Secretary Reports due the 5th of every month

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### 4-H HONOR SECRETARIES

Congratulations to: **Autumn Borek**, Barnyard Buddies 4-H Club; **Colin Bick**, Haderondahs 4-H Club; **Jordynn Alesia**, Kuyahoora Kaprines; **Carol Ann Eysaman**, Up, Up, and Away 4-H Club; **Mercedes Lewandrowski**, Merry Moos 4-H Club; and **Kendra Shaver**, Independent 4-H member for turning in their November 4-H Club Secretary report by December 5.

Congratulations to: **Autumn Borek**, Barnyard Buddies 4-H Club; **Haleigh Carney**, Foxy Trotters 4-H Club; **Colin Bick**, Haderondahs 4-H Club; **Jordynn Alesia**, Kuyahoora Kaprines; **Mercedes Lewandrowski**, Merry Moos 4-H Club; **Autumn Zwierrecki**, Schuyler Hillbillies 4-H Club; **Carol Ann Eysaman**, Up, Up, and Away 4-H Club; and **Kendra Shaver**, Independent 4-H member for turning in their December 4-H Club Secretary report by January 5.

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### VET SCIENCE

February 16-17
9 am -12 noon each day

Designed for youth in grades 9-12, the first day we will be meeting with Dr. Emily Green of the Herkimer Veterinary Associates. Dr. Green has spent time in Tanzania with the Doctors Without Borders program where she worked with farms. She did research on Brucellosis and how it effects cattle and the milk that they produce.

Day two will be spent at the Herkimer Veterinary Associates Office where you will experience “A Day in the Life of a Vet”. We will get a tour of the facility, get to watch a surgery, learn how to take vitals and all of the other things that go on behind the scenes.

The cost of the program is $20 for 4-H members and $25 for non-members. Pre-registration is required by February 9. Call Jenn for more details or with any questions about the program.
4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills.

4-H PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/HORSE COMMUNICATIONS

Thursday, February 26, 2015
5 - 8 pm
Herkimer High School

Horse communications has been added to the Public Presentation night. Registrations for both events are due to the 4-H Office no later than February 17. 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
Horse Communications will be judged on the same night as Public Presentations. Both events will be hosted simultaneously. Official rules for Horse Communications can be seen on the following website: www.ansci.cornell.edu/4H/horses/rulebook/edevents/Communications_Contest.pdf

4-H PUBLIC PRESENTATION IN OLD FORGE

Friday, March 6
4-6:30 pm (with pot luck munchies)
Old Forge

Can’t make the February 26 date for Public Presentations? Present in Old Forge instead. Please register for this event by contacting Jennifer Hartsig, 247-4924 or jphartsig@gmail.com, no later than March 1.

We need to have the names of each 4-H member who will be doing a presentation when you call to register.

A LITTLE INCENTIVE FOR DOING A 4-H PUBLIC PRESENTATION!

Each 4-H member that gives a public presentation on either February 26 at Herkimer High School or March 6 in Old Forge will get $10 off of their ticket to 4-H Day at Enchanted Forest Water Safari being held on August 6. Check out the article on page 9 for details on this popular 4-H day trip to Old Forge.

4-H DISTRICT PUBLIC PRESENTATION EVENT

The District Public Presentation Event is scheduled for April 11, 2015 at CCE Oneida County.

4-H STATE PUBLIC PRESENTATION EVENT

4-H New York State-level Public Presentation is scheduled for May 16, 2015 at Cornell University.
WHAT MAKES A GOOD PUBLIC PRESENTATION

What Makes A Good Presenter?

1. Practice.
2. Know your information well.
3. Use your voice to get your audience interested in your topic.
4. Look at the audience, not down at the table at your notes.

This YouTube website is a great tool for preparing for a public presentation. It presents live action teens showing how to put a demonstration together. It’s short, but well done. Check it out for tips on public speaking. Please make sure to ask an adult before going on any website. www.youtube.com/watch?v=WTytHTCkv8c

Tips For Giving A Food Presentation

✓ Make sure that the recipe is right for your ability level.
✓ Practice!!
✓ Either wash your hands immediately before beginning, use hand sanitizer, or wear gloves.
✓ Hair needs to be pulled back in a hair net, scarf, chef’s hat, or ball cap.
✓ Use an apron.
✓ Cover any commercial labels that are showing, such as a bottle of vanilla. White paper or masking tape placed over it works well.
✓ Label all ingredients (i.e. flour, salt)
✓ It is okay to pre-measure all but one dry ingredient – label it.
✓ Arrange ingredients on your tray in the order you will be using them.
✓ Keep surfaces clean with waxed paper.
✓ Tape a small paper bag beside you on the table for peelings, egg shells, etc.
✓ Clean as you go!!
✓ Use clear mixing bowls, if available.
✓ Use standard measuring equipment for both dry and wet ingredients.
✓ Include nutritional values and storage, as well as “how to’s”.
✓ If using a mixer, a towel under your bowl will deaden the sound.
✓ Before you display your finished product, clean up everything. Cover your trays with matching towels and then display what you have made.

