4-H FACTS

Cornell Cooperative Extension Herkimer County

August/September 2011

Look What's Coming Up:

August

5	4-H Club Secretary reports due
14	Herkimer County Fair exhibits entered 10am - 2pm
15	Livestock Entries due to NYS Fair
16-21	Herkimer County Fair
22	Herkimer County Fair exhibits released 9am - 11am
25	Applications for 4-H Agri-Business Career Conference
25 - Sept. 5	New York State Fair, Syracuse
29 - Sept. 1	Herkimer County Booth Rotation at NYS Fair

September

5	4-H Club Secretary reports due
5	Labor Day - CCE Closed
7-15	State Fair exhibits available to be picked up from CCE
14-15	CNY Farm Progress Show 10am-4pm Len-Lo Farms, Mohawk
17-18	Farmers' Museum Autumn Harvest Festival
19	4-H Club Reorganization meeting - 6pm at CCE Office
21	4-H Club Reorganization meeting - 1:30pm at CCE Office

October

1	Earn a Calf application due
1	4-H Re-enrollment forms due
1	Member & Club Year End sheets due
1	4-H Bus Trip to The Big E
2-8	National 4-H Week
5	4-H Club Secretary reports due
6 & 7	4-H Agricultural Business Career Conference in Cobleskill
10	Observance of Columbus Day ~ CCE closed
21	National 4-H Week photos due

November

5	4-H Club Secretary reports due
9	4-H Member/Volunteer Recognition Event
11	4-H Officer Training Workshop

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4-H
A Community Affair

4-H Earn a Calf

Sponsored by the Central NY Farm Progress Show and Jane Windecker Memorial

ELIGIBILITY: Any Traditional 4-H'er 8 – 19 years of age involved in a 4-H dairy project is eligible providing that he/she has not won an award in this contest previously.

APPLICATION: Completed applications must be turned in to the 4-H Office, 5657 State Route 5, Herkimer, NY 13350, by October 1, 2011.

SELECTION: Winners will be chosen on the history of their achievements in 4-H – leadership, future plans, improvement of the past year (if more than one), showing a desire for a purebred dairy calf, and record books kept on a calf. Call or stop by the 4-H office for an application.

4-H Club Banners Displayed

Wouldn't it be impressive to see each 4-H Club represented at the Herkimer County Fair with their own club banner? The 4-H office would like to invite every club to construct a club banner to be displayed at the Herkimer County Fair. Let's show the general public that 4-H is alive and well in Herkimer County. If your club does not have a banner and would like to make one, please call the 4-H office and speak with Angela.

Current Mailing Addresses

Just a reminder regarding our need to have current mailing addresses. Especially with the new year coming up please have the parent check over the forms carefully. Because we send our newsletters out by bulk mail, any undeliverable pieces that do not have a **current mailing address** are returned to us with a postage due fee. Therefore, we implore you to PLEASE notify us immediately if your address changes! Your cooperation is deeply appreciated.

County Fair Prep

Leaders and parents, now is the time to assist your 4-H members in preparing for the County Fair. An early start will help to insure that the Fair is a positive and fun experience for everyone. Many last minute problems and disappointments can be avoided by making plans now. Here is a checklist of "to dos" to get you started.

- Go over the Fair book with your members. Make sure they have a copy. Read it together. Plan exhibits they will bring to the fair, and what preparation the exhibit will need.
- Assist them in filling out their entry blank and exhibit tags (available a t the 4-H office) COMPLETELY, **prior to the fair.** It makes for a much smoother running day and less stress on everyone if you come with all your paperwork **completed ahead of time.**
- Explain the conference judging procedure, the Danish system, the value of having exhibits evaluated by a judge.
- Make sure all livestock exhibitors understand the health regulations and submit their entries by the deadline.

REMEMBER, it's a well known fact (with historical basis, ask any old 4-H member) that those who take an active part in the Fair have more FUN!!!

