

OCTOBER 2025



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MARY OTT PRADOS

# THE ROOTS

Fauquier County Cooperative Extension

## A NEW 4-H CLUB YEAR HAS BEGUN!

Our 4-H club year began October 1st! Fauquier 4-H has a wide variety of club offerings for ages 5-19, including livestock-based clubs, science-based clubs, small animal-based clubs, robotics, and shooting education! Now is the perfect time to check out different kinds of clubs to see what you might like! Head over to our club list on our website to find a club, when they meet, and reach out to the club leader for more information! We look forward to seeing you!



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## Calling all photographers!

Do you have a photo of a Fauquier County landscape that you want featured in our newsletter? Email your photo submissions to Meredith Day at [meredithday@vt.edu](mailto:meredithday@vt.edu)

(540) 422-8250  
24 Pelham Street,  
Warrenton, VA 20186  
Fauquier County  
Cooperative Extension





FAUQUIER  
COUNTY  
4-H

# THE CLOVER CORNER

## 2025 FAUQUIER 4-H POULTRY SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM DONATES OVER 1,500 DOZEN EGGS!

### FAUQUIER 4-H POULTRY SERVICE LEARNING

#### 2025 EGG DONATION NUMBERS TO DATE

✓ 1771 DOZEN EGGS

✓ 21,252 1-OUNCE  
PORTIONS OF PROTEIN



THANK YOU POULTRY SERVICE LEARNING  
PARTICIPANTS FOR ALL OF YOUR HARD WORK!!

Our 2025 Poultry Service Learning participants have been busy donating back to their community! They have officially crossed the milestone of 1,500 dozen eggs donated!!

Since the start of the project in February, participants have donated to our local food banks:

- 1,771 Dozen eggs
- Equivalent to 21,252 1-ounce portions of protein

Thank you for all your hard work, participants!! We can't wait to see what our donation numbers total by the end of the project year in October!

## SAVE THE DATE! 4-H CLUB OFFICER TRAINING IS APPROACHING

With the new 4-H year comes new club officers! Each year, officers must be trained to perform their role to the best of their ability. Save the date for this year's officer training Tuesday October 21st 6:00-7:30PM at the PATH Foundation Building!

Registration coming soon from your club leader!

SAVE THE DATE!

2025-2026 4-H Club  
Officer Training

**OCTOBER 21ST**  
**6:00-7:30PM**  
**PATH FOUNDATION  
BUILDING**

Your club leader will send out  
registration details in the coming weeks!

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FAUQUIER  
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4-H



FAUQUIER  
COUNTY  
4-H

# THE CLOVER CORNER

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP SCORE YOUTH PROJECT BOOKS**

Our youth members will turn in their project books by October 1st, and we need YOUR HELP to score them all in preparation for our annual Achievement Night!

Sign-up at this link or by scanning the QR code below:

<https://forms.gle/iBXZycJx6rNLxyvh8> to choose your pick up date and how many project books you are willing to score (rubrics provided)! All project books need to be returned to the office by 5PM on Monday October 20th. Thanks for your consideration!

\*\*volunteers great for this role are community members who do not have children in the 4-H program, but we welcome parents to sign up to score record books in a different program area than their kids are in!



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

ARE YOU A COMMUNITY MEMBER  
INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT  
OUR YOUTH PROGRAMS?

We will be collecting youth project books  
October 1st, and we need volunteers to score  
them and return to the office by October 20th!

Pick up dates: October 1, 2, 8, 9  
DUE BACK to the office: October 20th

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

Thanks from Fauquier 4-H!







FAUQUIER  
COUNTY  
4-H

# THE CLOVER CORNER

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Exciting news! The Eleanor Hazel 4-H After School Program has begun and has expanded to a 6<sup>th</sup> school for the 2025-2026 school year!

If you are interested in helping us grow further, please contact [nhollins@vt.edu](mailto:nhollins@vt.edu).

*The Eleanor Hazel*  
**4-H After School Program**

Exciting news!

The Eleanor Hazel 4-H After School Program begins this week and has expanded to a 6<sup>th</sup> school for the 2025-2026 school year!

The Eleanor Hazel 4-H After School Program is seeking enthusiastic volunteers to help bring hands-on STEM learning to local elementary students. Now offered in 6 of our 11 elementary schools, we're looking to expand – and we need your help! Volunteers lead three 6-week series at one school, meeting once a week for one hour. All activities are STEM-focused and designed to spark curiosity, problem-solving, and creativity. If you enjoy working with kids and want to make a real impact in our community, this is a fun and rewarding way to do it!

for more information please contact [nhollins@vt.edu](mailto:nhollins@vt.edu)



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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The 2026 Loudoun-Fauquier Junior 4-H Camp will be held June 28th - July 2nd, 2026!

Teen counselor applications will be coming out in November. Camper registration will open in March of 2026. Keep an eye out for more updates coming soon!

