miss this chance to represent youth, share your ideas, and see government in action. Wear comfy shoes, bring your curiosity, and get ready to make an impact!

IMPORTANT: Prince William 4-H'ers - See [Page 5](#) for more information and REGISTER TODAY! Seats are almost full.

PW 4-H'ers Learn How NOT to Whisper



The Maker Space at Central Library is a magical place to create! On Tuesday, Prince William 4-H'ers explored everything from engraving pencils on the Glowforge to learning about 3D printing—and even stepped into the Whisper Room for a hands-on audio adventure. The Whisper Room is an incredible space where creativity meets technology. Our 4-H youth slipped on headphones, grabbed the mic, and tried out their best radio voices—complete with fun sound effects! If you've ever dreamed of being a podcaster, here's a tip: practice your storytelling and public speaking skills...and whatever you do, don't whisper!

But the fun doesn't stop there. The Prince William Public Library System is joining the national America 250 commemoration with history-focused programs, workshops, and resources about the American Revolution. In partnership with the Prince William Office

of Historic Preservation and the Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission (VA250), this project celebrates Virginia's role in shaping our nation.

Librarian Wendy Weldon has invited all 4-H youth to return and record their family stories of life in America for this special project. These stories will help honor local leaders, events, and everyday experiences that contributed to our country's founding.

Want to share your story? Contact [Pam Hardin](#) to get involved and make your voice part of history!

Prince William 4-H CLUB REPORT DUE DATES

1st Monday (Jan 5)
Nokesville Equestrian 4-H Club
Patriot High School 4-H Club

2nd Monday (Jan 12)
Kettle Run 4-H Club
Benton Middle School Club

3rd Monday (Jan 19)
Trigger Time 4-H Club

4th Monday (Jan 26)
Nokesville 4-H Club
Linton Hall 4-H Club

Keep Up the Good Work! Turn in Your Club Reports



PW 4-H Club Officers - We want to hear MORE from you!

Each month, club reporters, historians, or secretaries send a quick summary of your club's activities (*cool projects, service, awards, shoutouts*), about 6 photos, and any thank-yous to community supporters. Don't forget to sign your name, role, and club name, then email it to chelmmlinger@pwcva.gov and CC your adult club leader.

These reports help track your club's journey, keep families and the community in the loop, and might even attract new members! Plus, you're building real-world skills - try using AI to turn your report into a newsletter article!

IMPORTANT: PW 4-H Adult Volunteers - Action Needed

PLEASE CHECK YOUR VOLUNTEER LEVEL IN 4-H ONLINE



We need your help to comply with Virginia 4-H requirements! All adults (*parents, guardians, and volunteers*) who attend 4-H meetings, events, and programs are required to enroll in [4-H Online](#).

Volunteers play a vital role, and we have different levels based on responsibilities:

- **Level 1** – One-Time/Occasional Volunteer: No supervisory duties; helps with events or activities under supervision.
- **Level 2** – Regular Volunteer: Works with youth, handles funds, or has supervisory roles (e.g., *Club Leaders, Coaches*).
- **Level 3** – Overnight Volunteer: Participates in overnight camping programs with direct supervision of youth.
- **Level 4** – New Volunteer: First-time volunteers completing full enrollment and screening.

Each level has specific requirements, such as applications, background checks, and forms in 4-H Online. Please select the correct level and associated roles when enrolling.

IMPORTANT: If unsure of your volunteer level, please contact [MaryBeth Lerch](#) at PW 4-H Headquarters. If you complete a background screening unnecessarily, you may be charged a fee. Not all adults/volunteers are required to complete the background screening.

For detailed descriptions and requirements, [click here to view the full guide](#).

PRINCE WILLIAM 4-H

2026 SHARE THE FUN

Calling all talented performers and shining stars! The stage is set, and the spotlight is waiting for you at our highly anticipated talent show!

SHOW: FRIDAY, JAN. 30
Rehearsal: Friday, Jan. 23

SAVE THE DATE!
Start preparing your act!

The Nokesville School | Nokesville, VA

Registration & details coming soon!

Prince William 4-H SPIN Project Leading by Speaking



Who

The 4-H Youth Leadership SPIN Club, in partnership with Toastmasters International Youth Leadership Program, is an 8-session hands-on program designed for 4-H'ers ages 9-18.

What

Learn to speak with confidence, deliver powerful speeches, think on your feet, use your voice and body language effectively, and give and receive feedback like a pro!

Where & When

Session Dates*: December ~~10, 11~~, January 7, 14, 21, 28, & February 4

*please commit to all sessions!

Time: 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Location: PW 4-H Headquarters

Why

Public speaking is a cornerstone skill in 4-H because it builds confidence, leadership, and communication abilities that youth can use throughout life. Lead your club, challenge yourself in 4-H competitions, and grow your voice as a leader.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

Participation is free, sponsored by PW 4-H.
Space is limited. Register by Dec 5th.
Enroll in 4-H Online prior to registering.



Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University



If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Prince William 4-H, Virginia Cooperative Extension at (703-792-6000/TDD*) during business hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event. *TDD number is (800) 828-1120. Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and local governments, and is an equal opportunity employer. For the full non-discrimination statement, please visit ext.vt.edu/accessibility.