HELP WANTED FOR 4-H PUBLIC PRESENTATION

The 4-H office is looking for some interested and ambitious 4-H members (10 years old or older) to serve as room hosts or hostess for Public Presentations. Please contact the 4-H office by February 17.

Room hosts/hostesses help with the following:
✓ Keep presentations in order and on schedule.
✓ Get your assigned room ready for the presentation.
✓ Assist the judge whenever needed.
✓ Introduce the presenters.
✓ Help presenters set-up and break down their presentation materials.
✓ See that the room is cleaned-up after all the presentations are finished.
✓ And finally, thank everyone for coming!!!

4-H WINTER ROUND UP HORSE WEEKEND

February 20-22

4-H Amboy Environmental Education Center

The 4-H Winter Round Up Horse Weekend will include clinics, speakers, hands-on workshops and numerous horse project activities. There must be one chaperone for every five 4-H’ers. The cost for 4-H’er and chaperone is $35 each which includes meals, snack, handouts and materials. Please contact Jenn to register.
The Farmers’ Museum Heirloom Seed Project will continue for 2015. 4-H members are required to grow the seeds and then exhibit the mature specimens at the Farmers’ Museum Annual Autumn Harvest Festival on September 12 & 13. Specimens exhibited at Harvest Festival will be judged and given awards.

Attention: This program is in jeopardy of being discontinued due to the fact that there has not been much participation at Harvest Festival. If your seeds do not grow due to weather please fill out the entry form with the reason for not entering. It is important to do your best to grow these seeds and participate in Harvest Festival.

Price for seed varieties will stay the same this year as last year. The Heirloom Flower, Herb and Vegetables will be $3.00 each and the Cloverbud Pumpkin and Cloverbud Sunflower are $1.00 each.

- **Heirloom Flower Garden $3.00**
  - Amaranthus
  - Forget-Me-Not
  - Larkspur
- **Three Sisters Garden $3.00**
  - Stowell’s Evergreen
  - Dwarf Horticulture Beans
  - Green Striped
  - Cushaw Squash
- **Heirloom Vegetables $3.00**
  - Green Nutmeg Melon
  - Yellow Plum Tomato
  - Purple Top Turnip
- **Heirloom Herb Class $3.00**
  - Catnip
  - Feverfew
  - Calendula

- **Cloverbud Pumpkin $1.00**
- **Cloverbud Sunflower $1.00**

Heirloom flowers, herbs and vegetables are unique. To take part in this program, please send your request indicating which group of seed packets you would like to order to the CCE office. If signing up more than one member, please indicate names and which packets they are requesting. Enclose a check payable to CCE of Herkimer with the order and return by March 6.

You will be notified when the seeds arrive at our office, so you can pick them up to save postage.

**NYS Ag Literacy Week**

In celebration of National Agriculture Week (March 16-20), volunteers throughout the state will read a book with an agricultural theme to second graders.

*Weaving the Rainbow* by George Ella Lyon, is a beautifully blended story of agriculture and art. The story will help students begin to make the connection between agriculture and its many uses and influences. Students and teachers will also benefit from hands-on lessons and receive follow up activities.

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.
Dairy Discovery
March 27-28
Dairy Discovery is a hands-on workshop held annually at Cornell on March 27-28. 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 2015 is Calf & Heifer Production Management. Replacement heifers are an investment in the future of a dairy. The heifer enterprise represents the second largest cost on a dairy farm second only to dairy feed.

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://www.ansci.cornell.edu/4H/dairycattle/Dairy Discovery/index.html

Pheasant Release Programs
The 4-H Office is taking pheasant orders for Herkimer County 4-H members. Handling costs are $2.00 for every 25 chicks. To order your pheasant chicks, please send your order and check to Cornell Cooperative Extension, 5657 State Rte 5, Herkimer, NY 13350, with the following information: name, phone number, number of lots (in lots of 25) by March 13.