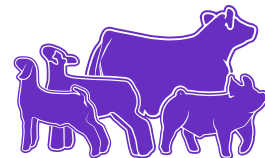


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# THE READY RING

## FAUQUIER LIVESTOCK SHOW & SALE



### SHOW & SALE UPDATE!

Reminder that the First Mandatory Meeting for the 2026 Fauquier Livestock Show & Sale is scheduled for Wednesday October 8th 6PM at the Fauquier Fairgrounds! Spread the word to new families - all exhibitors are expected to attend!

Please contact Mary at [maryvo@vt.edu](mailto:maryvo@vt.edu) with questions.

*Exhibitor* 

**MEETING**

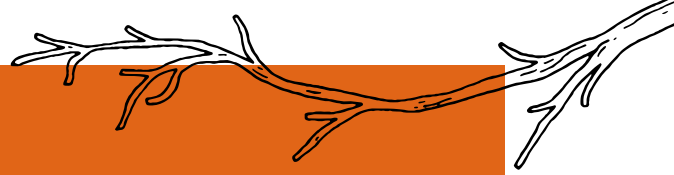
**FIRST MANDATORY MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 8TH 6PM**  
**FAUQUIER FAIRGROUNDS**

**FAUQUIER LIVESTOCK**  
**SHOW & SALE**  
**MAY 3-4, 2026**



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## **BUILDING RESILIENT SOILS IN CHANGING WEATHER CONDITIONS**

Weather extremes—whether drought or flooding—are becoming a bigger challenge for farms. One of the most effective tools to buffer against these stresses is soil organic matter (SOM). Healthy soils rich in SOM improve water management, nutrient cycling, and overall farm resilience, making them a cornerstone of sustainable and profitable agriculture.

Soil organic matter acts like a sponge. It increases infiltration so more rainwater soaks in rather than running off, and it boosts water-holding capacity, storing moisture for crops and forages during dry periods. SOM also drives nitrogen mineralization, releasing nutrients throughout the season. Together, these processes reduce crop stress, stabilize forage supplies, and lower input needs.

Improving soil organic matter requires an integrated approach. Managed grazing keeps plants growing, returning carbon to the soil through roots and manure. Crop rotation and cover crops diversify plant communities, protect against erosion, and feed soil biology. No-till practices minimize disturbance, allowing SOM to build. Thoughtful nutrient management ensures fertilizers are used efficiently, reducing losses, while integrating crops and livestock closes nutrient loops and enhances biological diversity. These practices strengthen soil structure, making fields more resilient to compaction, heavy rains, and drought.

Soil organic matter is also one of the best indicators of soil health. Farms with higher SOM weather droughts and floods with less yield loss, maintain steadier forage for livestock, and reduce fertilizer and irrigation costs. Healthier soils translate into more resilient, profitable farms by lowering risk and dependence on expensive inputs.

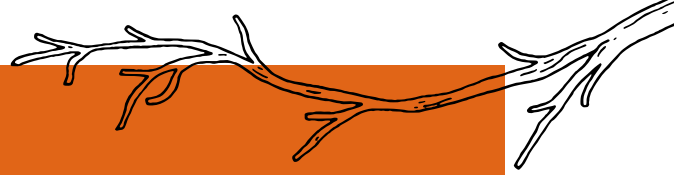
Every percent increase in SOM is an investment in resilience. By adopting practices like managed grazing, cover crops, crop rotation, and reduced tillage, farmers can improve immediate production while building soils that sustain agriculture for future generations.



**PHOTO AND ARTICLE BY TIM MIZE**



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## CLOVER CALENDAR

**October 1<sup>st</sup>** | New Club Year Begins

**October 1<sup>st</sup>** | Project books, portfolios, All-Star applications DUE!

**October 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>** | State Fair Youth Livestock Weekend

**October 13<sup>th</sup>** | Club Leader Training

**October 21<sup>st</sup>** | Club Officer Training



FAUQUIER  
COUNTY  
4-H

## SHOW & SALE CALENDAR

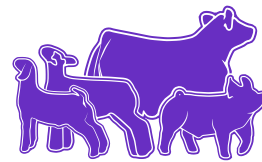
**October 8<sup>th</sup>** | First Mandatory Meeting

**October 27<sup>th</sup>** | Committee Meeting

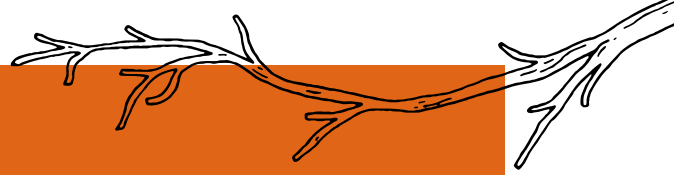
**November 2<sup>nd</sup>** | Beef Weigh-In

**November 12<sup>th</sup>** | Second Mandatory Meeting

**May 3-4** | 2026 Show & Sale



# OFFICE CONTACT



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