HEAD



HEART



HANDS



HEALTH



HEAD



HEART



HANDS



HEALTH

PRINCE WILLIAM 4-H

CLOVERBUD CLUB

Meets the 2nd Saturday of the Month from October to May from 10am-Noon

JANUARY 10TH



TIME: 10 AM - Noon

LOCATION: Prince William 4-H Headquarters, 8033 Ashton Ave., Manassas

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Greater Prince William youth ages 5-8, with a parent or guardian, who are interested in exploring 4-H

Calling all Greater Prince William Area youth ages 5-8! Join us for an exciting January Cloverbud Club meeting where the theme is Winter Fun and Wellness. Get ready for a day packed with creativity, learning, and laughter:

- ❖ "Cook" a Frozen Yogurt Parfait – a tasty, healthy treat!
- ❖ Craft Your Own Snow Globe – a winter wonder you can take home.
- ❖ Play Indoor Winter Games – including the ultimate Freeze Dance challenge!

Cloverbuds explore short-term, hands-on projects led by caring adults in the 4-H Pillars: civic engagement, STEM, healthy living, and agriculture. Every activity is research-based and designed to spark curiosity while building skills for life.

Come discover, create, and play while laying the foundation to become tomorrow's community leaders!



Learn more about 4-H at www.pwcva.gov/4-H.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER. Registration is free, but required.

Come grow with us!



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CALLING ALL 4-H ERS 4TH GRADE AND UP

PLEASE REGISTER BEFORE JANUARY 5



4-H DAY AT THE STATE CAPITOL

Experience 4-H in Richmond: meet
Prince William legislators, explore the
Capitol, and much more!



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026

CHECK OUT STATE LAW § 22.1-207.7

VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION IS A PARTNERSHIP OF VIRGINIA TECH, VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY, THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA), AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. FOR THE FULL NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT, PLEASE VISIT [EXT.VT.EDU/ACCESSIBILITY](https://ext.vt.edu/accessibility).



PRINCE WILLIAM 4-H

Bring Science to Life with the Embryology Project

Are you looking for a hands-on, unforgettable way to teach science and spark curiosity in your students or club members? The Prince William 4-H "Beginning of Life" Embryology Project is the perfect opportunity!

This project gives youth a front-row seat to one of nature's most amazing processes - watching a chick develop and hatch from an egg. Over 21 days, participants care for fertilized eggs in an incubator, observe growth, record data, and learn problem-solving skills. It's science in action, and it's FUN!

WHY PARTICIPATE?

- Meets Virginia SOLs in math, science, English, life science, and computer technology.
- Builds responsibility, respect for life, and critical thinking.
- Includes step-by-step 4-H educational materials guiding students from incubation to brooder building.
- Supported by Prince William 4-H staff every step of the way.

WHO CAN JOIN?

- Prince William 4-H Clubs
- Prince William County Schools
- Manassas City Schools
- Manassas Park Schools
- Homeschool Groups

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Fertilized eggs
- Training and guidance
- Support during the hatch
- Chick collection and transport to a local farm

Don't miss this chance to make science come alive in your classroom or club! Spots fill quickly, so sign up Dec 1st and give your students an experience they'll never forget.



IMPORTANT DATES*

Dec 1 – Registration Opens

Jan 5 – Registration Closes

EDUCATOR TRAINING OPTIONS

Feb 4 - 6-7:30 PM @ PW 4-H

Feb 11 - 6-7:30 PM @ McCoart,
Woodbridge

INCUBATOR PICKUP @ PW 4-H

Feb 5 – 1-4 PM

Feb 9 – 10 AM - 2 PM

EGG PICKUP @ PW 4-H

Feb 16 - 4-6 PM

Feb 17 - 9 AM - 12 PM

HATCH DAYS

Mar 9 – 13

CHICK DROP OFF @ PW 4-H

Mar 20 - 2-6 PM

Mar 26 - 12-3 PM

*Dates subject to change

Registration is OPEN!
Click here to register.



Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University



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Upcoming 2026 VA 4-H Youth Animal Science Events

BLUE RIDGE STOCKMAN'S CONTEST

Monday, January 19th • Rockingham County Fairgrounds, Harrisonburg

\$10/person. Lunch is provided.

Registration is required at this link: [Blue Ridge Stockmans Registration](#)

Please forward any questions to [Herb Hoffeditz](#).

VT B & B MEAT SCIENCE CAREER AND EVALUATION DAY

Saturday, January 24th • 9 AM - 3:30 PM • Virginia Tech

\$15/person. Lunch is provided.

Available to 4-H & FFA youth ages 13-19; limited to 8 participants/club and a total of 80 participants

Registration is required at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/2025-Meats-Clinic-New>.

Register by Jan 7th at 5 PM. Less than 5 spots remain.

Please forward any questions to [Katherine Carter](#) or [Katie Powell](#).

VT B & B HORSE WEEKEND

February 6 & 7 • Virginia Tech

Hippology Contest - Friday, February 6th

Horse Judging Contest - Saturday, February 7th

Registration link, rules, and details coming soon.