Chicks must be picked up by 8:30 am on the morning of delivery. We will notify you by phone for the pick up date.

Tractor Safety Course
Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program open to youth and adults 14 and over will be held on March 31, April 1-2 in Clinton, NY.

Cost: 4-H members $25
Non 4-H members $35
Time: 8:30 am - 3 pm
Location: VFW in Clinton

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. Please call the 4-H office to register or go to https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/2015TractorSafety_221

New York State Guernsey Calf Award Application
The Calf Scholarship Award Program is sponsored by the New York State Guernsey Breeders Association for the purpose of encouraging those who do not presently own Guernseys to become involved with the Guernsey Breed.

A purebred Guernsey Calf will be awarded to the applicant who shows interest in the Guernsey breed and who has demonstrated the capabilities of developing the animal to its fullest potential.

Applicant must be age 9-15 as of January 1 of application year. You do not have to belong to 4-H, FFA, or a breed club to participate. Applications are due March 2 to Christel Axtell. Contact Jenn at the 4-H Office for a copy of the application.
### STARR
**STATE TEEN ACTION REPS RETREAT**

**When:** April 10-12

**Who:** Any 4-H Teen (13-19) interested in gaining leadership skills, networking, and having fun!!!

**What:** The state teen leadership event of the year!

**Where:** Youth Building, New York State Fairgrounds- Syracuse

**Cost:** $75.00 per person. Registration fee covers lodging, meals, and workshop supplies.

More information will be available soon at [http://sp.nys4h.cce.cornell.edu/events/Pages/STARR.aspx](http://sp.nys4h.cce.cornell.edu/events/Pages/STARR.aspx)

**Teen Advisors and Adult Volunteers**
An opportunity to build a sense of independence, belonging, generosity, and mastery through workshops related to skill development in leadership, public speaking, youth community action initiatives, and more. In addition, there will be lots of FUN with physical and mental challenges, and the Starlight Ball!

We’d like to see teens and adult chaperons/advisors from every county in the state participate in this exciting weekend event.

If you are a club officer or would like to be in the future, consider attending an awesome weekend of workshops, networking, and fun!

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### CONNECTING WITH KIDS WORKSHOP

**Location:** Herkimer College  
**Date:** March 5  
**Time:** 6 - 8 pm

This year’s theme is “STEM”. Come here from Alexa Maille, NYS 4-H Program Specialist and learn about Next Generation Science and how to spark youth interest in STEM with fun, hands on activities. Connecting With Kids is a free workshop for people who live and work with school-age children and youth.

You may call the CCE Herkimer County office with your registration at (315) 866-7920 or register online at [https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/March2015ConnectingWithKids_221](https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/March2015ConnectingWithKids_221) (or by scanning the QR Code) or email your information to herkimer@cornell.edu. Please indicate what agency or school district you are from, a daytime phone number and the name(s) of those attending.

### 4-H HORSE/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 14 in Morrisville. District Horse Communications will be held on a date and time to be determined.
- The District Dairy Bowl Contest will be held on Saturday, March 21 at South Lewis High School.
- If you are interested in participating, contact Jenn so practices can be set up.

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*4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills.*
### DAIRY 101

June 5 & 6 at Morrisville State College

This one night two day 4-H Dairy Camp will be held at Morrisville State College. 4-H youth ages 13-19 years of age are eligible to participate in this camp/college experience.

Topics for this year will include milk quality and processing. We will be visiting different processing plants as well as learning about how to produce a quality product for consumers.

The camp will include an extensive tour of the Morrisville College Foundation Equine Rehabilitation Center as well as possible visits to other industry-related businesses.

All sessions will be taught by Morrisville State College faculty and other professionals in the dairy industry.

The cost for the weekend is $100 per 4-H participant ($75 per chaperone). Watch the April/May 4-H Facts for registration information. For more information on this awesome program, call Jenn at the 4-H office.

### ALICIA KENNEDY

**4-H MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

In memory of Alicia Kennedy, a longtime Herkimer County 4-H member, the purpose of this award is to help graduating seniors who have been active in the Herkimer County 4-H Program. The fund is administered by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Herkimer County, 4-H Youth Development Program.

The selection committee made up of 2-3 “non” 4-H leaders will be appointed annually by the Herkimer County 4-H Educator.