Important 4-H Club Information

CLUB CHARTERS - Pleas remember in order to be a bonafide 4-H Club you must fulfill these requirements

- you must have an Organizational Leader
- you must elect officers (not required for Cloverbud club)
- you must have at least 5 members or 5 Cloverbuds from **3 different families** currently enrolled
- you must have the Program Planning Sheet filled out for the 4-H year

FUNDRAISERS - Please remember when you are doing fundraising in the name of 4-H you need to:

- Fill out the "Fundraising Request" form and have it approved by Jennifer Collins before you can do **ANY** fundraising.
- There must be a **PURPOSE** for the 4-H fundraising. You **CAN NOT** fundraise just to have money in your 4-H account.

LOAN OUT - If any 4-H Club Leader, parent or volunteer has any 4-H banners/flags, Cloverbud binders, incubators or anything burrowed from the 4-H office could you please return the item(s) as soon as possible. If plan on using the material/items for your club meetings or events please call the 4-H office.

October 1st~Important Date

Please take special note of the deadline for this year. Only those who have turned in their Year End Completion sheets, by the October 1st deadline will be guaranteed to receive their awards. To be recognized and receive completion for the 2010-11 4-H year, the following are due to the 4-H Office by October 1st:

- 4-H Member Year-End Completion Sheet (keep one copy for your 4-H Achievement Book) - (supplied in your "Welcome Packets" when all paperwork was complete last fall). If you need more they are on line at www.cce.cornell.edu/herkimer or call the 4-H office.
- 4-H Club Year-End Completion Sheet

By completing and returning your Member Year-End sheets to the 4-H office **you will automatically be signed up for the Member Recognition Event.** This will save time for us, the leaders and parents. Call the 4-H office with regrets only. If you have any questions please call the 4-H office.

Also due October 1st:

- 4-H Re-Enrollment Forms and fee
- Application for Earn a Calf (if applicable)

Reminder: Enrollment fee is $5 on or before October 1st. After October 1st the fee goes up to $10 per member.

HERKIMER COUNTY AND STATE FAIR ENTRY INFORMATION

As in the past, judging of your 4-H non-animal exhibits will take place in the youth building at the fairgrounds (located at 133 Cemetery Street in Frankfort) on **Sunday, August 14th** from 10 am to 2 pm. 4-H evaluators will be available from **10 am to 2 pm**. This is the time when you will have an opportunity to interact with a 4-H judge. There will be Herkimer County Fair evaluators on hand until **5 pm** that afternoon if you are unable to make the 4-H judging. Please note that the **4-H evaluators will only be judging 4-H projects**. If you have other items to enter in the fair, they will be evaluated by Herkimer County Fair judges.

If you would like to help out on the day of judging, please contact the 4-H office. We need adults to help with registration and evaluating and youth to help as assistants.

In addition to the entry form found in the Fairbook, a 4-H entry tag which must be attached to each exhibit is required for all non-animal exhibits. These tags may be picked up at the Cornell Cooperative Extension office prior to the Fair. This makes registration day less hectic. Please call the office with the number of tags you'll need before stopping in and we'll be happy to have your tags counted out and ready for you. Make sure you have the correct entry tags - **green for 4-H projects only**, white for all non-4-H projects. **4-H projects are those completed by a 4-H'er as part of his/her 4-H club work. A project done by a 4-H'er at home or at school that was not a part of a bona fide 4-H project needs to be entered in open youth.**

Again this year some traditional 4-H members' (aged 8 or older and in third grade or higher by January 1, 2011) exhibits will be allowed to go on to the New York State Fair for evaluation. Cloverbud exhibits may be sent for display only.

The items that are selected to go on to State Fair will have a purple "Selected for State Fair" seal attached to their County Fair ribbon. It will be the exhibitor's responsibility to check and see if they have anything selected.

If you have an exhibit selected, you will need to pick up and fill out a NYS Fair "Exhibitor Information Statement" (EIS) card **PRIOR** to picking up your exhibits at the end of the fair. These will be available on Sunday, August 14, as well as at our "Selected for State Fair" display during the week**. If your exhibit has been selected, be sure to see the 4-H staff for assistance before leaving on Sunday, August 14.** Since the County Fair categories do not completely align with the State Fair classes, you will need to spend extra time to ensure your exhibit is entered correctly. You will need to check the State Fair Youth Building Exhibits premium book located at the display, or go online at http://nys4h.cce.cornell.edu/events/Pages/StateFair.aspx , then go to Fairbooks and Schedule, then 4-H Youth Building Exhibits, then General Information & Rules and download.

