



Prince William 4-H

Our Clubs, Our Community



Upcoming Events

- Mar 28** - PW 4-H Succulent Project
- Apr 5** - VA 4-H Lumber Cup
- Apr 6** - PW 4-H Tour of Renwick Museum
- Apr 10-11** - VA 4-H Equismartz
- Apr 10-15** - National 4-H Conference
- Apr 11** - PW 4-H Cloverbud Club
- Apr 11-12** - VA 4-H Shooting Ed New Instructor Cert.
- Apr 14** - PW 4-H Club & Project Leader Professional Dev.
- Apr 15-17** - VA 4-H Beef challenge, beef Roundup, Tractor Skillathon

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BINGO Debrief Meeting TONIGHT!



Thank you to everyone who came out to support our 3rd Annual Prince William 4-H Association BINGO Night on Friday. Whether you played, volunteered, or cheered from the sidelines, you helped make this year's fundraiser a huge success.

Now we want to hear from you!

BINGO Fundraiser Debrief

Wednesday, March 25 • 7 PM • [Click here to join the Zoom call](#)

Join us as we celebrate what went well and talk through ideas to make next year's event even better.

Can't make it? No problem - please email your feedback to [MaryBeth Lerch](mailto:MaryBeth.Lerch) so your voice is still part of the conversation.

Event photos coming next week!

Great Job Hatching, Prince William!



The Prince William 4-H Embryology Project was a HUGE success this year! With one more day of chick drop-off still to go, we've already welcomed well over 500 chicks - all safely returned to PW 4-H or rehomed to approved farms. What an incredible effort from our participating schools and educators.



Through this hands-on program, teachers incubated eggs right in their classrooms and libraries, giving students a front-row seat to the growth of a chicken from embryo to hatchling. Along the way, students explored animal life cycles, responsibility, and the science behind nutrition and care. Approved 4-H clubs will now continue the learning by adopting chicks and diving deeper into the food web - producers, consumers, decomposers, and the energy cycle that connects them all.

A huge 4-H thank you to farmer **Steve Mayes** for adding the chicks to his flock and to the **PWC Fairgrounds** for providing a perfect drop-off location for so many peeping passengers.



PW 4-H'ers - don't forget to complete your project record!



Final Chick Drop-Off
Wed., March 25
PWC Fairgrounds
11 AM - 3 PM

Prince William 4-H CLUB REPORT DUE DATES

1st Monday (Apr 6)
Nokesville Equest. 4-H Club
Patriot High School 4-H Club

2nd Monday (Apr 13)
Kettle Run 4-H Club
Benton Middle School Club

3rd Monday (Apr 20)
Trigger Time 4-H Club

4th Monday (Apr 27)
Nokesville 4-H Club
Linton Hall 4-H Club

[Click here to email report.](#)

Prince William 4-H



CLUB REPORT



Trigger Time 4-H Club

By Rebecca Ahrens, Club Reporter, Trigger Time 4-H Club
March 25, 2026

Last month, Trigger Time 4-H Shooting Education Club hosted the second annual Trigger Time Cup at the Manassas Army. The Trigger Time Cup was a CMP sanctioned EIC match which included 3-position Sporter and Precision Air Rifle. There were 85 competitors from 9 teams who participated in both categories, including several other Virginia 4-H Club Teams. A total of 10 members of Trigger Time competed in the match. In the Sporter category, Trigger Time's team consisting of Rebecca Ahrens (550-21), Lexi Strand (537-15), Samantha Holmes (513-11), and Ayden Strand (500-7) took first place with a score of 2100-54. Second place went to Calvert NJROTC from Maryland, and third place was Lafayette Gun Club from Yorktown. The top three individuals were Alexandra Orr (561-23 Lafayette Gun Club), Rebecca Ahrens (550-21 Trigger Time), and Logan Hawkins (549-20 American Legion Post 290). In the precision category, there were only two teams that competed, so no team awards were presented; however, the top three precision individuals were Christina Morris (590-45), Anahad Kohli (584-38), and Parker Anderson (581-32), all of whom were representing Lafayette Gun Club. Thanks to everyone who volunteered their time to make the match a success. Special thanks to Coach Strand, Coach Lerch, Coach McPhearson, and Coach Willey for helping plan and run the match.



During the same weekend as the Trigger Time Cup, the club also held a fundraiser at the gun show hosted by the Virginia Gun Collectors Association. Members participated by assisting with ticket sales, manning the Trigger Time display table, and helping VGCA members set up and clean up the show. In addition, Trigger Time members solicited donation for the Bernie Malo Fund to help provide scholarships to send 4-H youth to shooting camp in the summer. The VGCA Gun Show included multiple displays on a variety of shooting-related topics. Coach Strand and Ayden Strand constructed a display board detailing the history of 4-H Shooting Sports, which received an award for one of the best presentations.

This month was the Virginia 4-H Spring Air Competitions which took place at the Skelton 4-H Educational Conference Center in Wirtz, VA. The two-day event included multiple disciplines such as Air Rifle, Air Pistol, BB Gun, and Archery. After all matches were complete, finals were held for the top eight competitors in Air Rifle and Air Pistol. The weather was great, and 4-H youth enjoyed spending time with friends from other 4-H Clubs, playing cards, frisbee, and having fun at the social Saturday night.