### BRUCE FIELD

**AGRICULTURE AWARD**

**PURPOSE** - In recognition of his untiring efforts in the service of agriculture in Herkimer County, the Central New York Farm Progress Show, Inc. has set up this annual Bruce Field Agriculture Award. The purpose of this award is to recognize students from the farming community who have done outstanding work; and to encourage their careers in agriculture.

**AMOUNT OF THE AWARD** - One award of $300 is offered annually to a male student; and one award of $300 is offered annually to a female student.

**ELIGIBILITY** - Eligible applicants need to be seniors in a high school in Herkimer County or Herkimer County residents who are high school seniors attending a school outside Herkimer County. They need to be graduating in the academic year of the award.

You can find the application on our website [www.cce.cornell.edu/herkimer](http://www.cce.cornell.edu/herkimer). Go to Youth Scholarship Opportunities. You can also call the 4-H office or contact your High School Guidance Counselor for a copy.

Return the application to Cornell Cooperative Extension of Herkimer County, 5657 State Route 5, Herkimer, NY 13350, by May 1.
4-H CAREER EXPLORATION
June 30 - July 2
“University U” - Grades 8-9
“Focus for Teens” - Grades 10-12

This is a three-day event for youth on the Cornell University campus.

The purpose of this program is to provide youth with exposure to academic fields and career exploration; to develop leadership skills; to provide hands-on experience in a college setting; and to introduce youth to Cornell University. The event is made up of two grade specific tracts: “University U” for youth entering grades 8 - 9 and “Focus for Teens” for youth entering grades 10-12.

2015 Registration Materials will be posted in early February at http://nys4h.cce.cornell.edu/events/Pages/CareerEx.aspx Registration opens in mid-February.

WINTER WEATHER

Cornell Cooperative Extension and the 4-H Program has procedures and protocols for cancelling workshops, clinics, or meetings during winter months.

Weather can be bad in one part of the county and not in others. Sometimes it’s too late to cancel a meeting when the weather turns bad, so use your own judgment. If the Cornell Cooperative Extension office closes, evening meetings are cancelled.

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.

4-H DAY AT ENCHANTED FOREST/WATER SAFARI

Mark your calendars for the return of this popular event and plan to be there on Thursday, August 6 for some fun in the sun with your 4-H family!

Feel free to invite family and friends (even if they are not in 4-H) to take advantage of this great price. And don’t forget…if you do a 4-H Public Presentation on either 2/26 or 3/6 at our county-wide events, you will get $10 off of your ticket!

Watch upcoming newsletters for prices on admission tickets and combination meal/admission tickets and when they will be available for purchase. Call Jenn with any questions.

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 raise just to have money in your 4-H account.

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

The Barnyard Buddies 4-H club was very busy in November. Club members held a 4-H bake sale at Tractor Supply in Herkimer, attended Officer Training, and made snowmen crafts using socks, rice, fabric, buttons, and pins. The club members also started to sew part of their aprons, and took small bins and covered them with different designed fabrics.

4-H members also donated their sock snowmen that they made in November and December, to the Scot House in West Winfield. Members of the Barnyard Buddies went Christmas caroling at the Farmer’s Museum during their candlelight event.

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4-H members from the Club S.T.E.M. 4-H club were at SUNYIT on December 7 for the CNY FTC Qualifying Tournament. Club S.T.E.M placed 8th. We are all so very proud!!

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Members of the Foxy Trotters 4-H club are getting ready for Regional Horse Bowl competition in March. Practices begin in January. Please feel free to contact club leader, Sue Culver at sculver135@gmail.com if you would like to be part of this.

In December, the Haderondahs 4-H club held elections and programmed LEGO robots. The new Club Officers are: President - Alana Haehl, Vice President - Dawson Dunn, Secretary - Colin Bick, Treasurer - Jens Bartel, News Reporters - Fern Bick and Lydia Bartel, Recreational Leaders - Anna and Ellie Eddy. The club participated and distributed Cheese orders sold for the county wide 4-H fundraiser. 4-H members also sorted food for Thanksgiving baskets and were responsible for decorating the Lakeside Terrace.

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Independent 4-H members Eleonore and Natalee Collins and Kendra Shaver went caroling with family at the Farmer’s Museum Candlelight Evening in December.
Kuyahoora Kaprines 4-H club participated in the 4-H Cheese sale and club officer training. Club members participated in the Clinton Village Stroll Parade where they had a float. 4-H members made goat milk mozzarella cheese and had a friends Thanksgiving dinner celebration.

In December, Kuyahoora Kaprines 4-H members got together for their 4-H club’s tradition of making Christmas cookies and gingerbread houses. 4-H members also went sledding.