Blue Ridge Stockmans Contest
Monday January 19, 2026

Registration
Cost is \$10/person to include lunch.
[Link to registration form.](#)

Contest Details

ID Categories

- Breed - 10 with breed description for Sr
- Equipment - 10 items for Jr, 20 items for Sr
- Feed - 10 with feed usage for Sr
- Meat - 10 cuts
- Species/prime/retail

General knowledge Quiz


- 25 multiple choice questions
- Junior and Senior versions

Judging Classes

- 3 - Live animal classes
- 1 - Meats class with questions
- 1 - Hay class with questions

Quality Assurance

- Junior and Senior team activity



Schedule

8:45 AM - Contest instructions
9:00 AM - Contest begins
Noon - Lunch
2:00 - Results

Contest Format
Contest is open to all 4-H and FFA members and will consist of 2 divisions. All ages will be as of the contest date.

Junior division

- 4-H members ages 8 - 13
- FFA members grade 6-8

Senior Division

- 4-H members ages 14-19
- FFA members grade 9-12

Where

The Blue Ridge Stockmans Contest will be held at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds and will utilize both outside and indoor facilities. Contestants should dress appropriately!


GORE'S INVITATIONAL MEATS JUDGING CONTEST

Saturday, February 7th • Gore's Meats in Edinburg


Available to all enrolled and eligible Virginia 4-H and FFA Youth.

Registration required at this link: <https://forms.gle/yrczc2EcERfNfjep8>. **Register by January 31**

Clinic/Contest for those preparing for the State 4-H/FFA Meats Evaluation Contests or anyone hoping to learn more about Meats Evaluation. Please direct any questions to: saheishman@shenandoah.k12.va.us or dbritenour@shenandoah.k12.va.us



HOSTED BY
BLOCK & BRIDLE
AT VIRGINIA TECH



MEAT SCIENCE CAREER DAY & EVALUATION CLINIC

Join us for a hands-on, behind-the-scenes look at the meat industry! Practice judging & evaluation for the State Meats Contest!

- ★ VT Facilities Tour
- ★ Live Animal Evaluation
- ★ Country Ham Processing
- ★ Marketing
- ★ Judging & Identification


**GET INSPIRED. GET INVOLVED.
GET A TASTE OF THE FUTURE.**

Register Now & Secure Your Spot!

FFA: 6th grade & up

4H: 13 years old & up

**\$15
Registration
(includes lunch!)**



Central High School
Agriculture Education Department and FFA Chapter
1147 Susan Avenue
Woodstock, VA 22664
Phone: (540) 459-3806 Fax: (540) 459-5932



December 2025

TO: 2026 Virginia 4-H and FFA Meat Judging Team Coaches

FROM: Gore's Meat Processing, Sherry Heishman, Derek Ritenour

SUBJECT: 2026 Shenandoah Valley Invitational 4-H & FFA Meats Judging Contest and Clinic

The 2026 Gore's Invitational 4-H & FFA Meat Judging Contest will be held at Gore's Meats Edinburg-Foltz Division. Contest registration will be held at Gore's beginning at 8 am. This contest should be regarded as a preparation contest for the Virginia State 4-H & FFA Meats Judging Contest sponsored by the Block & Bridle Club at Virginia Tech.

Registration fees will be \$20 per team or \$5 per individual; Additional adults are also \$5. This fee covers registration and lunch. Lunch will be a pork barbecue sandwich, chips, cookie and water. Invoice can be sent if requested.

Please email if a student needs the test read to them.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions concerning these details, by phone at (540)459-3806 or

saheishman@shenandoah.k12.va.us or dbritenour@shenandoah.k12.va.us

To help with planning of the contest, please register via the accompanying google forms links.

Please print out the registration information (emailed to you upon form submission) and mail, along with payment to:

Central High School
1147 Susan Ave.
Woodstock, VA 22664

Checks may be made payable to Central FFA.

[Registration](#) or <https://forms.gle/yrczc2EcERfNfjep8>

To be eligible for the contest, payment and registration must be received by January 31, 2026.

Upcoming 2026 VA 4-H Youth Animal Science Events

COREY CHILDS MEMORIAL STOCKMAN'S CONTEST

Saturday, February 14th • Virginia Livestock, Front Royal

Registration is required at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/2026-CCM-Stockmans-Contest>. **Register by February 6th.**

Please forward any questions to [Emily Shultz](#) or [Ken Mathews](#)

VT B & B LIVESTOCK WEEKEND

February 20 & 21 • Virginia Tech

Junior Stockman's Contest - Friday, February 20 (AM - Juniors; PM - Seniors)

Livestock Judging Contest – Saturday, February 21 (AM - Advanced Contest/Reasons; PM - Regular Contest/No Reasons)

Registration link, rules, and details coming soon.

STATE 4-H/FFA MEATS EVALUATION CONTEST

March 1st • Virginia Tech

Official State Contest for both 4-H and FFA (dual entry allowed).

Registration link, rules, and details coming soon.

VT BEEF LEADERSHIP COUNCIL BEEF BOOT CAMP

Friday, March 6th • at Alphin-Stuart Arena, Virginia Tech

Registration is required at this link: <https://forms.gle/aKijMg2yZQr227Rp8>. **Register by February 27th.**

Available to Virginia 4-H and FFA Youth.