Beyond Ready





TRIGGER TIME 4-H CLUB VIRGINIA 4-H SPRING AIR 2026 RESULTS

SPORTER AIR RIFLE

- 1st Place Individual – Lexi Strand
 2nd Place Individual – Rebecca Ahrens
 4th Place Individual – Samantha Holmes
 7th Place Individual – Ayden Strand
 1st Place Kneeling – Rebecca Ahrens
 2nd Place Kneeling – Lexi Strand
 3rd Place Kneeling – Samantha Holmes
 1st Place Prone – Rebecca Ahrens
 1st Place Standing – Lexi Strand
 2nd Place Standing – Rebecca Ahrens
 1st Place Team – Trigger Time 1 (R. Ahrens, L. Strand, S. Holmes, A. Strand)
 3rd Place Team – Trigger Time 2 (J. Richter, K. Mintz, S. Ahrens, C. Murphy)

PRECISION AIR RIFLE

- 2nd Place Individual – Rebecca Ahrens
 3rd Place Individual – Ayden Strand

INTERNATIONAL STANDING AIR PISTOL

- 8th Place Individual – Noble Richter
 3rd Place Team – Trigger Time (N. Richter, D. Grogan, S. Ahrens)

TRADITIONAL ARCHERY

- 2nd Place Jr Individual – Valor Richter
 2nd Place Sr Individual – Amari Mason
 3rd Place Sr Individual – Zaynab Mason

GENESIS ARCHERY

- 3rd Place Jr Individual – Allie Parker
 1st Place Sr Individual – Samantha Holmes
 2nd Place Sr Individual – Timothy Hirshey

BB GUN

- 7th Place Individual – Rebecca Ahrens
 3rd Place Standing – Rebecca Ahrens
 3rd Place Team – Trigger Time (R. Ahrens, A. Strand, J. Gaynor, L. Carter)

PUBLIC SPEAKING

- 1st Place Jr Individual – Allie Parker



**Beyond
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PW 4-H Fair Camp Planning

The Fair Camp teen planning meeting started by combining an icebreaker and brainstorming into one – everyone painted their own t-shirt showcasing their ideas for 4-H summer camp. This activity was both fun and productive and each teen got to share ideas. By the time we finished eating pizza we had decided on the 2026 camp theme. “Happy 250th Birthday, USA” will guide fair camp planning and activities. Your ideas are important and we value your participation. Fair Camp would not be same without our wonderful teen volunteers.



REQUIRED PW 4-H FAIR CAMP COUNSELOR TRAINING

Part 1: June 23, 10 AM - Noon - or - July 9, 6-8 PM (choose 1 date)

Part 2: June 25, 6-8 PM - or - July 7, 10 AM - Noon

WORKDAY WEDNESDAYS

June 24, 10 AM - 2 PM • July 1, 10 AM - 2 PM • July 9 (Thursday), 10 AM - 2 PM

July 15, 10 AM - PM (painting at the barn) • July 29, 10 AM - 2 PM (painting at the barn)

PW 4-H Succulent SPIN Project - 3 Spots left for SATURDAY



Date: Saturday, March 28th

Time: 10 - 11:30 AM

Location: PW 4-H Headquarters, 8033 Ashton Ave., #105, Manassas

Who Should Participate: All PW 4-H'ers!

[Click here to register.](#) Project is limited to 12 youth.

Prince William Master Gardener and succulent expert, Linda Bresler, will lead a ninety-minute hands-on workshop on Saturday, March 28 at 10am in the 4-H office. 4-H participants will learn how to care for succulents and how to design a small, indoor succulent garden. Come get your hands dirty and be inspired by these amazing plants. **Check out the beautiful succulents that Ms. Bresler has started for our project!**

PW 4-H Graduating Seniors - Let's Celebrate YOU!

Virginia 4-H is excited to announce the return of our **Beyond Ready graduation kits** through the statewide Beyond Ready: 4-H Graduates Step Into Tomorrow campaign.

This initiative honors the accomplishments, leadership, and growth of our graduating 4-H seniors. Members of the Class of 2026 are invited to share their post-high school plans whether that includes college, the workforce, military service, or a trade program.

The **first 200 graduates** who complete the brief form will receive a 4-H Graduate Celebration Kit, which includes:

- A certificate of achievement
- A 4-H graduation cord
- A 4-H “Graduate” yard sign

Graduates can register here:

<https://aimsbbis.vt.edu/4-H2026GradKit>





**Beyond
Ready**



SAVE THE OLD BENNETT SCHOOL

by Adam Grant, Trigger Time 4-H Club



The Historic Bennett School in Old Town Manassas is a very underappreciated, but incredibly important building in the history of Prince William County. But soon it could be destroyed in the interest of cost cutting during the planned expansion of the County Court Complex. However, many people are currently trying to advocate for The Bennett School's preservation, and some of the most influential of them met on Thursday at The Merideth House in Old Town Manassas, among them Mayor of Manassas Michelle Davis-Younger, Vice Mayor Mark Wolfe, City Council Member Theresa Coates Ellis, and many more public figures. Also invited to this meeting was PWC 4-H's Adam Grant. During the course of the meeting The Bennett School's history, current state, and potential future. If you want to help with the preservation of this incredible historic building, sign Colin Turner's petition, and learn about the history of The Bennett School (best source I've found is Wikipedia), and contacting your local political representatives.

