



NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4-H ANIMAL FAIR ENTRIES 72nd ANNUAL HOWARD COUNTY FAIR

At the 72nd Annual Howard County Fair, running from August 5th-12th, 2017, 4-H animal entries run the gamut from fancy and egg production poultry to sheep, goats, horses, pigs, and dairy & beef cattle. 4-H livestock projects basically break down into two divisions - those raised for breeding purposes and those raised for food. Members of the 4-H program work throughout the year with their livestock projects in preparation for the fair.

This year's market animal - market pigs, market lambs, beef steers & market goats - exhibitor numbers are: 107 4-H'ers entered 250 market pigs, 42 4-H'ers entered 87 market lambs, 37 4-H'ers entered 66 beef steers, and 39 4-H'ers entered 59 market goats. These animals will compete in market classes and many will be entered in the 4-H Livestock Sale on Friday, August 11th at 5:45 p.m.

Breeding cattle (beef and dairy) will be exhibited at the fair. Dairy cattle participation continues to increase due to the MD 4-H Dairy Leasing Program where 4-H members are able to lease a dairy animal.

Rabbit entries continue to remain steady, and there are nearly 200 entries for 2017. For the most part they are raised for exhibition purposes. They are divided into male and female classes. For rabbit classes, this means bucks and does.

There will also be poultry entries at the fair. They will include fancy chickens both standard and bantam, as well as meat poultry (broilers). Howard County 4-H poultry entries are increasing each year as interest in this project continues to grow.

4-H horse entries will include over 20 exhibitors exhibiting approximately 30 horses. They will compete in individual and group classes on Saturday, August 5th.

The majority of our 4-H'ers do not live on a farm and do not have parents involved in full-time farming or from an agricultural background.

The 4-H program emphasizes life skill development through 4-H projects. Life skills are learned abilities, attitudes, and behaviors that empower youth to:

- Perceive and respond constructively to life's events
- Apply knowledge to life problems
- Participate in an interdependent society
- Be self-directing and productive
- Lead a rewarding life
- Contribute to society
- Function effectively in a diverse and changing world

Howard County 4-H brings the University of Maryland into the lives of children and their families in their own communities. Through volunteer directed educational programs 4-H'ers:

- Practice decision making
- Acquire knowledge
- Accept responsibility
- Develop creative thinking
- Communicate
- Understand self
- Get along with others

4-H Animal Science is divided into three areas:

- Production Animals
- Companion and Small Animals
- Veterinary Science

The 4-H program has been active in Howard County since 1917!

For further information contact:

Sheryl L. Bennett

Howard County 4-H Youth Development Educator

410-313-1912

sherylb@umd.edu

The University of Maryland Extension programs are open to any person and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, genetic information, political affiliation, and gender identity or expression.