Please direct all questions to Megan Mallory at mmegan22@vt.edu

"Lets Raise the Steaks" – Hands-on Stations that focus on Nutrition, Reproduction, Cattle Handling, Food Preparation and Handling. Perfect opportunity for youth who are new to cattle or seasoned show/beef industry kids. Stations will be fun and educational, led by VT students and Beef Industry Leaders.

2026 "Corey Childs Memorial"
Stockmen's Contest
©
Virginia Livestock, LLC



Where: Virginia Livestock, LLC
2796 Rivermont Drive Front Royal, VA 22630
When: February 14th, 2026

Tentative Schedule:
Registration 8:00-9:00am
Stockmen's Judging 9:00 am
Lunch will be served at end of the contest (around noon)
Stockmen's contest results following the YQCA Program
Registration is \$5.00 per person lunch is included.
Please Register by **February 6th, 2026**
Be on the lookout for online registration information coming in the near future.
Spots fill quickly, be sure to register early!

*** YQCA will only be offered to contest participants. Watch for YQCA registration coming in the near future. ***
If you are a person with a disability and desire assistance or accommodation to participate in this activity, please notify the Warren County Office of Virginia Cooperative Extension at (540) 635-4549 during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Please contact us by Friday, February 6th, 2026.

BEEF BOOT CAMP



Let's Raise the Steaks

Alphin-Stuart Livestock Arena 500 Plantation Rd Blacksburg, VA 24060
March 6, 2026 - 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Detailed schedule to follow, Lunch is provided

Open to 4-H & FFA Youth **\$15/person**

Hands-On Stations:
Nutrition, Reproduction, Cattle Handling, Food Preparation & Handling

REGISTER HERE BY FEBRUARY 27TH:




Event Hosted By Virginia Tech Beef Leadership Council
Questions? Contact Megan Mallory, mmegan22@vt.edu

VA 4-H: VT B&B Feed Kits

Starter and NEW Add-On Kits Available

- Starter Kits will be like those offered last spring
- Add-on Kits will include additional feeds not included in the Starter Kit
- Various pick-up locations and shipping options available
- Great kits to use as resources for Livestock and Dairy Skillathons, Hippology, Junior Stockman's, or other Youth Animal Science Educational Programs

Order Form: [Block & Bridle at VT Feed Kit Preorder Form – Fill out form](#)

Judging School Virginia



Date: Saturday, January 10th

Location: Williamsburg Lodge, 310 S. England St., Williamsburg

Cost: FREE

[Click here for more information and to register.](#) **Register by January 7th.**

Judging School Virginia is brought to you by the Caroline County Agricultural Fair Association in conjunction with the Virginia Association of Fairs and Virginia Cooperative Extension. This session is in conjunction with the [Virginia Association of Fairs Annual Conference](#).

- **Session I (9:05-10:05 AM):** Food Preservation I (Vegetables/Meats), Woodworking, Quilts, Crocheting/Knitting
- **Session II (10:10 - 11:10 AM):** Food Preservation II (Fruits/Jams/Jellies/Preserves), Photography, Quilts, Veggies/Fruits
- **Session III (11:15 AM - 12:15 PM):** Crafts, Photography, Dried Foods/Vinegars, Crocheting/Knitting

VA 4-H: Virginia Dairy Princess Program



Date: February 7th
Location: Richmond, VA
[Click here to learn more and to apply.](#)
Applications due Jan 1.

The Virginia Dairy Princess Program connects consumers with dairy farmers by promoting the dairy industry and dairy foods across the state. The Dairy Princess and her court represent Virginia dairy at parades, public events, and meetings, while building leadership and communication skills - and the Princess earns a scholarship at the end of her reign. Supporting roles

like Dairy Maids and Duchesses help with events, teamwork, and training for future candidates, making this a fun way to advocate for agriculture, meet new people, and grow as a leader.

BLOCK & BRIDLE AT VIRGINIA TECH FEED SAMPLE KITS

Help students identify feed successfully!
Preorder your kit today!

Starter Kit: \$50

Add-On Kit: \$25

Starter + Add-On Kits: \$75



Scan the QR code below for more information and pick up options!



Contact Katie Powell at kpowell26@vt.edu with any questions!

Virginia Master Cattlemen's Program 2026



Virginia Cooperative Extension will be offering the Virginia Master Cattlemen program online in Spring 2026. The program will consist of seven sessions that provide essential information for beef producers in Economics, Genetics, Reproduction, Nutrition, Forages, Herd Health, and Marketing. Participants will receive a certificate as a Virginia Master Cattleman upon successful completion of all seven sessions of the program. The goal of the program is to build foundational knowledge that can be applied to advanced beef educational programs.

This program will be held on Zoom weekly from 6:30 to 8:30 pm on Thursdays from February 12 to March 26. The dates are as listed:

February 12, February 19, February 26, March 5, March 12, March 19 & March 26

Seven Educational Modules

Herd Health Management
 Nutrition
 Reproduction
 Economics
 Genetics
 Marketing
 Forage

Please register for the program online at:
<https://tinyurl.com/MasterCattlemen2026>
 or by scanning the QR code.

Registration Costs:

\$90.00

*Includes certification, farm sign, and educational materials.