4-H CITIZENSHIP IN ACTION!

Prince William 4-H is preparing the **Beyond Ready** next generation of leaders. Congratulations, Adam, for using your leadership skills to make a difference in our community!



PRESERVE MANASSAS HISTORY



Sign the
Petition

**SAVE THE OLD
BENNETT SCHOOL**



Join Prince William 4-H
CELEBRATE
ARBOR DAY
AND PLANT TREES
WITH 4-H

**FRIENDS, FAMILY, NEIGHBORS
ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Saturday, April 18 at 9am
7074 CURRIE FARM DR
HAYMARKET, VA 20169

[Sign up here](#)

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.

PW 4-H Clubs - Claim Your Spot for TSC Paper Clover!

TSC Paper Clover Shopping Dates: April 17-May 3

[Click here for Club Signup for Table Space.](#)

Prince William 4-H clubs are invited to sign up for a day to host a table at TSC. It's a great chance to share what your club does, meet new people, and show off what 4-H is all about. Clubs can also run bake sales or similar activities to raise extra money directly for their group.



Prince William 4-H Camp Registrations are OPEN

PRINCE WILLIAM-STAFFORD 4-H JUNIOR CAMP

Dates: July 19 - 23

Location: Northern Virginia 4-H Educational Center, Front Royal

Who Should Attend: Youth ages 9-14 with preference given to residents of Prince William and Stafford Counties and the cities of Manassas, Manassas Park, and Fredericksburg.

Camp Fee: \$395

[Click here for more information and to register.](#) **Register by May 1st.**

4-H Junior Camp is a five-day, four-night camp for youth ages 9-14 held at the Northern Virginia 4-H Educational Center in Front Royal, Virginia. Youth explore new interests, enjoy swimming and recreation and participate in evening activities and campfires.



Save the Date: First Time Camper & Parent Orientation Meeting: July 6th, 7:00 pm, via Zoom. Returning counselors are invited/encouraged to join in to share insights with new camper families.

PRINCE WILLIAM 4-H FAIR CAMP

Dates: August 3-7th - *Please note this is one week earlier than previous years!*

Time: 9 AM - 12:30 PM, Monday - Friday

Location: Prince William County Fairgrounds

Who Should Attend: greater Prince William area youth ages 5-12

Camp Fee: \$60 (includes activities, snack, and t-shirt)

[Click here for more information and to register.](#) **Register by June 1st.**

4-H Fair Camp is a day camp for youth ages 5-12 held during the week of the annual County Fair at the Prince William County Fairground. Youth learn and grow in a safe and exciting environment through creating arts projects, exploring fair exhibits, and enjoying team games and activities.



NEW! Discover Your Impact as a PW 4-H Volunteer

Whether you're brand-new to 4-H or already giving your time and talents, the Virginia 4-H Volunteer Welcome Guide is your roadmap to understanding just how powerful your role truly is. As the guide reminds us, "Volunteers are the heart of the 4-H program... your role is essential in providing positive, hands-on learning experiences that help youth build skills, confidence, and compassion." This resource walks you through everything that makes 4-H such a transformative force - from our "Learn by Doing" philosophy to the many ways volunteers mentor, teach, and inspire young people across the Commonwealth. You'll learn about:

- The mission and history of 4-H, and how volunteers have shaped it for more than a century.
- The wide range of volunteer roles, from club leaders to camp chaperones to short-term project helpers.
- The positive youth development model, which equips young people with leadership, life skills, and a sense of belonging.
- Essential policies and best practices that keep youth safe and ensure high-quality programming.
- Your support system, including your local Extension office, statewide specialists, and fellow volunteers.

The guide also highlights the incredible ripple effect volunteers create: "By giving your time, you are helping youth discover their passions, develop skills, and become confident leaders."

If you're ready to deepen your understanding, strengthen your impact, and feel even more connected to the 4-H mission, this guide is the perfect next step. Take a few minutes to read it - you'll come away inspired, informed, and excited for the difference you're making in the next generation of leaders. [Click here to read the Virginia 4-H Volunteer Welcome Guide.](#)





**Beyond
Ready**

REGISTER TODAY for PRINCE WILLIAM 4-H Summer Camps!

✓ Outdoor Exploration

✓ Creative Arts & Crafts

✓ Sports & Games

✓ Campfire Nights



4-H SUMMER CAMPS

JUNIOR CAMP: AGES 9-14

FAIR CAMP: AGES 5-12

Explore 4-H at summer camp!

PRINCE WILLIAM-STAFFORD 4-H JUNIOR CAMP

Ages 9-14 July 19 - 23

Camp Fee: \$395

Northern Virginia 4-H Educational Center

Preference is given to residents of Prince William and Stafford Counties and the cities of Manassas, Manassas Park, and Fredericksburg, for Prince William-Stafford Junior Camp.

PRINCE WILLIAM 4-H FAIR CAMP

Ages 5-12 August 3-7, 9 AM-12:30 PM

Camp Fee: \$60

Prince William County Fairgrounds



All greater Prince William area youth are encouraged to attend an unforgettable week of summer camp. More details coming soon!

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER!](#)



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.

Point of Woods Stream Project **CLEAN UP DAY**

One morning. One stream. Real impact.