In January, the Kuyahoora Kaprines 4-H club learned how to make tin-punch lanterns. 4-H members filled their cans with water and froze them. Next, they picked out patterns to fit their cans and punched out the pattern with hammer and nails. Once finished, parents helped light candles so 4-H members could see their finished project.

On October 19, 2014 the Merry Moos 4-H club held a bake sale at Tractor Supply in Herkimer. Baked goods were baked and donated by club members and families. The bake sale raised $217.65. In addition to working at the bake sale, Merry Moo club members stood at the register to help sell 167 paper clovers. In October Merry Moo club members participated in a county wide cheese sale. Club members sold 2,021.00 in cheese.

The Merry Moos 4-H club’s elected officers attended officer training in Herkimer, and members went to the 4-H Member recognition night. Also, the 4-H members held their annual bake/cheese sale at the Stewarts in Middleville, and raised $562.70. All proceeds went to benefit the Middleville and Newport firemen.

Continued on page 12
In December, The Merry Moos 4-H club held a Christmas party at the Middleville rest home for its residents. The 4-H members provided baked goods and gifts for each resident and sang Christmas carols.

The 4-H club also collected nonperishable food items and other small gifts and donated them at RJ’s Pizzeria in Middleville. Collected items were included in care packages sent to soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. The club also toured the Herkimer County Humane Society.

In December, the Schuyler Hillbillies 4-H club attended the Farmer’s Museum Caroling event. Also, the 4-H club held a bake sale at the Tractor Supply in Herkimer. The club was able to raise a good amount of money for local families in need.

NYS 4-H FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The NYS 4-H Foundation and generous sponsors are pleased to provide scholarships to members for their accomplishments as a result of 4-H experiences, and to support future educational goals.

Eligibility Requirements

- Applicant must be eligible for 4-H enrollment. Youth who have reached their nineteenth birthday before January 1, 2015 are not eligible to apply for scholarships.
- Applicant must have been a 4-H member in New York State, or participated in a Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development Program for at least one year.
- Applicant must be enrolled or planning to enroll in an accredited university, college or technical school.

Scholarship Application Procedures.

Download the form and follow the instructions carefully at www.nys4hfoundation.org/programs/foundation-programs/opportunity-scholarship-program/ Applications can be sent electronically as an attached file to esearle@4hfoundation.org or mailed to NYS 4-H Foundation, 248 Grant Avenue, Suite II A, Auburn, NY 13201. The application and all required materials are to be received NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 16. Notification of scholarship awards will be made in June.
**ANIMAL CRACKERS**  
Saturday, May 2  
Cornell University

The focus for 2015 Animal Crackers is Horse & Beef/Sheep. 4-H project members (suggested age range 9-12) are strongly encouraged to attend (with their parents or chaperones). However, all youth 9 and up are welcome. Participants will get to meet Cornell faculty and students, learn about different aspects of animal care, interact and exchange information with professional producers, industry experts, and more! Hands-on workshops are planned for each species group.

The cost is $10 per participant and pre-registration is required. Let us know which tract (horse or beef/sheep) you would like to attend when you register.

**AMERICAN RED CROSS BABYSITTER’S TRAINING**  
March 30 & 31  
8 am -1 pm both days  
Mt. Markham High School

The purpose of the American Red Cross Babysitter’s Training course is to provide individuals, ages 11 to 15, with the information and skills necessary to provide safe and responsible care for children in the absence of parents or adult guardians.

This training will help participants develop skills in leadership and professionalism, basic care, safety and safe play, and first aid.

Youth participants must be 11 years old by the first day of the course. The cost for the course is $25 which is due by March 23 to the 4-H Office. Call Jenn with any questions.

**JUNIOR DAIRY LEADER PROGRAM**

If you know of youth in your area or regions who have an interest in learning more about dairy careers and leadership development, the Junior DAIRY LEADER program may be for them.

The program is a yearlong program for young people who are 16-19 years old and have an interest in the dairy industry, career planning and their own personal and professional development. The program starts in late September with a 7-day trip to Madison, Wisconsin to tour the Wisconsin dairy industry and to attend the National 4-H Dairy conference and ends the following August with a graduation ceremony and presentation. We will have 8 to 9 workshops in the program year.

Printable brochures and applications are available at this website: www.ansci.cornell.edu/prodairy/program/youth.html Applications are due by JUNE 30th. Please contact Debbie Grusenmeyer at 607-255-0656 if you have questions or concerns about the program or application process.