For each exhibit entered, the EIS card must be completed and should include all additional information requested on the form as well as any specific information requested within a section/class.

In order to receive a premium from State Fair for your exhibit(s) you must provide us with the exhibitor's Social Security number. Social Security numbers are NOT to be written on the EIS cards. They must be given to the 4-H office confidentially.

Continued on page 5

HERKIMER COUNTY AND STATE FAIR ENTRY INFORMATION

4-H staff will be available to assist you with completing the necessary EIS cards on Tuesday, August 16 from 11 to 1 pm in the exhibit building at the County Fair and also at the CCE office on Wednesday, August 17 from 9am - 11am. We hope this will help to avoid the hectic environment created because the EIS cards are not filled out when you come to pick up your exhibits and premium checks at the end of the fair.

This is a time consuming procedure. That is why it is **imperative** the EIS card is obtained and filled out by the **member** (not the parent or the leader) ahead of time. The EIS is another important step in reinforcing what the 4-H member has learned from their project.

NOTE: The 4-H staff will NOT be available to assist in completing EIS cards on August 22. Do this ahead of time! See sample below.

At the conclusion of the County Fair, all county fair exhibits are to be picked up from the fairgrounds on Monday, August 22nd between 9 am and 11 am. At that time premium checks will be issued. If you have any exhibits going on to State Fair, we'll be glad to transport them directly from County Fair to State Fair. You must bring appropriate packaging for safely transporting your exhibit (i.e. newsprint or tissue paper to wrap fragile items, cardboard boxes to secure them from sliding around in the vehicle); as well as your completed EIS card.

Perishable exhibits including foods, vegetables and flowers must be dropped off at the 4-H office by **11 am on Tuesday, August 23**. NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

State Fair exhibits will be available to be picked up from the 4-H office between Wednesday, September 7th and Thursday, September 15th.

SAMPLE
New York State Fair Youth Department
Exhibitor Information Statement

Please Fill Out Top and Bottom Sections for All Projects

Name:_____

County:_____

Section:_____ Class No. or Contest:_____

Kind:

Variety:_____

Date of Birth:_____ Years in this Project Area _____
(mm/dd/yy)

You may attach on additional page to answer questions if necessary.

Describe what you did to complete this project. Include a list of materials, products and/or equipment used and why they were selected. Briefly explain your methods of construction process and your source of ideas

Write a short story about your 4-H project. Describe your feelings about this project. What did you learn or improve on by doing this project? What challenges did you run into and how did you solve them? How could you improve this exhibit?

Additional information request specifically for this class:

Additional information or special needs to be noted by the evaluator.

4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills.

JUDGING AT THE FAIR

- Do you know why your project work is judged at the Herkimer County Fair?
- Do you know who the people are who are asked to be judges?
- Do you accept gracefully the awards you get whether they are blue, red, or white?

If your answer is yes to all these questions, you don't need to read any further. But many 4-H'ers, leaders, and parents do not know all the answers.

Why do we judge? The two major reasons we judge exhibits are:

1. to determine worth of a piece of work, how well has it been done and how closely it conforms to standards of quality; *and*
2. to contribute to the growth and development of 4-H members. 4-H'ers learn from sharing their project work with others. They feel good about themselves and their accomplishments.

Who are the judges? Judges are people! They are people who want to help 4-H'ers learn! They are asked to be judges because they have special training and background in certain areas. Not all judges have the same training and the same background in the same subject matter area, and this is why judges sometimes differ in their ideas and opinions as to how something should be done.

You need to understand this if you are to gracefully accept the award they give. The process of judging will never be perfect. Judges can only evaluate what they see. They don't know how hard one member worked or what obstacles another may have had to overcome. They must judge according to what they see according to a standard. They can guess a little about what to expect from members of a certain age or years of experience, but even here there is a difference of opinion.