All participants will receive a hard copy course notebook. Internet access and email are required for this course. **Registration deadline is February 5, 2026.**

For more information, contact Phil Blevins at Washington County Extension Office

Phone: (276)676-6309 or by email: pblevins@vt.edu



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Virginia 4-H Equine Advisory Council Updates



- All 4-H'ers interested in the Virginia 4-H Horse Program: subscribe to the state and district email lists.
- Skills Testing Updates:
 - Skills Testing must be requested to state 2 weeks in advance
 - Clearly stated no testing your own club kids or other kids with conflict of interest
 - New online submission form for skills completed
- NE District Will offer a March clinic for adults to become testers
- Measurements: Can come from 4-H Measurement volunteers, USEF Card, Vet's Letter or Measurement by TD or other appropriate USEF personnel

Equismartz

- Hippology and Judging - April 10-11 @ Meadow Event Park
- Communications and Bowl - April 25 @ Blue Ridge Community College - Weyers Cave Location

Important Dates for the 2026 Virginia 4-H Horse Show

- 4-H'ers must be registered by February 1 (*Or earlier based on county agent's rules*)
- Declarations are due July 1
- Skilled/Qualified BEFORE July 31
- Entries open July 31

SERVICE BEYOND BORDERS

VIRGINIA 4-H DOMINICAN REPUBLIC SERVICE TRIP

SERVE. LEARN. GROW

Immerse yourself in the local culture, engage in meaningful service projects, and help facilitate day camps for local children. This is a unique opportunity to make a positive impact, take on exciting challenges, and create unforgettable memories.

WHO, WHEN, & WHERE?

This trip is open to all Virginia 4-H youth in grades 9-12. Participants can join one of two sessions: July 13-21, 2026 or July 27-August 4, 2026. The adventure takes place in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

READY TO APPLY?

The total cost of the trip is \$2,600, which includes airfare, lodging, and most meals. Applications are due by February 16, 2026 and will be accepted through <https://forms.gle/GanT63ggHq4eZJuPZ>. A \$1,000 deposit is due by March 16, with the final balance due July 1. Don't miss your chance to join this unforgettable Virginia 4-H service experience!

CONTACT US:
 Carol Nansel, Shenandoah 4-H cnansel@vt.edu 540-459-6140
 Christine Hodges, Allegheny 4-H chodges@vt.edu 540-862-0369

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2026 VA 4-H Dominican Republic Program - Apply Today!

Who Should Apply: Virginia 4-H'ers in 9th - 12th grades

Program Fees: \$2,600, with \$1,000 of that due as a deposit on March 16

[Click here for the Youth Application.](#)

[Click here for the Adult Volunteer Application.](#)

Applications due February 16th.

The Virginia 4-H Program in the Dominican Republic is now accepting applications from Virginia 4-H teens, agents and 4-H volunteers! This program started as a grassroots, county based program, which is now in its 18th year. Since one main focus of our program in the Dominican Republic is conducting a 4-H Day Camp for Dominican children, this program may especially appeal to 4-H Camp Counselors.

Interested 4-H'ers can learn more about the program through annual blogs and photos shared by participants:

2024 Blogs: [Group 1](#) | [Group 2](#)

2025 Blogs: [Group 1](#) | [Group 2](#)

[Click here for previous years' blogs and click on Dominican Republic.](#)

VA 4-H All Star Updates for Future, Current, and Alumni

VIRGINIA 4-H 2026 ALL STAR NOMINATIONS STATE REVIEW

Date: Friday, January 2nd at 10am

Location: Goochland Extension Office

[Click here to register to participate.](#)

If you are an All-Star, we would love your assistance with reviewing the nominations. If you are an agent interested in learning about the 4-H All-Stars and how members are selected, you are welcome to join and learn how you can help your 4-Hers make their nominations shine in 2027!

2026 VIRGINIA 4-H ALL STAR MIDWINTERS CONFERENCE

Dates: February 6-8

Location: Virginia State University, Petersburg, VA

[Click here to register.](#)

This conference will feature a variety of different activities for everyone including a tour of VSU's Randolph Farm, a working farm located on VSU's campus that promotes hands-on learning and research in the agriculture field. There will also be an option to experience food security through a game developed by VSU's youth specialist and VSU Students. Need another reason to come? Explore Petersburg's History, VSU Campus, and enjoy family fun at Swader's Sports Park in Prince George.



Invention Convention Expo for VA 4-H'ers

Dates: March 13-14

Location: Virginia State University

Virtual Info Session: January 8 @ 2:30 PM

Registration coming soon!

Invention Convention is a youth-centered experience that engages young people in problem solving, creativity, and design thinking as they develop and showcase original inventions. The event will include innovation sessions, professional development opportunities, and a culminating youth expo.

Additional information and registration details will be shared in the coming weeks. To learn more about Invention Convention in Virginia, [check out the affiliate website.](#)



Scholarships Applications OPEN!

[Click here for more information and to apply.](#)

Applications are due February 6th by 5 PM.

Each year, the Prince William Chamber Foundation, in partnership with the Prince William Chamber of Commerce, awards \$2,500 scholarships to outstanding local graduating high school seniors. For 2026, the Chamber will award 5 (five) scholarships. Four of the scholarships will be awarded to graduating high school seniors, and one will be directed to alternative schooling/adult education.