Join a group of volunteers to pick up plastic, bottles, tires and other litter that can leach dangerous chemicals, harm wildlife and contaminate water. Small actions in local streams help the whole watershed, all the way to the Potomac and Chesapeake Bay.

Sign up to volunteer: <https://tinyurl.com/PointOfWoods>

**SATURDAY,
MARCH 28, 2026
9 - 11 AM**

**MONDAY,
APRIL 20, 2026
9 - 11 AM**

8500 Public Works Drive
Manassas, VA 20110

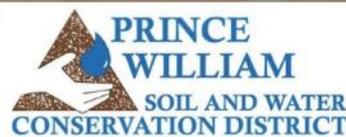


**SUPPORT PW
4-H'ER MICHAEL
IN HIS
COMMUNITY
ROLE AS A SAVE
AMBASSADOR!**

SCAN ME



This youth-led event is organized by SAVE Ambassador Michael DeRoche as part of the Youth Conservation Leadership Institute, with support from:



CALLING PRINCE WILLIAM
4-H TEENS!

TOUR THE RENWICK
MUSEUM AND THE
EXHIBITION

VISIT THE WHITE HOUSE
VISITOR CENTER

STATE FAIRS: GROWING AMERICAN CRAFT



4/6/2026

MEET AT THE 4-H OFFICE AT 8:30
RETURN TO THE OFFICE BY 4PM

[SIGN UP HERE](#)



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.

Virginia 4-H Northeast District Contest Day

Date: April 18

Location: Bell Creek Middle School (Hanover County)

Time: 8:30 AM – 1 PM

Who Should Participate: All PW 4-H'ers that participated in PW 4-H Contest Day - *this is your opportunity to move on to States!*

[Click here to register.](#) **Register by April 3rd.**

[Click here for the VA 4-H Northeast District Contest Website.](#)

Level up your confidence, experience, and 4-H resume by participating in Districts! All PW 4-H'ers that participate in PW 4-H Contest Day on February 14th are invited to continue to improve their skills at Northeast District Contest Day. Top scores will have the opportunity to present at Virginia 4-H State competitions this spring!



Prince William-Fairfax Farm Bureau Scholarship

[Click here for application.](#) **Applications due by 4 PM on May 1.**

The Prince William-Fairfax Farm Bureau is offering two \$1500 scholarships! The scholarship supports high school seniors or enrolled college students pursuing studies in agriculture, forestry, or natural resources, with selection based on academic performance, involvement in outside activities, and work experience—especially agriculturally related jobs. Applicants must submit a completed application, transcript, recommendation letter, and a statement explaining financial need, along with details about the school they plan to attend, their chosen field of study, and their long-term career goals such as becoming an agriculture teacher, researcher, veterinarian, or other agricultural professional.

The Prince William-Fairfax County Farm Bureau, established in 1966 is a free, independent, non-governmental voluntary organization of persons, firms and corporations interested in agriculture united for the purpose of analyzing their problems and formulating actions to achieve educational improvements, economic opportunity, and social advancement. It is one of 88 county Farm Bureaus in Virginia. It has a central governing body, located in Richmond, Virginia and is member of the American Farm Bureau.



Citizenship Opportunity for PW 4-H'ers

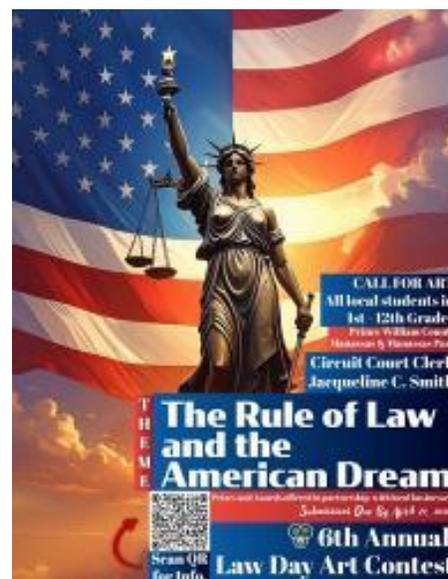
PWC CIRCUIT COURT 6TH ANNUAL LAW DAY ART CONTEST

[Click here for contest details and to enter.](#) **Entries due April 24th.**

Who Should Participate: all PW 4-H'ers grades 1–12 enrolled in private, home, or public schools in Prince William County, and the Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park.

Prince William 4-H'ers have a personal invitation to be a part of this community-wide event! The contest offers an exciting and educational opportunity for students to celebrate Law Day (May 1) and expand their understanding of justice within the framework of the Constitution. It also encourages civil discourse about the common good and the foundation of our democracy. With a focus on the theme **“The Rule of Law and the American Dream,”** students are invited to express their interpretations illustrated through art.

Prizes include gift cards and more! For updates, please follow us on social media @PWCCircuitCourt on Facebook, Instagram, X (Twitter), and YouTube.



NOKESVILLE 4-H CLUB in support of LOCAL COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY



FOOD DRIVE

Drop Off Locations March 2 – 27

PWC 4-H Office

8033 Ashton Ave Ste 105
Manassas, VA 20109

March 20 6-9 pm

Manassas Church of the Brethren

10047 Nokesville Rd,
Manassas, VA 20110



**March 21 / March 28
10 AM – 2 PM**

GIANT FOOD

10100 Dumfries Rd
Manassas, VA 20110

BRING 5 ITEMS OR MORE

- Maseca
- Rice
- Beans (Dried and Canned)
- Flour
- Sugar
- Vegetable Oil
- Tuna
- Lentils
- Cereal
- Mac & Cheese
- Pasta and Pasta Sauce
- Oatmeal
- Jell-o Mix
- Applesauce
- Crackers
- Cookies
- Kid's Snacks
- Ramen
- Coffee
- Bread

**Gifts Cards
WELCOME**

**TOGETHER
WE CAN
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE**

Many children rely on school meals, and during **SPRING Break**, that support disappears.