We have to learn to accept judging for the best it can do for us and reconcile ourselves to some of the faults which are impossible to overcome. Learn what you can take from judging, but don't take it too seriously — don't make it a matter of life or death. Consider judging an adventure to help you work towards greater achievements.

A Special Note to Leaders & Parents…

Remember, judging should be a fun, learning experience. Each member that exhibits at the fair is a "purple ribbon" child. It's the child's project that received the blue, red or white ribbon. It's what 4-H'ers learn through the preparation of a fair exhibit that's important, not what ribbon it gets! It's important that leaders and parents be prepared to support and reinforce a member that feels dejected by a particular color ribbon placing. Some positive words and an arm around the shoulders can work miracles.

For more information on judging standards, be sure to review project materials. It may also be helpful to review judging sheets so that you're aware of what the judges are looking for. Contact the 4-H office if you'd like a sample judging sheet.

CENTRAL NEW YORK FARM PROGRESS SHOW

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

September 14 & 15, 2011 - 10:00 am to 4 pm

Len-Lo Farms in Mohawk, NY

Leonard and Lois Gilbert -Darrel and Jill Gilbert

Be sure to stop by the Cornell Cooperative Extension exhibit in the main tent.

Hope to see you there!!!

GO TO THE STATE FAIR ~ DO A GROUP ACTION

Theme*: "4-H Feeds the Future"*

Want to go to the State Fair? Wonder what you can do there? Wish there was something to do other than ride on rides and eat cotton candy? Have time between animal shows and want a change of pace?

Try doing a **GROUP ACTION**!!!

GROUP ACTION is a title given to groups (clubs or groups of members) that come to demonstrate, coordinate and participate in hands-on activities with the public. **GROUP ACTION** takes place in the Youth Building at the Herkimer/Oneida Booth.

A **GROUP** is made up of at least three youth and one adult. The **GROUP** works for at least six (6) hours during the day between the hours of 10 am and 6 pm. This can include set-up and clean-up time. At least two participants need to be at the booth at all times.

Supplies, admission passes to the State Fair and parking stickers will be provided for the **GROUP**. In addition, the group receives a $20/day premium if they submit the necessary paper work before leaving the State Fair by the end of the time period on September 1st.

Sounds like fun? Let us know which day you want to take part in **GROUP ACTION** by calling Angela at the 4-H office. Days will be scheduled on a first come basis. Dates available are August 29 through September 1st. A fun way to see the **GREAT NEW YORK STATE FAIR!!!**

Please Note: If your club leader is not able to go as a group, any member can go as a family whenever it's convenient for them. For instance if they are going for a concert, animal show, talent showcase, or just to spend a day at the fair, and want to spend an hour or two at the booth, that would be fine. Call Angela for complete details and to secure your time.

Since we share our booth with Oneida County, dates you would like to participate **must** be reserved.

Thanks to funding from Cornell University, we will again be able to provide all the necessary supplies for your group to choose from the "Simple Gifts" curriculum.

STATE FAIR CAMPER SPACE

Twelve day RV parking permits for the youth Horse & Beef department will be sold at $240 each or $20/day. Dairy Cattle exhibitors can reserve a spot at $120/shift. These credentials can only be obtained by filling out an RV parking request. Go to www.nysfair.org/competitions and down load the RV request form.

4-H MEMBER/VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT

NOVEMBER 9, 2011 ~ HERKIMER HIGH SCHOOL

This is your day 4-H members and volunteers! This year's event will combine a formal awards ceremony followed by a fun "Make Your Own Ice Cream Sundae Social."

Only those who turn in their year end completion sheets by **October 1st** will be recognized during the awards ceremony.

Be sure to include everyone's name who will be attending when registering so we can recognize our volunteers accurately.

Please note this date on your calendars to avoid anyone being disappointed. With 4-H staff being part time, this deadline must be adhered to in order to be prepared for the events.