This year, the Chamber Foundation will award 5 scholarships in the following categories:

- ★ Workforce Development & Certification
- ★ Higher Education
- ★ Military & Public Service
- ★ Entrepreneurship
- ★ Adult Education Eligibility Requirements!



OPEN TO PRINCE WILLIAM 4-H'ERS!

PW 4-H are encouraged to attend Jumpstart: Career Exploration to learn about career opportunities in the 4-H Pillars of Agriculture, STEM, Healthy Living, and Civic Engagement! **Prior to registering**, please contact PW 4-H Extension Agent MaryBeth Lerch at mblerch@vt.edu.

Conference

Jumpstart: Career Exploration for 7-9th Graders

Friday-Sunday

February 6-8, 2026

W.E. Skelton
4-H Educational
Conference Center

Where Curiosity Meets Career Exploration



W.E. Skelton 4-H Educational Conference Center
775 Hermitage Road, Wirtz, Virginia 24184

Spend the weekend exploring new career paths, meeting inspiring professionals, and connecting with other students at [Jumpstart!](#)

Through hands-on workshops, interactive panels, and team activities, participants will discover opportunities in one of four tracks: **Agriculture, STEM, Healthy Living, and Civic Engagement.**

From leadership sessions and an etiquette dinner to evening activities and reflection groups, the conference offers a mix of learning, networking, and fun.

Scholarships may be available!

Prior to registering, please contact PW 4-H Extension Agent MaryBeth Lerch at mblerch@vt.edu.

Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and local governments, and is an equal opportunity employer. For the full non-discrimination statement, please visit ext.vt.edu/accessibility.

Price: \$110

Includes: Lodging (2 nights), 5 meals, T-shirt

To Learn More Contact: smithkd7@vt.edu
or alisonks@vt.edu

Registration:

Opens: December 2, 2025

Closes: January 16, 2026



This conference is held in partnership with: Virginia 4-H, Virginia DECA, Virginia FFA, Virginia HOSA, and Virginia SkillsUSA.

 **Virginia
Cooperative
Extension**
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

4-H Ag & STEM: Tidewater AREC Jobs & Internships

2026 SOYBEAN AGRONOMY SUMMER INTERNSHIP

[Click here for more information and to apply.](#)

Our soybean agronomy program is now accepting applicants for a 2026 summer internship. This internship is designed to provide hands-on educational opportunities for an undergraduate student interested in agronomy, while preparing them for potential graduate studies. The intern will support the soybean agronomy program through participation in summer research activities.

PW 4-H'ers - get inspired for a career in agriculture by checking out these opportunities!

OPEN POSITIONS AT TIDEWATER AREC

[Click here for more information and to apply.](#)

- **Laboratory & Research Specialist:** Crop Physiology: The Crop Physiology Lab at Virginia Tech's Tidewater Agricultural Research and Extension Center (TAREC), in Suffolk, VA, is inviting applications for a Laboratory & Research Specialist position. The successful candidate will serve as the Manager of a multi-state project on faba bean winter production in the Mid-Atlantic region. The project includes areas of breeding, phenomics, genomics, agronomics, economics, food science and engineering.
- **Farm Manager:** Virginia Tech's Tidewater Agricultural Research and Extension Center (Tidewater AREC) located in Suffolk, Virginia, is accepting applications for a Farm Manager. In this role the Farm Manager coordinates farm operations and maintenance on the 465-acre AREC with nine resident faculty members and a large technical support staff conducting research programs in production of economically important crops including soybean, cotton, peanut, corn, grain sorghum and small grains.
- **Agricultural Technician - Soybean Agronomy:** Virginia Tech's Tidewater Agricultural Research & Extension Center in Suffolk, Virginia, is accepting applications for an Agricultural Technician for the soybean programs.



4-H Healthy Living: Fruit Jam Safety Explained

Fruit jams are made from crushed fruits with the addition of sugar, acid, and sometimes pectin. These ingredients determine the safety and stability of jams. Acid lowers the pH of the jam, which slows microbial growth. Pectin, a complex starch, helps jam maintain its thick texture without separating. Because fruits have a wide range of pH and pectin content, different fruits may require varying amounts of acid and pectin to be added to the recipe to produce a safe jam that does not separate.

PW 4-H'ers that participated in the canning opportunity are encouraged to check out this new VCE Publication, "[Fruit Jam Safety Explained: Microbial Risks and Polyphenol Benefits for Processors.](#)"



4-H Agriculture: Learn about Flower Farming

[Click here to listen to the new episode of "4 The Soil: A Conversation."](#)

Season 5, Episode 25: Social Enterprises, Systems-Thinking, and Flower Farming with Dr. Christine Mahoney, Part I

How can social entrepreneurship support soil health and positive ecological change? Mary and Eric explore this question with Dr. Christine Mahoney of UVA's Frank Batten School of Leadership and Wayflowering Flower Farm. She shares how values-driven businesses and regenerative organic farming can improve soil, boost biodiversity, support pollinators, and strengthen local ecosystems.

