**December**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Farmers’ Museum Candlelight Evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24-25</td>
<td>Christmas Holiday - CCE closed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**January**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>New Years’ Day - CCE closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Deadline for 4-H Horse and Dairy Quiz Bowl participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Registration due for Cake Decorating Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Cake Decorating Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Martin Luther King Jr. - CCE closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Registration due for Teen Winter Weekend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Meat Cuts/Grading Workshop</td>
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**March**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>County Public Presentations/ Horse Communications at Herkimer High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>District Horse Bonanza Contest (Horse Bowl and Hippology)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 or 19</td>
<td>District Dairy Bowl Contest</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>March Dog Madness, Cornell</td>
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<tr>
<td>14-18</td>
<td>Ag Literacy Week</td>
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<td>25-26</td>
<td>Dairy Discovery, Cornell</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>District Horse Communications, CCE Oneida</td>
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**April**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>District Public Presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-28</td>
<td>Tractor Safety Certification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29– May 1</td>
<td>STARR</td>
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**February**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Registration deadline for Vet Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-14</td>
<td>4-H Teen Winter Weekend</td>
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<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Vet Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>President Day - CCE closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Registration deadline for Capital Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Registration due for Public Presentation/Horse Communication</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4-H Honor Secretaries

Congratulations to: Autumn Borek, Barnyard Buddies 4-H Club; Colin Bick, Haderondahs 4-H Club; Jordynn Alesia, Kuyahoora Kaprines 4-H Club; and Kendra Shaver, Independent 4-H member for turning in their September 4-H Club Secretary report by October 5.

Congratulations to: Autumn Borek, Barnyard Buddies 4-H Club; Jordynn Alesia, Kuyahoora Kaprines 4-H Club; Mercedes Lewandrowski, Merry Moos 4-H Club; and Kendra Shaver, Schuyler Aggies 4-H Club for turning in their October 4-H Club Secretary report by November 12.

Beginner Cake Decorating Workshop

A beginner cake decorating workshop will be held at the Herkimer Reformed Church on Saturday, January 16, 2016 from 9 – 12noon. We will be learning to pipe frosting, form roses and basics about different types of icing.

The cost of this workshop is $5 per person to cover the cost of supplies. Sign up by calling the 4-H office at 315-866-7920 by January 8, 2016.

Meat Cuts/Grading Workshop

Join us at Kelley Meats in Taberg to learn about the different cuts of meat and how they are graded (prime, choice, select). Open to all 4-H members but first priority is to those 4-H members that are taking part in the 4-H Livestock Auction.

This meeting also fulfills the second educational program for those participating in the livestock auction.

Call Sarah at the Oneida County 4-H Office to register 736-3394 ext. 108
# 4-H Teen Winter Weekend

Lewis County 4-H will once again be hosting Teen Winter Weekend at Camp Oswegatchie in Croghan. You must provide a chaperone. The theme this year is **SPORTS**!

This event is one that once teens go to, they can't wait to go back every year. Be sure to put the dates on your calendar.

- **DATE:** February 12, 13 and 14. Arrive Friday, February 12 between 6 and 8 pm for registration and snacks.
- **WHERE:** Oswegatchie Educational Center, Croghan. Visit www.oswegatchie.org/
- **WHO:** New York State 4-H'ers ages 13 to 19 (as of January 1) and in grades 7 through 12.
- **COST:** $70.00 per participant and $70.00 per chaperone. This will cover lodging, meals (Saturday breakfast to Sunday lunch), as well as snacks and workshop supplies.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:** January 20, 2016. All registration fees must be paid no later than January 20.

**PROGRAM:** Possible programming for 2016

- Winter Games
- Snowshoeing
- Cross Country Skiing
- Snow Sculpture
- Night Hike
- Ice Breakers
- Indoor Hands on Workshops

**WHAT YOU CAN DO: WE NEED YOU!!!!!**

- Volunteers are needed to facilitate and implement any of the program ideas above or one generated by the volunteer

Volunteers/chaperones are required to help with meals and supervise kitchen clean-up.