4-H Club Reorganization Meetings

Each year the Herkimer County 4-H Program conducts reorganization meetings to help 4-H club organizational leaders prepare for the upcoming 4-H year. Meetings will be held at the following dates and locations:

September 19 - 6pm CCE Office

September 21 - 1:30pm CCE Office

Please pre-register and let us know exactly which meeting you will attend by calling the 4-H Office by **Monday, September 12th**.

What's the purpose? To get the new 4-H year off to a super start by discussing and asking questions. Each 4-H club will get all the latest information along with packets containing 4-H enrollment materials.

Who's invited? All 4-H leaders and parents (this includes parents of individual members). **Each 4-H club and Cloverbud club must have at least one representative at one of the meetings.** 4-H club organizational leaders are strongly encouraged to attend. Plan to stay for the entire time.

No packets will be mailed or handed out except at these meetings. The interaction among staff and volunteers, introduction of new 4-H offerings, etc., works so much better face-to-face.

For planning purposes, it is extremely important to pre-register for events and activities. Pre-registration enables the office to accurately contact interested people should changes need to be made. Please pay special attention to deadline dates. Don't be disappointed if you show up at the wrong time or place because you didn't pre-register so we could notify you if details change.

Farmers' Museum Autumn Harvest Festival

4-H'ers who received seeds from the Farmers' Museum Heirloom Seed Project are asked to participate in the Farmers' Museum Autumn Harvest Festival on September 17th & 18th as part of the project **requirement.**

The Registration Form found in your Farmers' Museum Harvest Festival 4-H Heirloom Seed Project Exhibition Catalog must be returned to the Farmers' Museum. Please be sure to check the registration deadline in the catalog.

Entry cards for each class checked on the Registration Form will be sent to registrants prior to Harvest Festival. Each class entered must have an entry card filled out top & bottom and brought with entry to Harvest Festival. All entries must be delivered to the Red & White County Fair tent on the creamery green at the Farmers' Museum on Saturday, September 17th, between 8:00am and 8:45am. No late entries will be accepted. Exhibitors must be out of the exhibit area by 8:45 am. Judging begins at 9 am. Entries must remain on exhibit until 5pm Sunday, September 18th.

Ribbons and cash awards will be given to traditional 4-H members in each class for excellent, good and worthy specimens in all categories. Cloverbud 4-H members will receive participation ribbons. Awards will be presented from 4:30-5pm on Sunday.

National 4-H Week Let's Celebrate October 2~ 8, 2011

4-H members and volunteers from throughout the nation will be designing creative promotions in recognition of their own very special event - National 4-H Week, October 2-8.

There are hundreds of ways you can help promote the fun educational offerings available through 4-H. In the past, Herkimer County's 4-H clubs have made scarecrows holding "4-H is Great" signs, they have painted silage bags with slogans like "We love 4-H", they have put up displays in schools and local libraries and painted store windows, all with messages about 4-H.

There are many creative people in local 4-H clubs. When you create your National 4-H Week promotion this year, send us a picture of it and receive a $5 award. Be sure to put your name, club name, address and location of the display on the picture and send it to Angela at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Office by **October 21st** so the awards can be given out at the Member Recognition Event. One submission per club please.

Your 4-H Club Organizational Leader will receive full details in their 4-H Club reorganization packet, including an order form for supplies. Don't forget to let us know what you did - promote National 4-H Week.

Southern Tier Sheep & Wool Growers

The Southern Tier Sheep & Wool Growers Wool Pool will need help September 10 – 8:30 am – 4:00 pm & September 11- 9:30 am- 4:00 pm at the Otsego County Fair Grounds in Morris NY. For more information please contact Sue Smith at 607-293-8810.

4-H Agri-Business Career Conference - October 6 & 7

This experience offers an awareness of the great diversity of agri-business related careers. It features insights into agricultural opportunities and the academic requirements for professional positions. Youth will stay in Cobleskill and travel to SUNY Cobleskill and surrounding agri-businesses.

To take part in this trip youth should be at least a high school freshman. Scholarship money may be available. Applications are due August 25th.

Call or stop by the 4-H office for an application or email Jenn - jlr34@cornell.edu.