**Help us bridge the gap by
donating non-perishable food
items!**

Questions? 4HNColead@gmail.com

2026 Virginia 4-H State Congress - Notes for PW 4-H'ers!



Dates: June 16-19

Location: Virginia Tech, Blacksburg VA

Who Should Attend: PW 4-H'ers ages 14-18

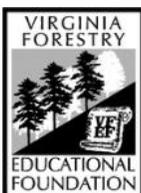
Cost: \$310/person (Note for PW 4-H'ers: The registration fee is not due at the time of registration. Once registered, you will be invoiced for the amount due. The Prince William 4-H Association generously supports this event by supplementing a portion of the overall cost.)

PW 4-H Info Session: There will be a Congress attendees meeting via Zoom for all registered members on **May 19th at 7 PM**. Please reach out to [Mrs. Lerch](#) for any questions.

[Click here for information packet.](#) [Click here for registration information.](#) **Register by May 15.**

Virginia 4-H State Congress is the ultimate teen leadership experience - four unforgettable days packed with hands-on workshops, statewide competitions, campus adventures, dances, games, and opportunities to meet 4-H'ers from every corner of Virginia. Delegates ages 14-18 get to build real-world skills, explore careers, celebrate diversity, and grow as leaders while enjoying activities they can't find at the local level, from the high-energy Welcome Mixer and Color Run to the inspiring All-Star tapping ceremony and closing awards celebration. Whether you're competing, learning, making new friends, or discovering your next big opportunity, Congress empowers you to step up, stand out, and shape your future - don't miss your chance to be part of it in 2026!

Preston R. Willson VA 4-H Summer Camp Scholarships



[Click here for more info and to apply.](#) **Apply by April 1st.** Scholarships announced mid-April.

Ready for an Epic Summer? Nominate Someone for a 2026 4-H Camp Scholarship! If you - or someone you know - dream of spending a week making friends, trying new adventures, and exploring the outdoors, here's your chance to make it happen! The 5th annual Preston R. Willson Virginia Statewide 4-H Summer Camp Scholarships are now open for 2026, and 48 lucky campers will earn a full scholarship to one of Virginia's awesome 4-H summer camps.

Who Can Be Nominated? Youth ages 9-13 can be nominated to attend one of six Virginia 4-H Centers: Airfield, Holiday Lake, Jamestown, Northern Virginia, Southwest Virginia, and W.E. Skelton. Each center will host eight scholarship recipients - and you could be one of them!

The Cool Part? Anyone can nominate a camper. Yep - parents, friends, teachers, 4-H agents... even you can nominate someone who deserves an unforgettable week outdoors. All selections are random, but nominations connected to certain forestry organizations listed on the form get priority - so spread the word if you know folks in the forestry community!

4-H camps are all about learning by doing - ziplines, canoeing, arts, sports, nature adventures, leadership skills, and more. It's a place where you can explore new things, be yourself, and have a summer you'll never forget. **Apply today!**

2026 4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest

Submit entries to Sam Fisher at safishe3@vt.edu with subject line "VA 4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest." **Entries due April 18th.** State winners announced May 1st.

Virginia 4-H members are invited to participate in the **2026 Honey Bee Essay Contest**, sponsored by the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc. This year's theme is **"The Power of Pollen."** Students will explore questions about pollen's role in honey bee health, how changing landscapes may be affecting pollen sources, and how pollen availability influences colony behavior and productivity.

Who Can Enter: Active 4-H members (previous national 1st-3rd place winners are not eligible).

Essay Requirements:

- 750-1,000 words, double-spaced, 12-pt font
- Microsoft Word-compatible file
- Endnotes for all factual statements
- A separate biographical sketch
- Must include the statement: "I verify that AI was not used to create this essay."

Awards:

State prizes: \$100 (1st), \$50 (2nd), \$25 (3rd)

National prizes: \$750 (1st), \$500 (2nd), \$250 (3rd)



Virginia 4-H Horse Program



2026 VIRGINIA EQUISMARTZ 4-H/FFA HIPPOLOGY & HORSE JUDGING CONTESTS

Dates: April 10th - 11th

Location: Meadow Event Park, Doswell, VA

Entry Fee: \$15/contestant entered in Horse Judging; \$12/contestant entered in Hippology

[Click here to enter.](#) **Enter by 5 PM on Friday, March 27th.**

[Click here for contest schedule and contest information.](#)

This contest will serve as the State 4-H Hippology Contest - where the high senior team will be eligible to represent Virginia at the National 4-H Hippology Contest in Louisville. This contest will also serve as the State 4-H Horse Judging Contest - where the high senior individuals will be invited to travel with the State 4-H All-Star Horse Judging Team in the upcoming year. Additionally, this event serves as Day 1 for the State FFA Equine Evaluation CDE for Jr and Sr FFA Teams - the top 5 FFA Senior Teams will be invited to compete at Day 2 during the State FFA Convention in June.