**CHAPERONES & PARTICIPANTS SHOULD BRING:**

- Bedding
- Toiletries and towel
- Outdoor clothing - Including boots/mittens or gloves
- Slippers
- Sleepwear
- Change of clothing
- Cross country skis - MUST BRING YOUR OWN
- Snowshoes - Rentals available @ $15.00 for the weekend or bring your own

All payment is due WITH registration, no later than January 20. The first 60 youth to register will be accepted.

## Vet Science

Tier 1 for youth grades 3-5. “From Airedales to Zebras" youth will have the opportunity to learn more about veterinary science. This program will give youth the ability to identify different breeds of animals, interpret an animal’s behavior, describe the different roles of animals, identify nutrients in feeds, explain the purpose of body systems, measure medication properly, make your home safe for pets, and explain what veterinarians do while describing the tools they use.

Watch the February/March Facts and your email for more details with dates and times. Registration is limited and is open to 4-H members in Herkimer and Oneida Counties in grades 3-5 and is due to the Herkimer County 4-H Office by February 8.

## Candlelight Evening at the Farmers’ Museum

**December 12, 2015 from 3 PM - 7 PM**

4-H clubs or families interested in caroling in this traditional holiday event should call or e-mail Meg Preston at (607) 547-1452 or m.preston@nysha.org before December 4. We encourage your participation. Sign up to sing for either 30 minutes or one hour.

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

Interested in learning more about the horse and/or dairy industry? Why not try horse quiz bowl or dairy quiz bowl. Practices will start after the first of the year, so please call Jenn at the 4-H Office if you are interested in participating or volunteering to coach a team.

If you are planning on participating, here are some important dates to remember:

- The District Horse Bonanza Contest (Horse Bowl and Hippology) will be held on Saturday, March 5 in Morrisville. District Horse Communications will be held on March 31 at CCE Oneida.
- The District Dairy Bowl Contest will be held on either Saturday, March 12 or March 19 at South Lewis High School. Date is yet to be confirmed.

If you are interested in participating, contact Jenn by January 4 so practices can be set up.

### Want to be a STARR?

#### State Teen Action Representative Retreat

**When:** April 29 - May 1  
**Where:** NY State Fairgrounds, Syracuse

Want to be a STARR? STARR is an annual weekend for 4-H teens from across New York State to get together to build leadership skills as well as network with peers (ages 13-19) and adults from across the state.

Call the 4-H office 315-866-7920 or email Wendy at wlr45@cornell.edu and let her know if you would like to be part of this exciting weekend for teens.

### 4-H Capital Days, Albany

Are you interested in Government? We have an opportunity for two 4-H'ers who are at least sophomores in high school within Herkimer County to meet with representatives from the state’s government on May 15-17, 2016.

The participants will learn about speaking to their legislators and career opportunities in government as they tour state agencies, participate in discussion sessions, and visit with their legislators. The 4-H'ers will also have an opportunity to tour the Capitol, visit the Corning Tower and New York State Museum. Nearly 130 teen delegates and their chaperons will attend, representing 4-H members from counties across the state, as well as the boroughs of New York City.

Applications for this event is due to the 4-H office by **February 16**. So don’t delay, if you or someone you know would benefit from this opportunity, please contact Wendy at the 4-H office 315-866-7920 or email wlr45@cornell.edu for your application. The cost of the trip will be $50 per participant which is due with the application. The 4-H office covers the remainder of the cost.

### Tractor Safety Course

Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program open to youth and adults 14 and over will be held on April 26-28 in Clinton, NY.

We invite and encourage all farm and non-farm youth and adults who will be working on or around machinery to participate in the program.

Watch for the February-March 4-H Facts Newsletter for more details. Call Jenn if you have any questions.
NY Ag Literacy Week
March 14-18

In celebration of National Agriculture Week (March 14-18), volunteers throughout the state will read a book with an agricultural theme to second graders. The selected book for 2016 is The Apple Orchard Riddle by Margaret McNamara and illustrated by G. Brian Karas.

This fun and exciting story shares the journey of Mr. Tiffin's class on a field trip to an apple orchard. The students learn about every aspect of the farm from how apples are harvested, the process of making cider, and the many different varieties of apples. While the class picks their apples and experiences the farm, Mr. Tiffin gives them all a riddle to ponder. This book was selected as the 2015 American Farm Bureau Foundation for Education's Book of the Year.