Season 5, Episode 26: Flowers, Pollinators, Health, and Peace with Dr. Christine Mahoney, Pt. II

How can we care for the soil and farm for better health outcomes? Dr. Christine Mahoney joins Mary and Eric for a conversation about soil health, regenerative farm design, and organic flower farming. Dr. Mahoney shares how better outcomes, such as health, peace, and tranquility, can be achieved through enriching the soil, enhancing biodiversity, sequestering carbon, strengthening local ecosystems, and supporting pollinator habitats. For Dr. Mahoney, caring for the soil and creating an incredible place for flowers, bees, butterflies, and other pollinators is foundational and inspirational.



Virginia KidWind Challenge: Student Expo

STUDENT EXPO

Date: February 7th, 10 AM - 3 PM

Location: Virginia Tech, Blacksburg

[Click here to register.](#) **Register by January 23rd.**

[Click here to learn more about Virginia KidWind Project.](#)

The Virginia Kid Wind Renewable Energy Challenge Student Expo is an opportunity for students to take ownership of their learning and give their coaches a little break. The Expos will feature the following:

- Industry tables to learn about careers
- Hands-on workshops for students on advanced topics (gearboxes, airfoils, microcontrollers, advanced solar circuits)
- Sessions for coaches on preparing for the Challenge event
- FREE Lunch
- Panel discussion with experienced students
- Open testing time in the wind tunnel and solar environment
- Technical advisors

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL CHALLENGE

Date: Tuesday, March 17th, 8 AM - 4 PM

Location: Potomac Science Center (GMU), Woodbridge

[Click here to register.](#) Space is limited!

Teams will compete in the wind and/or solar challenge. Please note: Schools are limited to 3 teams in each division (wind and solar).

TEACHERS & CLUB LEADER RESOURCES

Check out the Virtual 101 Workshops and other resources KidWind has for preparing for a Challenge! [Click here to learn more.](#)

Virginia KidWind: 2026 Energy Art Challenge

[Click here for more information and to enter.](#)

Due by noon on March 2nd.

Calling on all K-12 students to create artwork on the theme: Solar POWERED.

KidWind is excited to launch our 3rd Annual Energy Art Challenge - this year focused on Solar Energy! Six entries from each grade division - Elementary (K-5), Middle School (6-8), and High School (9-12) - will receive an award and have their work displayed on the KidWind website.



VIRTUAL 101 WORKSHOPS



KidWind offers a variety of one-day virtual workshops covering renewable energy topics. These workshops are geared towards middle and high school teachers. Attendees will receive ~\$150 worth of classroom materials. Find more information [here](#), or scan the QR code. Registration for each workshop closes two weeks before the workshop occurs.

Solar Energy 101

December 6, 2025 - 11am-2pm EST

Wind Energy 101

January 10, 2026 - 11am-2pm EST

Battery 101

February 28, 2026 - 11am-2pm EST

Power Grid 101

March 7, 2026 - 11am-2pm EST

Marine & Hydropower 101

April 11, 2026 - 11am-2pm EDT

Use code **VWKS101CREATE** to reduce the cost to just \$50. That's \$200 off! Please note that only STEM educators who teach students in grades 6th and above who have not taken this workshop before are eligible for this discount.

Huge thank you to our partner CREATE!



2025 - 2026



PRINCE WILLIAM 4-H EVENT CALENDAR

OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
4 PW 4-H Young Entrepreneurs Market Day 5-11 National 4-H Week Proclamation at PWOC BOCs 8 PW 4-H Association Fundraising Committee Mtg 11 PW 4-H Cloverbud Club 11-12 VA 4-H Shooting Ed New Instructor Certification 14 PW 4-H Portfolio Training 16 PW 4-H Teens to BLOOM 19-25 National Character Counts Week 21 PW 4-H Club & Project Leader Professional Dev 23 PW 4-H Presentation Training 27 PW 4-H Green & Growing	1 VA 4-H Shooting Ed Instructor Re-Certification 3-4 PW 4-H Sewing SPIN Club 4 VA 4-H Soil Judging Contest 6 PW 4-H Engage Locally 8 PW 4-H Cloverbud Club 12 PW 4-H Association Meeting 16 PW 4-H Hike: 4-H Outdoor Challenge 20 PW 4-H Teens to BLOOM 24 PW 4-H Officer & Leadership Training 28-Dec 2 National 4-H Congress 28-Dec 14 TSC & 4-H Paper Clover Campaign	1 PW 4-H Embryology Registration Opens 3 PW 4-H Homemade Holiday Craft Night 4 PW 4-H Club & Project Leader Professional Dev 10 PW 4-H Leading by Speaking SPIN Project 11 PW 4-H Canning Class 13 Wreaths Across America Day 30 PW 4-H Whisper Booth Training	10 PW 4-H Cloverbud Club 13 PW 4-H Association Meeting 21 Virginia 4-H Day at the Capitol 23 PW 4-H Share the Fun Dress Rehearsal 30 PW 4-H Share the Fun TBD PW 4-H Tree Seedling Orders Due	5 PW 4-H Club & Project Leader Professional Dev 10 PW 4-H Rabbit Project Kickoff 14 PW 4-H Contest Day: Presentations, Table Setting, Fashion Review 14 VA 4-H Stockman's & Livestock Judging 28 PW 4-H Food Challenge	1 PW 4-H Junior Camp Reg Opens 1 VA 4-H and FFA Meats Evaluation 3 PW 4-H Dog Project Kickoff 6-7 PW 4-H TALT - Junior Camp Counselor Training 10 PW 4-H Leaders' Mid-Year Mtg & 4-H Association Mtg 14 VA 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl 14-15 VA 4-H Spring Air Champs 21 VA 4-H WHEP Contest 25-29 National 4-H IGNITE

