



Spring 2025 Newsletter

Mark Your Calendars

February	15	4-H Achievement Night
March		Pick-up 4-H Achievement Plans (GET STARTED!)
March		Apply for 4-H Camp Counselor positions
March		4-H Virginia History Bowl School Contests begin
March		4-H Camp Counselor Training Begins
March	17	Registration opens for the 4-H Window Box Project
March	22	Washington County 4-H Activity Day @ AHS (Presentations, Dramatic Reading & STF Junior/Intermediate/Senior)
March	25	Registration open for Pullet, Market Hog, and Mini-Garden projects
March	26	Application Resume and Interview Workshop
April	4	4-H College Educational Scholarship applications due
April	4	4-H Beekeeping Scholarship Application Due
April	7	4-H Wolfpack Homeschool Club
April	10	4-H Camp Registration
April		SWD Senior 4-H Presentation Contest
April	15	Washington County 4-H History Bowl (County Championship)
April	16	Honey Bee Essay Contest (entries due)
April	12	4-H Planter Design Project Workshop (Window Box Project)
April	15	Application Resume & Interview packets due for National 4-H Congress
May	2	Bristol Junior Steer & Heifer Show
May		SWD 4-H Qualifying Horse Show
June	2 - 6	Washington County 4-H Camp
June		4-H Summer Fun begins
June	24- 27	State 4-H Congress (Sr. Members)



@washco4H

Plan ahead for the dates listed above. Volunteers and teen leaders are needed to assist with each of these events. For further information, contact the 4-H office at (276) 676-6309.

Find the 4-H Newsletter online at <http://offices.ext.vt.edu/washington>



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Member Spotlight

State 4-H Officers Visit Virginia Legislators

State 4-H officers, Clint Wilson, McKenzie Wise and Harris Peek traveled with fellow Washington County members to speak with state legislators during this session. We are grateful for Senator Todd Pillion and Delegate Israel O'Quinn who are constant supporters of 4-H programming, locally and at the state level.

Washington County 4-H Member Delegates to 4-H Day at the Capitol

Riley Gobble, Kale Riddle, Elliot Mattox, Autumn Surber, Payton Scyphers, Zoe Gray, Justin Byrd, Cameron Mullins, Gavin VanDyke, Eli & Aaron Curd, Ryan Godbey and a special thank you to Amanda Godbey, Katie Curd and Gloria Blevins, our adult volunteers and Agriculture Agent, Phil Blevins for chaperoning this great group of members.

4-H Members at the Smithsonian

Rowe Berry, Autumn Surber, Payton Long, Clint Wilson, McKenzie Wise, Riley Gobble, and Matthew Blevins from the Southwest Teen 4-H Leadership Council visited the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History to present their project on the impact and recovery of Southwest Virginia from the devastation of Hurricane Helene.

Virginia 4-H Healthy Living Ambassador

Congratulations to Payton Long and Clark Russell, accepted as Virginia 4-H Healthy Living Ambassadors! Both support their health platforms through published articles and presentations on their individual interest areas within the health field.



The BIG Event – 4-H Achievement Night

Achievement Night 2024 was a huge night for our members and families. We had a lot of special guests, and we awarded so many great accomplishments this year. Thank you to everyone that joined and congratulations to all award recipients. There were 127 project records submitted this year!!

4-H Members of the Year – Hadley Lou Brown, Jasper DeBusk, Rhett Gobble, Riley Gobble & McKenzie Wise.

Top Project Achievement Awards – Jasper DeBusk, Eli Curd, Aaron Curd, Rowe Berry, Henley Belle Dotson, Everly Dotson, Rhett Gobble, Maya Rose Justice, Carly Templeton, Lucy Howard, Amelia Dale, Lily Delp, Cate Arney, Evelyn Graham, Wade Davidson, Lincoln Reynolds, Micah DeBusk, Olivia Moretz & Riley Gobble.

Overall Big Tree Champion – Marley & Bennett Salyer

Photography Champions –

Cloverbud – 1st Julia Lunsford, 2nd Alice Sanders, 3rd Abby Brown, Ava Brown

Junior (4th Grade) – 1st Isabella Walls, 2nd Henley Belle Dotson, 3rd Bexley Weaver

Junior (5th Grade) – 1st Aaron Curd, 2nd James Neisius, 3rd Avery Grogan

Intermediate – 1st Reagan Allen, 2nd Malikai Brown, 3rd Eamon Russell, Ella Reynolds, Waylon Henderson

Senior – 1st Clark Russell, 2nd Ally Muncy, 3rd Diana Ball

Overall Pork Producer – Jasper DeBusk

Overall Garden Award – Lincoln Reynolds

Overall Pullet Champion – Greta Wann & Maya Justice

Overall Planter Design Project Champion – Jasper Debusk

Overall Mini-Garden Winners –

1st Henley Belle Dotson, 2nd Joseph Winslett, 3rd Hope Faber



I Dare You! Leadership Awards

- Max Ferguson (Abingdon High School)
- Harris Peek (Abingdon High School)
- Matthew Blevins (Cornerstone Christian Academy)
- Zen Moser (Patrick Henry High School)
- Autumn Surber (Holston High School)
- Payton Long (Holston High School)



4-H Achievement Plan Recognition

Cloverbud Sapphire Award – *Hadley Lou Brown, Everly Dotson*

Bronze Clover – *Henley Belle Dotson*

Silver Clover – *Riley Gobble*

Gold Clover – *Harris Peek*

Copenhaver Family 4-H Scholarship Winner

Congratulations to Clint Wilson, the recipient of the Copenhaver Leadership Award. In memory of Ernest and Alberta Copenhaver their family proudly presents a monetary college scholarship to outstanding 4-H leaders to continue their education. The Copenhaver family continues a legacy of service and support to the 4-H program that spans nearly 80 years.