This year's focus on apple production is exciting because of the importance of the apple industry in New York State, as we are ranked second nationally in production. Apples provide over 17,000 direct and indirect jobs, and there are over 680 apple producers on 55,000 acres across the state.

Through the Agricultural Literacy Week program teachers, students, and parents can learn more about this nutritionally and economically healthy and essential industry. All lessons, activities, and companion materials are aligned to the Common Core Learning Standards.

The book will be given to the school library with a bookplate recognizing the donor and NY Ag Literacy Week.

More than 1,500 books were donated last year while thousands of second graders participated in fun and educational activities. If you are interested in volunteering to read, please contact Jenn at the 4-H office.

Thank You for Participating in the 4-H Cheese Fundraiser

Congratulations and thank you to the following 4-H Clubs, Independent Members and Board Members for participating in the County 4-H Cheese Fundraiser and selling almost $6,000 worth of cheese:

Barnyard Buddies 4-H Club; Haderondahs 4-H Club, Kuyahoora Kaprines 4-H Club; Merry Moos 4-H Club; Mini Merry Moos 4-H Club; Schuyler Aggies 4-H Club; Schuyler Hillbillies; 4-H Members: Abby & Owen Allen, Kassi March, and the Teachout Family. Thank you to the Occupational Hazards 4-H Club for selling cheese at Tractor Supply.

Catie Cromie and Aliandra Gifford of the Occupational Hazards 4-H club, selling cheese at Tractor Supply.

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

**March 25-26**  
**Cornell University**

Dairy Discovery is a hands-on workshop held annually at Cornell on March 25-26. It is a statewide program for youth 14-19 years of age as of January 1, of the current year.

Due to the hands-on approach of the sessions, participation is limited to the first 60 individuals to enroll by the deadline.

Theme for 2016 is **Quality Milk and Milk Production**- Milk quality and milk production represents the most critical enterprise of dairy production management. The tighter margins of today and the consumer concern about food quality make milk producers more aware than ever of the importance of milk quality.

Better milk means quality dairy products and more money. Dairy producer’s today are in the business of making food. The producer’s definition of quality milk is the level of quality, which provides the greatest value for your milk and provides the highest quality product for the consumer.

The environment, nutrition, cow comfort, milking equipment and milking procedures all affect milk quality and milk production.

The cost of **$45 per participant ($10 per chaperone)** will cover the basic handouts, materials, dinner and activities on Friday evening, and lunch on Saturday.

Lodging is **NOT included** for this program but a group of hotel rooms are blocked prior to this event each year. **Remember it is first come, first served, so register early.**

Call Jenn at the 4-H office to register. For more information go to [http://4h.ansci.cornell.edu/events-2/dairy-discovery-2/](http://4h.ansci.cornell.edu/events-2/dairy-discovery-2/)

### 4-H Public Presentations/Horse Communications

**Thursday, March 3, 2016**  
**5 PM - 8 PM**  
**Herkimer High School**

Horse communications and Public Presentation night will be once again held together. Registrations for both events are due to the 4-H Office no later than February 19. We need to have the names of each 4-H member who will be doing a presentation when you call to register.

Learning to give effective public presentations is one unique advantage of belonging to 4-H. Presentations should have an obvious connection to the 4-H program. Therefore, if your members are unsure of what topic to select, encourage them to try one that deals with a 4-H project that they are already familiar with. That way they can concentrate on the actual presentation because they do not have to worry about learning new content material. This will also help to reinforce the knowledge they have already learned.

**SPECIAL NOTE TO CLOVERBUDS**

Cloverbuds will not be judged on their presentation, but will receive a Certificate of Participation and credit toward completion for the year. Members may work individually, in pairs, or groups. Think “Show & Tell.”

**SPECIAL NOTE FOR HORSE COMMUNICATIONS**

Official rules for Horse Communications can be seen on the following website: [http://4h.ansci.cornell.edu/animal-programs/horses/events-rulebook/](http://4h.ansci.cornell.edu/animal-programs/horses/events-rulebook/)
**NATIONAL 4-H WEEK**

The *Kuyahoora Kaprines* 4-H club made a display at the Poland Central School for 4-H Week display.