TBD VA 4-H Teen Summit
TBD PW 4-H Association BINGO

APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
5 VA 4-H Lumber Cup 10-11 VA 4-H Equismartz 10-15 National 4-H Conference 11 PW 4-H Cloverbud Club 14 PW 4-H Club & Project Leader Professional Dev 18 VA 4-H Northeast District Contest Day 25 VA 4-H Horse Bowl & Communications Contests TBD VA 4-H Shooting Ed New Instructor Certification TBD PW 4-H Young Entrepreneurs Interest Mtg TBD PW 4-H Tree Planting TBD VA 4-H FFA Beef Challenge, Beef Roundup, Tractor Operators Contest TBD TSC & 4-H Paper Clover Campaign TBD VA 4-H FFA State Poultry Evaluation Contest TBD VA 4-H Healthy Living Summit TBD VA 4-H Northeast District Contest Day	10 PW 4-H Cloverbud Club 12 PW 4-H Association Board & Leader Year-End Meeting TBD PW 4-H Young Entrepreneurs Workshops TBD PW 4-H Outdoor Challenge SPIN Project TBD VA 4-H Northeast District Food Challenge Contest	16-29 Virginia 4-H Congress 21-26 National 4-H Shooting Sports Championship 30 1st Time Junior 4-H Camper Parents' Meeting TBD PW 4-H Young Entrepreneurs Market Day TBD VA Dept of Forestry Camp Woods & Wildlife TBD VA 4-H Livestock Judging Contests	TBD PW 4-H Young Entrepreneurs Market Day TBD State of Virginia's NRA Youth Education Summit TBD Prince William/Stafford 4-H Junior Camp TBD Southern Regionals 4-H Horse Championships TBD VA 4-H Youth Daily Field Day	TBD VA 4-H Northern District Shoot TBD VA 4-H Pork Challenge TBD PW 4-H Fair Camp TBD PW 4-H Young Entrepreneurs Market Day	4-6 VA 4-H State Horse and Pony Championship 5-6 VA 4-H State Shoot TBD PW 4-H Young Entrepreneurs Market Day TBD VA 4-H Shotgun Championship TBD State Fair of Virginia TBD SEVA Youth Livestock Shows, Livestock Skillathon, Dairymen's Contest, Dairy Goat Contest,

For more detailed information as events approach, see the newsletter at www.pwcv4.gov/4H.



Updated 12/31/2025

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

8033 Ashton Ave, #105,
Manassas, VA 20109

Click to Visit Online:

[Prince William 4-H](#)
[Virginia State 4-H](#)
[National 4-H](#)

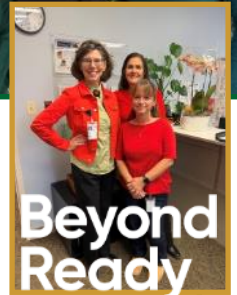


Your Dedicated PWC 4-H Staff

MaryBeth Lerch
Extension Agent, 4-H
mblerch@vt.edu
703-792-4536



Pam Hardin
4-H Youth Educator
phardin@pwcva.gov
DeeAnn Strand
4-H Youth Educator
dstrand@pwcva.gov
Candi Helmlinger
4-H Program Specialist,
Newsletter
chelmlinger@pwcva.gov



PWC 4-H Resources

National 4-H

[National 4-H Homepage](#)

Virginia 4-H

[VCE 4-H](#)
[4-H Online Information](#)
[The 4-H Foundation](#)
[4-H All Stars](#)
[STEM in Virginia 4-H](#)

Prince William 4-H

[PW 4-H Homepage](#)
[PW 4-H Programs](#)
[PW 4-H Camps](#)
[PW 4-H Events & Calendar](#)
[PW 4-H Document Center](#)

Portfolio Records

[Member Record](#)
[Cloverbud Sheet](#)
[Project Record Ages 9-10](#)
[Project Record Ages 11-12](#)
[Project Record Ages 13-18](#)

[Prince William 4-H Member Record - President](#)
[Prince William 4-H Member Record - Vice President](#)
[Prince William 4-H Member Record - Officer](#)

[Prince William 4-H Documents & Resources](#)



2025-2026 PWC 4-H Association Officers

Youth Officers

Lexi Strand, President
Tim Hirshey, Vice President
Sarah Fox, Secretary
Samantha Holmes, Treasurer
Ayden Strand, Jr Fundraising Committee Chair

Adult Officers

Susan Wolf, President
Alan Lerch, Vice President
Shelby Kohn, Secretary
Sydney Nguyen, Treasurer

Committee Chairs

Fundraising Committee - Shawn Clinger & Sarah Fox
Recognition Committee - Alan Lerch
Membership Committee - 4-H Staff



Beyond Ready



Virginia Cooperative Extension

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If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Prince William 4-H, Virginia Cooperative Extension at (703-792-6000/TDD*) during business hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event. *TDD number is (800) 828-1120. Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and local governments, and is an equal opportunity employer. For the full non-discrimination statement, please visit ext.vt.edu/accessibility.