2026 VIRGINIA 4-H STATE HORSE BOWL & COMMUNICATIONS CONTESTS

Date: April 25th

Location: Blue Ridge Community College, Weyers Cave, VA

Entry Fee: \$15/contestant entered

Entry Link Communications: <https://tinyurl.com/26Communications>

Entry Link Horse Bowl: <https://tinyurl.com/26HorseBowl>

Enter by 5 PM on Monday, April 13th.

[Click here for local competitive opportunities to prepare.](#)

The 2026 VA 4-H State Horse Bowl and Communications Contests serve as the State events - the Champion Senior Horse Bowl Team and Champion Seniors in the Communications contests will be eligible to represent Virginia at the Eastern National 4-H Round Up in Louisville, KY in the fall.



VIRGINIA 4-H STATE HORSE SHOW

Dates: September 3rd - 6th

Location: Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, VA

It is important for parents, youth, agents, and volunteers to once again familiarize themselves with information regarding the Requirements, Rules, and Qualifying Options for the State Horse Show.

There have been numerous updates to the Rulebook and Schedule outlined below - please review them in detail.

2026 State Horse Show Rulebook, Rule Changes, Schedule

[Click here for the Rulebook, Rule Changes, and Schedule](#)

There are several rule changes and updates for the 2026 Horse Show - please review the rulebook change document in detail for important information on: Stabling, Exhibitor Responsibility for Guests, Service Animals, Peacock Stirrups, and T.I.P. Program.

Updates for Division Rules and Schedule

[Click here for the 2026 Qualifying Requirements.](#)

Youth should plan to declare and qualify ANY Horse that they may want to show at the State 4-H Horse Show. In order to be used as a substitute, the horse must be declared and qualified

Qualifying Shows and Horsemanship Skills Testing

[Click here for qualifying shows.](#)

Youth may attend ANY District's Qualifying Show - regardless of their Unit of Enrollment. All districts have opportunities for youth to also qualify via "Outside Qualifying Shows." Please reach out to your District Horse Council if you are unable to attend an approved event and need to utilize this option.

Horsemanship Skills Testing Events

[Click here for skills testing events.](#)

Only required once per child. We are always accepting skills testing events - the list on the website currently is not complete and many more events are expected.

Declarations in 4HOnline open on May 1st.

Upcoming VA 4-H Youth Animal Science Events

VIRGINIA 4-H AND FFA BEEF FOOD CHALLENGE

Date: Wednesday, April 16th

Time: 4:15 PM Check-in (school early dismissal letter available)

Location: Virginia Beef Expo, Rockingham

[Click here to register your team.](#) **Entries due April 9th.**

[Click here for contest information.](#)

We are pleased to once again offer the Virginia Beef Challenge for 4-H and FFA youth! Similar to the 4-H Food Challenge, Beef Challenge allows youth to showcase beef as part of a healthy diet. This combination cooking and communications contest is sponsored by the Virginia Beef Council and, therefore, is no cost to teams.



THE VIRGINIA JUNIOR BEEF ROUNDUP CATTLE SHOWS

April 17th - 18th • Virginia Beef Expo

[Click here to enter cattle.](#) **Enter by 5 PM on April 9th.**

Entry Fee: \$35/head

[Click here for event details,](#) including schedules and contests rules. [Click here for Expo info.](#)

Everyone is automatically entered in Showmanship – Showmanship is an “opt out” and you must do so prior to Friday, April 17th at 10 AM.

- **Youth Beef Challenge**
Thursday, April 16th. [Click here to register.](#) **Register by April 9th.**
- **VA State Tractor Driving Contest**
Thursday, April 16th
- **Youth Cattle Fitting Contest**
Friday, April 17th at 11 AM. [Click here to register.](#) **Register by 9AM on April 17th.**
- **VA State Cattle Working Contest**
Wednesday, April 15th



JUDGE LIKE A CHAMPION LIVESTOCK JUDGING CAMP

Friday, May 29 • Rockingham County Fairgrounds, Harrisonburg, VA

Cost: \$175 - does not include lodging

[Click here to register.](#) **Register by May 15th.** Camp limited to 75 participants.

2026 Lead Coach: Jacob Klaudt, North Dakota State University

For questions, contact Shirley at sjkaufman@augusta.k12.va.us.

Don't miss this opportunity to work with outstanding coaches from across the country as you learn evaluation skills, develop efficient note-taking abilities, obtain new terminology, and become proficient and accurate in your reasons delivery.



JUDGE LIKE A CHAMPION COACHES CLINIC

Saturday, May 30 • Rockingham County Fairgrounds, Harrisonburg, VA

Cost: \$75 - includes lunch, dinner, and manual

[Click here to register.](#) **Register by May 15th.** Clinic is limited to 50 participants.

For questions, contact Shirley at sjkaufman@augusta.k12.va.us.

Led by: Matt Claeys, Indiana – Judging Coach and Cattle Breeder

Providing the opportunity to work with successful coaches and further develop evaluation skills, tips and techniques for coaching youth of all ages and experience levels, update your knowledge of current selection preferences and reasons terminology.



PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITES TO VIEW ALL CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES!