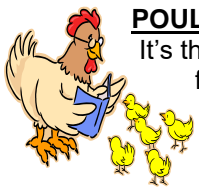
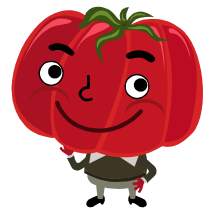


4-H ACHIEVEMENT PLANS

It is time to start planning, setting, and attaining your goals for the 2025 4-H year. The 4-H Achievement Plan is a set of 4-H goals to work toward during the year. This will help you attain a certain level of "Achievement" within 4-H each year. Achievement will be noted in levels-Cloverbud, Green, Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Diamond. Call the 4-H office to receive your 4-H Achievement Plan. Achievement Plans completed for 2024 were recognized during the Annual 4-H Achievement Night in February. Get started on this today!

MINI-GARDEN PROJECT

What about the 4-H Mini-Garden project! Sign-ups will begin March 25th. This project offers members the opportunity to grow their very own garden at home. The size of the garden is 10 X 16 ft and 4-H provides the seeds, plants, and curriculum to make your garden. Participants ages 5-19 will be judged on their gardens and records. County winners receive cash awards in each age division. Awards are given to 1st – 3rd place. This is a fun project and one of the most popular. Call the Extension office (676-6309) to register or for more information. Registrations will not be taken prior to March 25th. 25 gardens available.

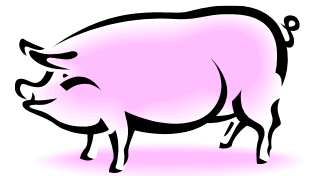


POULTRY 4-H PROJECT (Pullets)

It's the countywide poultry project! 4-H members will receive 15 (one day Old) vaccinated pullets free of charge. You will be required to keep records on your hens and show your best ones at the Washington County Fair in September. Participants will be required to submit project records for judging in October for the county contest. Registration and project information available beginning March 25th, call the Extension office (676-6309) for details or to sign up. 25 spots available.

4-H HOG PROJECT

Would you like to raise your own 4-H Hog? Members participating in this project purchase one or more hogs through the Extension office. The cost of the hogs will be around \$100. They are show quality hogs. Each participant will raise their hog, show their hog at the Washington County Fair (you can also show at the State Fair if you choose), complete a project record and 5-minute talk about raising their hog. Registration begins March 25th and runs through May 15th. Call 676-6309 (4-H office) to sign up.





4-H PLANTER DESIGN – WINDOWBOX PROJECT

Try your hand at designing your very own floral planter! Each participant will receive supplies to design their planter for the project. This project requires the following from participants: Required workshop on April 12th at the SWVA Higher Education Center, completion of project record, enter your planter in the Washington County Fair, “4-H Planter Design show”. Project registration begins on March 17th by calling the Washington County Extension office at 676-6309. Limited to 30 participants.



4-H COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS



Washington County 4-H members graduating in 2025 have the opportunity to apply for college scholarships. Applications are available from the Washington County Extension office and your high school guidance office. The Deadline to apply is April 4th. Scholarships are awarded to accredited 2-year and bachelor degree programs. Call 676-6309 for more information.

COUNTY 4-H ACTIVITY DAY

Calling all presenters and readers! If you received a blue ribbon during your clubs’ Dramatic Reading, Share the Fun or Presentation contests, then you are invited to compete at the e4-H Activity Day on March 22nd at Abingdon High School. Pre-registration is mandatory. Blue ribbon winners will receive information about the contest and registration forms in April. Can’t wait to see you there!

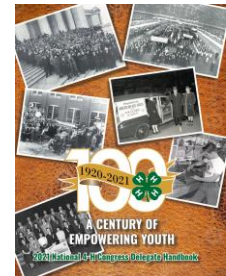


4-H Beginning Beekeepers – Ralph Haring Beekeeping Scholarship

Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Highlands Beekeeper Association offer beekeeping opportunities for 4-H members. There will be a \$500 scholarship given out to a 4-H member who wants to learn and start their own hive. Please contact the Washington County 4-H office at 676-6309 for more information and an application. Deadline to apply is April 4th.

National 4-H Congress Application/Resume/Interview TIME!

Learn how to prepare an application packet including cover letter, resume, and references... and the potential to earn a trip to National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, Georgia. This is an awesome opportunity for you to learn great life skills that will have a big payoff. All of the skills needed to apply for college, scholarships, and jobs. Great program for sophomore, junior and senior aged members. Call 676-6309 to register. The workshop begins on March 15th. Application packets due April 18th.



**FOUNDATION FOR
THE PRESERVATION
OF HONEY BEES, INC.**

4-H Honey Bee Essay Contest

The theme for this year’s contest is “The Importance of Youth in Beekeeping: How 4-H Members Can Make a Difference!” Entries are due electronically to the Washington County 4-H office by Wednesday, April 16th by 5:00 p.m. Cash prizes for the top three state entries and the opportunity to go on to the National Beekeeping Essay Finals representing Virginia. Contact cpeek@vt.edu for more information.

Sincerely,

Crystal Peek

Crystal Peek
Extension Agent, 4-H

**I AM
4-H
PROUD**