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The *Barnyard Buddies* of West Winfield set up a display of pumpkins, straw bales, mums, and a scarecrow along with “4-H Grows Here” signs in front of the new location of Kylie’s Diner in West Winfield.

Sitting: Kaitlyn Fitch and Katie Livingston
Standing: Bennett Schoonover

**4-H OFFICER TRAINING**

Fourteen 4-H members recently attended the county wide 4-H Officer Training workshop. The newly elected club officers learned to conduct more efficient meetings and gained skills to ensure a successful 4-H year. The training of young people helps them to understand their role in a group setting and learn the rules of parliamentary procedures for conducting an effective meeting, which is an investment into a lifelong skill.

Local 4-H members who participated included from *Kuyahoora Kaprines* 4-H Club: Hailey and Hannah Carnright and Eric Jones; from *Merry Moos* 4-H Club: Hannah Ippolito, Ed and Isabella Smith, Denten and Madesen Spellman and Chloe Williams; from *Schuyler Aggies* 4-H Club: Kendra Shaver, Lilly, Rose, Skye and Sophia Simmons.

The volunteer presenters included Audrey Donahoe, facilitating the President and Vice President segments; Kristy Downes, facilitating the Treasurer segment; H. Ed Reed, facilitating the Secretary segment; Jordan Short, facilitating the News Reporter segment, and Choose Health and Song/Recreation facilitated by Cathy Eysaman.

After receiving individualized instruction for their specific office, each group elected an officer to represent them in a simulated 4-H Club meeting. Sophia Simmons was elected President, Madesen Spellman Vice President, Kendra Shaver Secretary, Isabella Smith Treasurer, Denten Spellman Song & Recreation Leader, and Chloe Williams Choose Health Leader.
The 4-H Member Volunteer Recognition Event was held at the Herkimer High School on Tuesday, November 10. The event kicked off with a light dinner followed by the award ceremony and concluded with a make your own sundae donated by Stewart's of Herkimer.

This year, 126 members received Certificates of Year End Completion for their participation in 4-H. Seventy-six members received an All Around 4-Her Award for their additional participation in 4-H events. There were eleven Outstanding 4-Her Awards presented to member that fulfilled all the previous requirements including assuming a leadership role.

4-H members were recognized for completing their first year, fifth year, and tenth year with pins. Volunteers were also recognized for their support of 4-H. Volunteers are a huge part of what keeps 4-H going in Herkimer County. Donated time and continued dedication is greatly appreciated.
The Barnyard Buddies 4-H club volunteered to help at the Gems along the Mohawk Harvest Festival in October. Club members brought two Italian Greyhound puppies and a rabbit. Members answered any questions about the animals that people may have had. They also decorated pumpkins, did candle dipping, and played some 19th century games in order to get some guests involved in those activities as well.

In the month of September, the Kuyahoora Kaprines 4-H club participated in the Fonda Fair.

In October, the Kuyahoora Kaprines attended the Harvest Festival at Gems Along The Mohawk. 4-H’ers exhibited their show calves and participated in numerous craft projects. Members present were Hannah and Hailey Carnright, Jordynn, Bo, Isaac, Paige and Lily Alesia, Logan and Lucas Humphreville, and Emily and Katie Marhaver.

At the first meeting of the 4-H year, on October 17, the Kuyahoora Kaprines elected officers and held their annual pumpkin carving and seed roasting meeting. Members had to first gut their pumpkins, sort and clean the seeds, boil them in salt water, season, and then roast them. Members chose from many different spices, including garlic & dill, hot pepper, Cajun, and tomato/garlic pesto to name a few. Once roasted, members were able to try each other's seeds and see which they liked best! Officers were also elected and several new members joined our club. Club members also participated at Member Recognition Night and Officer Training.

From left to right: Back row: Broc Plungis, Bo Alesia, Katie and Emily Marhaver, Hailey Carnright, McCaylia and Ben Plungis, Jordynn Alesia, Eric and Austin Jones, Jakob Payne, Front row: Hannah Carnright, Lucas Humphreville, Paige and Isaac Alesia, Lily Payne, Logan Humphreville and Kayden Ford.