<https://ext.vt.edu/4h-youth/youth-livestock.html>

<https://ext.vt.edu/4h-youth/horse.html>

<https://www.youth.dasc.vt.edu/>

National 4-H Congress - Applications are OPEN



[Click here to submit application and resume.](#) **Applications are due by May 10th.**

For more than 100 years, National 4-H Congress has served as the premiere educational and recognition event for senior 4-H members. National 4-H Congress is held in Atlanta, Georgia, November 27 – December 1, 2026. National Congress provides participants an exciting opportunity to explore careers, engage in a variety of quality learning experiences, and have great fun by getting to know other 4-H members from across the country. Outstanding 4-H members will be selected to represent Virginia at National 4-H Congress. Candidates for selection must be senior 4-H members in the current 4-H year who are able to demonstrate outstanding achievement as a 4-H member in the areas of leadership, citizenship, and personal development.

During this submission process, applicants will be asked to submit their cover letter, resume, three letters of recommendation, and a photo.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Virginia 4-H values the life skills that members develop through personal record keeping. An electronic 4-H portfolio, which replaced the 4-H Achievement Record, will serve as the foundation for a 4-H member's application to participate in National 4-H Congress, if selected for an interview. The formal process includes two steps, which are intended to provide the 4-H member learning exercises that reflect an employment application and interview procedure:

1. The submission of a written personal resume; and
2. For those selected to interview, a presentation of an electronic personal portfolio (detailed information on the electronic portfolio will be provided to all youth selected to be interviewed)

Applications are due by May 10, 2026. Applicants should not send their application or portfolio to the State 4-H Office. A flyer describing the National 4-H Congress application process was distributed to senior 4-H members through 4-H Online.

PW 4-H Alumni - Apply NOW for Internships

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY GOVERNMENT INTERNSHIP

[Click here to learn more and apply.](#) **Apply by March 29th.**



Prince William County's paid internship program gives participants the chance to do meaningful work, gain real-world experience and make a positive impact in the community. It's a hands-on opportunity to learn, grow and see how local government works to serve the community.

APPLICANTS MUST:

- Be actively enrolled in an accredited two- or four-year college, university, community/junior college, professional/technical school, vocational/trade school or other qualifying institution throughout the program.
- Be at least 18 years old during the program dates.
- Have a legal right to work in the United States.
- Provide their own transportation.
- Submit one letter of reference.
- Be able to commit to all program dates.

Interns will work up to 37.5 hours per week at \$18 an hour in a department aligned with their field of study or interests.

National 4-H Youth in Action Application

[Click here for more information and to apply.](#) **Applications due April 13th.**



The 4-H Youth in Action (YIA) program celebrates young people who are creating real change in their communities. This national program amplifies the stories and leadership of 4-H youth, showcasing how 4-H has shaped their lives and equipped them to impact others.

Camp SPARK

Dates: July 31 – August 2, 2026
Location: Jamestown 4-H Educational Center
Cost: \$250 (Limited spots available - register early! Limited scholarships available.)
[Click here to register.](#)

Camp SPARK is a unique overnight camp experience designed to support and celebrate neurodivergent youth. This camp provides a welcoming and inclusive environment where participants can build confidence, develop life skills, and form meaningful friendships - all while having fun. This camp is led by [Bridgitte Groome](#), Hanover County 4-H Agent, and Cayla Walker, Goochland County 4-H Agent. We can't wait to SPARK something amazing this summer!



Camp Loud & Clear

Dates: July 17-19
Location: Holiday Lake 4-H Center
Camp Fee: \$155 - covers programming, lodging, supervision, and ASL interpreters
[Click here to register.](#)

Camp Loud & Clear is an overnight camp for deaf and hard of hearing youth ages 9 - 18. Activities include: swimming, fishing, canoeing, archery, nature studies, crafts, teambuilding, fun, and adventure! The camp is offered through a partnership between Holiday Lake 4-H Center and Longwood University's Speech, Hearing, and Learning Services.

Air Force 4-H Military Camp Scholarships

[Email MaryBeth Lerch to apply.](#)
 The Air Force 4-H Military Partnership Grant for Virginia 4-H is providing a limited number of 4-H camp scholarships for youth ages 5 - 18 of Air Force Military-Connected families living in Virginia. These scholarships will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Eligible youth may live on or near an installation or live in communities across the state. Scholarships awarded can be used to assist with cost to participate in Virginia 4-H Center camping opportunities.

New for 2026! Youth are only eligible to receive a scholarship if they have not been previously enrolled in 4-H.

CAMP LOUD & CLEAR



JULY 17-19, 2026
HOLIDAY LAKE 4-H CENTER

Camp Loud & Clear is an overnight camping experience for youth ages 9 -18 who are Deaf or hard of hearing.



Activities include: swimming, fishing, canoeing, archery, nature studies, crafts, teambuilding, fun, and adventure!

Camp Loud & Clear is a partnership between Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center and Longwood University Speech, Hearing, and Learning Services.



REGISTER NOW:
holidaylake4h.com/camp-loud-clear

The \$155 registration fee covers programming, supervision, lodging, meals, and ASL interpreters.

Questions? Contact the 4-H Center at 434-248-5444 or email Jennifer Bowen at jebowen1@vt.edu.

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Holiday Lake 4-H Center at 434-248-5444/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) 928-1120.

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 gvt.vt.edu/accessibility.