4-H Honor Secretaries

Congratulations to **Little Falls 4-H Friends 4-H Club**, **Maureen Kimbrell** and **Brook Mucurio**, **Schuyler Hillbillies 4-H Club** for turning in their May Secretary's reports by June 5th.

Congratulations to **Little Falls 4-H Friends 4-H Club** for turning in their June Secretary's reports by July 5th.

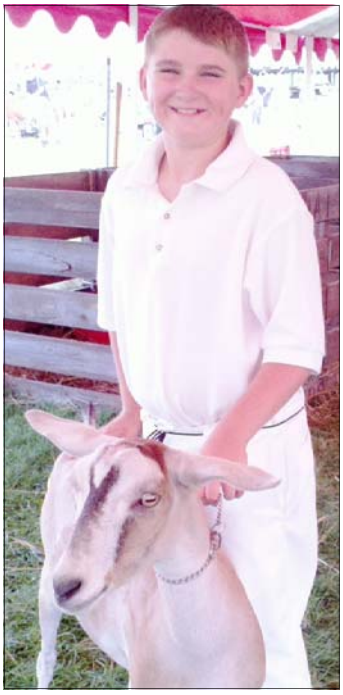
I know that we are well into summer and you might be taking a break from some of your meetings but don't forget to get your secretary's reports in by the 5th of each month! Even if you don't have anything to report, you will still be recognized for sending one in. If you are the Secretary of your 4-H Club, you can receive an Outstanding 4-H Club Secretary Award at the 4-H Member Recognition Event by simply:

- sending monthly reports to the 4-H office by the 5th of every month
- keeping an accurate & completed 4-H Secretary's Book
- exhibiting your 4-H Secretary Book at the Herkimer County Fair

64TH ANNUAL FARMERS' MUSEUM JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW

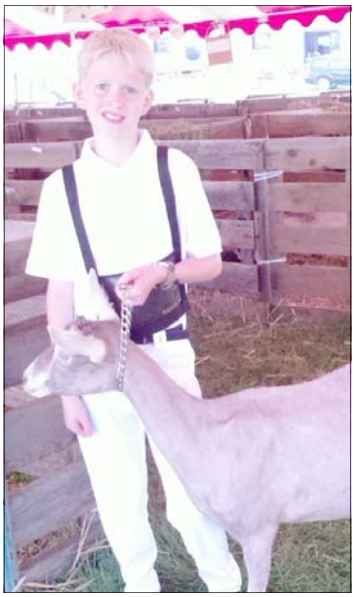
Kuyahorra Kaprines 4-H Club at the Famers' Museum Junior Livestock Show.

Mary Brown with Stella.



Tyler Ellsworth with Synamon.

Jasmine Wheatley with Sarsaparilla.

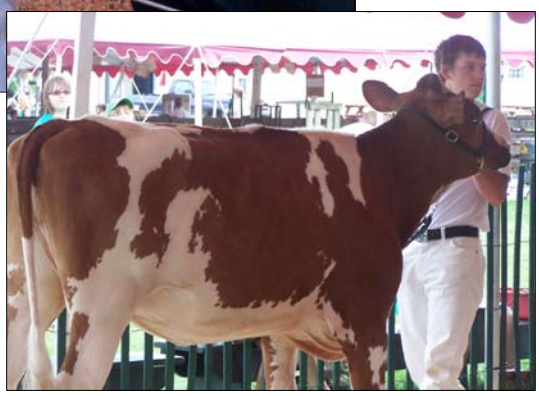


James Luck with Lady.

Kassi March with Sophia.

Some of the **Little Falls 4-H Friends 4-H Club** have been busy during the month of July. **Dylan Hapeman**, **Brian Cumm**, **Hilary** and **Shelby Creater** all showed their cows at the Farmers' Museum Livestock Show. **Dylan** showed his cows Roxanne, Regina, and Chelsea. **Hilary** showed her cows Lady and Berthy. **Shelby** showed her cow Betty. This was **Brian's** first year showing at Cooperstown and he leased Trish from **Dylan**. The all did well and had fun. (HC)

Hilary Creater Showing her Angus heifer Berthy



Brian Cumm walking Trish.