4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills.
The **Haderondah’s of Old Forge** 4-H club news reporters **Lydia Bartel** and **Fern Bick** are reporting on Ocean Conservancy.

Did you know that planet Earth is composed of more than 71% water? Even though our area is not very close to the ocean, waterways across the planet are all connected. The members of the Haderondahs 4-H club recently participated in “Coastal Clean Up”, a world wide event that focuses on removing trash from in and around water. We worked on September 18 at Arrowhead Park in Inlet, NY.

The world sponsor of the Coastal Clean Up is the Ocean Conservancy and it is coordinated in NYS by the American Littoral Society. Locally, the Tug Hill Commission encouraged clean up of the Black River Watershed by inviting groups, clubs and individuals to participate as “Trash Bash Citizen Scientists” right in their own community. They supplied us with garbage bags, gloves and forms.

The Fulton Chain of Lakes is part of the Black River Watershed, which then flows into the St. Lawrence River and out into the Atlantic Ocean. We chose to focus on Arrowhead Park because we all like to go to this park. It has a fun playground and beach. Because it is at the end of 4th Lake, so we guessed a lot of lake garbage might wash up there, especially after a busy summer. We were right!

Part of the Coastal Clean up is keeping a tally of every piece of garbage found. According to one 4-H’er, it made the clean up “surprisingly fun” to use clipboards and tally our finds.

The biggest item of concern we found was cigarette butts. We picked up 205 in a clearly marked “tobacco free” area of the park. Other items we found were many long sections of fishing line and lots of foam pieces from dock floats. We also found a lot of food wrappers, and a few pretty odd things, like a hat and a whole lemon. We found three dead animals: two dead birds and a dead fish.

Now that the garbage pick up part of Coastal Clean Up is over for 2015, the types and amounts of garbage cleaned up all over the world will be inventoried. Understanding the type and location of garbage helps the scientists decide how best to stop water pollution.

In 2014, more than 560,000 volunteers in 91 countries picked up more than 16 million pounds of trash. You can check on the 2015 results by going to [www.oceanconservancy.org/our-work/international-coastal-cleanup](http://www.oceanconservancy.org/our-work/international-coastal-cleanup)

For our trash bash, we had six adults and seven 4-H’er kids working. One neat thing was that Andrew Hartsig was visiting from Alaska where he works for the Ocean Conservancy as the Director of the Arctic Ocean program. Inlet might be a long way from the Arctic Ocean, but Andrew helped teach us our world is connected by water, and cleaning up water pollution helps all animals and people.

Photo: Lydia Bartel and Fern Bick.

The **Merry Moos** 4-H club started off the 2015-2016 4-H year with a meeting in October at Salmstead Farm. Club members discussed upcoming events and activities for the year, and held officer elections. The next club meeting is scheduled for November 29th.

The **Schuyler Aggies** 4-H club had a meeting on Columbus Day. 4-H members attended Member Rec Night and participated in the 4-H Officer Training workshop.
4-H Club Information

Club Charters: Please remember that 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 30 days before you 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.

H & R Block

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Herkimer County and the 4-H Program is partnering with H & R Block this tax season!

If you are a new H & R Block client, we will get a $20 contribution when you file your tax return with H & R Block. The referral code that you to provide is 40010001083073.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication!

Winter Weather

Herkimer County is such a wonderful place to live, we offer the following information regarding Cornell Cooperative Extension and 4-H:

1. Sometimes the weather is bad in one part of the county and not in others. Use your own judgment when deciding to travel.

2. Sometimes it’s too late to cancel a meeting when the weather turns bad. Again use your own judgment.

3. If the Cornell Cooperative Extension office closes, evening meetings are cancelled.

4. If you decide not to travel to a meeting, please call the office ahead of time if possible.

If the Herkimer County Office Building is closed, the Cornell Cooperative Extension Office will also be closed. Canceling and trying to reschedule meetings is very difficult, so if at all possible, meetings will be held.

Again, use your own judgment and do not travel if you do not feel safe.
"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

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National 4-H Web address: www.fourhcouncil.edu
4-H Resource Web address: www.cerp.cornell.edu/4-H
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