**PET PHOTOGRAPHY**

We all love to take photos of our pets. Did you know that there are some tips that could help you get a more exciting and interesting photo?

**Get Low** - Most animals are much shorter than we are, and so it requires us to get low and onto their level so that we see the world as they see it. So get down on your belly or knees when taking pictures of your pet.

**Hold Still** – If the camera shakes while you’re shooting, you will end up with a picture that is blurry. So be careful to hold the camera still when shooting.

**Use Natural Light** – Avoid using a flash. A flash could cause red-eye, and could frighten the animal. Instead try to go outside or take the photo inside by a large window.

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4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills.
The 4-H Government Intern Program, sponsored by the Herkimer County Legislature and administered by Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development Program of Herkimer County, concluded another successful semester.

Twenty-four students from five Herkimer County school districts participated by exploring current issues and learning more about the functions of their county government through the committee system. Students reviewed issues, toured county facilities, interviewed county legislators, and attended a county legislature meeting.

Students included Scheyan Moran, Courtney Green, Melissa Borner from Poland High School.

Tyler Miller, Kaylee Sommer, Jordan Thomes, Travis Williams, Elaina Rose, Myranda Abel, Morgan Stewart, and Megan Stewart from Central Valley Academy.

Gia Cherenzia-Cupolo, Mark Spina, Nicholas Spina, Melanie D’Amelio, Marina Kuleva, and Cassidy Lape from Frankfort-Schuyler High School.

John Szczesniak, Victoria Lee Stewart, and Cris Boerger from West Canada High School.

Camila Rios, Eva Marie Ricardo, Olivia Chilluffo, and Matthew Boyer from Dolgeville High School.

Key presenters involved in the success of this program included: Steve Dietz of the P.I.N.S. Unit; Chris Farber Herkimer County Sheriff; Kathleen Farber and Connie Shepherd from the Board of Elections; Linda Patten from the Department of Social Services; Thaddeus Luke Court Attorney; Mellissa Snyder of the Dispute Resolution Center; Sylvia Rowan Herkimer County Clerk; and Judge John Brennan Family Court Judge.

At the final session, the interns staged a simulated legislative mock meeting and provided presentations on current issues confronting county government.

Topics discussed were Improving School Meals, Youth Government Outreach Program, Welfare System Fraud, More Career Based Classes, Relocation of Remington Arms, and Approval of the Jail Project.

Youth thanked all of the participating Herkimer County Legislators for their visits and help in researching topics that made the program an engaging experience.
Are you a backyard beef producer? Is your goal to mow your lawn using animals or do you want to grow a profitable business? The NYS Beef Farm Business Summary is here to help! Using your records and information, you can learn about and track your growth in net worth, cost of production and income per animal.

Each farm participant will gain a greater understanding on their costs of raising an animal as well as identifying strengths and weaknesses of the livestock business. All of this info will help producers make better financial decisions and identify goals.

**Introducing the NYS Beef Farm Business Summary Program**

To help beef producers, large and small, whose numbers are growing across NYS, Cornell University and Cornell Cooperative Extension is working with customized software developed by the University of Minnesota to help beef farms analyze their financial and production numbers.

The final personalized report is designed to help quantify and identify strengths and weaknesses on the farm as well as cost of production. This information, in turn, is valuable to each farmer as they try to pinpoint optimal marketing channels.

Much of the starting information farms already have: animal numbers and ages, income and expense info for taxes, list of equipment or other assets as well as liabilities. If the farm harvests crops to feed the animals or to sell, that would be more data needed.

**How Will a Beef Farm Business Summary Help Me?**

A new project that ties into helping beef producers understand and use numbers to make their decisions is currently spreading across New York State. The Beef Farm Business Summary program is modeled after work done for years with dairy farmers to help them improve their businesses.

While many beef farms are not designed to provide full-time income streams, the info is no less valuable since producers require the data this software can generate to identify strengths, weaknesses and opportunities on the farm.

No one wants to subsidize their customers. Knowing cost of production makes it more likely the farm will sell into market channels where the income received will at least cover expenses.

Additionally, producers would also be able to see how their production system stacks up for return on investment, yield per acre and others.

For more details on the NYS Beef Farm Business Summary or to find an educator to help, please call Mike Baker, Cornell University 607-255-5923, mjb28@cornell.edu.

This project is supported by the Hudson Mohawk RC&D Council, NIFA-USDA Benchmarking Grant and NY Farm Viability Institute.
"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"

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