Brown Swiss County herd (L-R) Cutting Edge owned by **Michayla Mower** and handled by **Shelby Creater**, Lady owned by and handled by **Hilary Creater**, Becker Perfecta owned and handled by **Evonna Mower**.

Hilary Creater and **Dylan Hapeman** handling his Ayshire heifers Roxanne and Regina.

The **Little Falls 4-H Friends 4-H Club**, **Brian Cumm**, **Shelby Creater**, **Hilary Creater** with her Angus heifer Berthy, and **Dylan Hapeman**, at the Farmers' Museum Junior Livestock Show.

Milking Shorthorn County Senior Herd: **Tess Hitchcock** handling Fantasia, **Wasayla Mower** handling Jane, and **Michayla Mower** handling Faith for Tess

Riley Brewer with Rosie

Independent 4-H Members **Schylar** and **Katelyn Reed**

4–H Club News

The **Kuyahoora Kaprines 4-H Club** is getting ready for the Dolgeville Festival of Violets parade. Thank you North Utica Lowe's for the paint donation for our float!

The **Kuyahoora Kaprines** in the Memorial Day Parade in Poland, NY

The **Little Falls 4-H Friends 4-H Club** worked this month to get ready for our June wood project. We plan to make house signs. **Dylan Hapeman** worked on donation letters requesting supplies from local business. The Creater's added three little pigs and one boer goat as an addition to their farm this spring. **Jill Palmer** has been busy with spring parades as the Maple Princess.

After school ended in June the **Little Falls 4-H Friends 4-H Club** were finally able to get together to work on our wood project. First we all had to decide on a design for our signs and then get a pattern to trace onto the wood which was donated by Little Falls Lumber. Hilary Creater made a horse head sign and helped younger members with designing and creating their pictures for the sides of their sign. Next **Dylan Hapeman** and **Brian Cumm** taught the kids how to safely use power tools such as a miter box, jigsaw, and scroll saw. All the members, **Mary Kathryn** (ice cream cone) and **Keegan Connolly** (football), **Matthew Treusdell** (sheep dog), and **Abbey** (football helmet) and **Philip Mosher** (chicken), all said they enjoyed cutting out the sign, but are looking forward to painting. Sanding was the least favorite part of the project. We also enjoyed homemade brownies made by **Keegan Connolly**. General supplies (rods, hooks and eyes) and a gallon of gray paint were donated by George Lumber Co. White paint for the name plate section was donated by Country View Farm (Henry Creater), while colored paint and sand paper was purchased with club funds. **Shelby Creater** (flowers), **Jillian Palmer** (rabbit), **Claire Connolly** (horses) worked on their independently. **Allison Lee** and **Warren Hapeman** will work on theirs when they come up to the farm this summer. Thank you to all that helped make this a successful project for the club.

Philip and **Abbey Mosher**, and **Mary Kathryn Connolly** sanding their projects.

Philip Mosher watching **Dylan Hapeman** cutting with **Brian Cumm** supervising.

Mary Kathryn, **Abbey**, and **Hilary** working on designs.

Matthew Treusdell using the jigsaw to cut out his pattern.

Keegan Connolly using the jigsaw to cut out his football.

Members are looking forward to showing their animals and/or exhibits at the shows and/or fairs this summer. The club continues to plan on participating in the Little Falls Canal Days Parade.

CONGRATULATIONS 4-H GRADUATES

Sarah Ellen Weeks, daughter of Jeff & Dawn Weeks of Mohawk, is a 2011 graduate of Mohawk Central School. Sarah has been very active throughout her 4-H years. She has been the **Mohawk Redneck 4-H Club** president for the past 3 years. She has exhibited brown Swiss dairy cattle, beef cattle, goats and shropshire sheep at many livestock shows and fairs. Sarah started her own flock of shropshire sheep when she was 13 years old by borrowing money through the FSA youth loan program. Today she owns 35 head of registered shropshires and has become a prominent breeder. Sarah has won many sheep champions throughout her youth showing career. Some of her top honors include Best Bred and Owned Sheep at the Cooperstown Farmers Museum Livestock Show 2010 and Supreme Master Showman at the Herkimer County Fair 2009. Sarah also enjoys sewing and made her own junior prom dress where she won best of show at the New York State Fair. Sarah's passion is working with children and therefore is attending SUNY Cobleskill in the fall majoring in early childhood.