Virginia 2026 Air Force 4-H Military Partnership 4-H Camp Scholarships for Youth Ages 5-18 of Air Force Military-Connected Families Living in Virginia



To be eligible for the 4-H Air Force scholarship to attend a Virginia 4-H camping event, a youth living in Virginia must have a parent/legal guardian currently serving in Active-Duty Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, or Space Force; and must not have previously been a 4-H'er.

Join Us!

Fun Activities
Make New Friends
Develop Life Skills

For more information contact your County or City 4-H Program of Virginia Cooperative Extension. Visit: www.ext.vt.edu/offices

A youth is also eligible if the military parent currently serving in another branch is stationed at an Air Force base or the youth is currently enrolled at the school age or youth center program of Joint Base Langley-Eustis.

Scholarships are limited. First Come, First Served!
Scholarships to be awarded based on available funds or through July 31, 2026.

Scholarships will assist with cost to participate in one of the following Virginia 4-H Events:

- County/City 4-H Camp
- Virginia 4-H State Congress
- Other 4-H camping event at a 4-H Educational Center



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. If you are a person with a disability and desire assistance or accommodations, please notify your local Virginia Cooperative Extension Office when you call during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. TDD number is (800) 928-1120



States' 4-H Summer Hosting

HOST a Japanese youth and bring the richness of the world to your home!

Host a Japanese Youth in Summer 2026 with States' 4-H International & VA 4-H

"It's like having a sister I always wanted and a best friend" -States' 4-H Host Sibling

Open your home to an exchange student and open your lives to the world!



Hosting Details

July 22 - August 15, 2026

Host a youth aged 12-18 (majority are 12-14) or an adult chaperone

Youth have a range of English language abilities, so host families should be prepared to communicate imaginatively

This is a voluntary program; no stipends will be provided

Host Family Requirements

You must have a child of the same gender who is within 4 years of the hosted youth (children aged 9+ are eligible to host)

Families without children of the appropriate age may host an adult chaperone

No special activities need to be planned since these youth want to experience American culture, make new friends, and improve their English by staying with your family

To apply, please visit: <https://states4h.org/host-a-student/> then select month long visit and Virginia.

If you have questions, please reach out to VA inbound coordinator, Wendy Herdman at wherdman@vt.edu.

Please note: Host family selection is dependent on completion of an application and screening process, as well as student availability and personality compatibility.

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If you are a person with a disability and desire assistance or accommodation, please notify Wendy Herdman at (804-493-8924/TDD*) during business hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. *TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

2025 - 2026 PRINCE WILLIAM 4-H EVENT CALENDAR



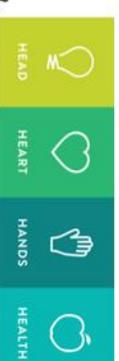
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
4 PW 4-H Young Entrepreneurs Market Day	1 VA 4-H Shooting Ed Instructor Re-Certification	1 PW 4-H Embryology Registration Opens	10 PW 4-H Cloverbud Club	5 PW 4-H Club & Project Leader Professional Dev	1 PW 4-H Junior Camp Reg Opens
5-11 National 4-H Week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

APRIL MAY JUNE JULY AUGUST SEPTEMBER

5 VA 4-H Lumber Cup	1 VA 4-H/IFFA Dairy Skillathon	15 VA 4-H Livestock Judging Contest	19-23 Prince William/Storford 4-H Junior Camp	3-7 PW 4-H Fair Camp	4-6 VA 4-H State Horse and Pony Championship
6 PW 4-H Tour of Renwick Museum	10 PW 4-H Cloverbud Club	16-29 Virginia 4-H Congress	28-Aug 1 Southern Regionals 4-H Horse Championships	TBD VA 4-H Northern District Shoot	5-6 VA 4-H State Shoot
10-11 VA 4-H Equismartz	12 PW 4-H Association Board & Leader Year-End Meeting	21-26 National 4-H Shooting Sports Championship		TBD VA 4-H Pork Challenge	24-27 SFVA Youth Livestock Shows, Livestock Skillathon, Dairymen's Contest, Dairy Goat Contest
10-15 National 4-H Conference	11 PW 4-H Cloverbud Club	26-27 VA 4-H Lamb & Goat Symposium		TBD VA 4-H Dairy Judging Contest	25-Oct 4 State Fair of Virginia
11-12 VA 4-H Shooting Ed New Instructor Certification	23-24 NOVA 4-H TLC Teen Leadership Weekend				
14 PW 4-H Club & Project Leader Professional Dev		30 1st Time Junior 4-H Camper Parents Meeting			
15-17 VA 4-H/IFFA Beef Challenge, Beef Roundup, Tractor Skillathon					
18 VA 4-H Northeast District Contest Day	TBD VA 4-H Outdoor Challenge SPIN Project				
18 PW 4-H Tree Planting Project	TBD VA 4-H Northeast District Food Challenge Contest				
24 VA 4-H/IFFA State Poultry Evaluation Contest		TBD VA Dept of Forestry Camp Woods & Wildlife			
25 VA 4-H Horse Bowl & Communications Contests					

TBD PW 4-H Young Entrepreneurs Interest Mtg
TBD TSC & 4-H Paper Clover Campaign

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



Updated 02/24/2026

**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
mblersch@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

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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
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Committee Chairs

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



**Beyond
Ready**



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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.