4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills.

THE BIG E
Sept. 16-Oct. 2, 2011

The 4-H Office has chartered a 55 passenger bus for a day trip to Eastern States Exposition (The Big E) in Springfield, MA on October 1st. The bus will leave from the 4-H Office at 6:00AM and return around 9:30PM.

This is a trip for families, so all ages are welcome. All youth must be accompanied by a parent/chaperone. The cost will be $30 per person for the bus plus the cost admission ($12 for adults, $8 for youth 6-12, 5 and under are free).

Advanced registration is required with a $30 non-refundable deposit per person by September 12th to the 4-H Office.

There is lots to do and see at The Big E (go to http://www.thebige.com/fair/ to check it out). For those not familiar with The Big E, it is the largest fair in the northeast, is home of The Big E Cream Puff and Craz-E Burger. It's a New England extravaganza with top name entertainment, The Big E Super Circus, the Avenue of States, Storrowton Village Museum, animals, competitive exhibits, rides, shopping, crafts, a daily parade and a Mardi Gras parade and foods from around the world for 17 days each September. It's the last blast of summer -- celebrate at The Big E in West Springfield, Massachusetts!

Salm's Dairy Clinic

Over 25 youth attended a dairy fitting and showmanship clinic on June 28 at Salmstead Farm in Newport. Thanks to Melissa Hawkins and Sue Culbertson for taking the time to work with the kids and show them how to properly fit & show dairy animals. A special thank you the Kim & Lynn Salm for opening up there farm for this wonderful clinic and great hospitality.

Also that evening NYCAMH (New York Center for Agricultural Medicine & Health) did a program on farmstead safety.

4-H Connects Kids to Cornell

4-H Shooting Sports

This past May and June eight Herkimer County 4-H'ers attended a five session course called "Introduction to Shooting Sports". The course was held at the Ilion Fish and Game Club on Barringer Road, and it was taught by certified rifle instructor Bernie Armata and shotgun expert Dave Cruger, a club member, certified teacher and active skeet shooter.

In addition to learning the basics of rifle and shotgun safety the members were taught parts of the gun, how to handle ammunition and shooting range procedure.

Those taking part were **Cegan** and **Cole Jaquish**, **Jack Casler**, **Robbie** and **Anna Becker**, **Sam** and **Seth Donahoe** and **Josh Douglas**.

The course consisted of two sessions at the rifle range with .22 rimfire rifles and two shotgun sessions at the main clubhouse with .410 and 20 gauge shotguns. Several of the parents were on hand to not only assist the 4-H'ers, but to do a little shooting themselves. Special thanks to Ron and Betty Bunce, from the Ilion Club, Dave Cruger, Audrey Donahoe and Rich and Valerie Becker for their help.

Photos of the 4-Her's during their sessions.

CCE of Herkimer County is NOW on FACEBOOK!!!

Go to your Facebook page and search for Cornell Cooperative Extension Herkimer County; pull up our page and press the "like" button. It's that simple!!! Get your family friends to "like" us also. Jenn will be updating this page with 4-H information, workshops and events throughout the year.

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"THE PURPOSE OF THE 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM IS TO ENABLE YOUTH TO DEVELOP KNOWLEDGE, ABILITIES, ATTITUDES, AND BEHAVIORS TO BE COMPETENT, CARING ADULTS"

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STAFF

Jennifer Collins 4-H Extension Educator, jlr34@cornell.edu
Angela Pileggi 4-H Program Educator, anp35@cornell.edu
Rachel Shaver Administrative Assistant, rjs86@cornell.edu
Barbara Johnson Administrative Assistant, bmj9@cornell.edu
Web address: www.cce.cornell.edu/herkimer
State 4-H Web address: www.cce.cornell.edu/4h
National 4-H Web address: www.fourhcouncil.edu
4-H Resource Web address: www.cerp.cornell.edu/4-H

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