Herkimer County

4-H FACTS

June/July 2018

June

1	Registrations & Deadlines for… -Career Explorations -Meat Birds -Hog & Lamb ID Forms for Livestock Auction -All Lease Agreements for show animals
2	"You be the Judge" Dairy Judging, Tully
2-3	Communications Institute (Cornell University)
4	Registrations due for STEM Camp
4	Jr Livestock Show Entries Due!
5	Secretary Reports Due!
5	Livestock Marketing Meeting (4-H Office)
15-17	NY 4-H STEM Camp (Camp Shankitunk)
21	Registration deadline for Pullorum Testing
23-24	NYS FREE Fishing Day!
25	Pullorum Testing (4-H office)
26-28	4-H Career Explorations Conference (Cornell University)
30	Applications due for Jr Dairy Leader & Beginner Dairy Leader programs

July

4	CCE Herkimer Office Closed
5	Secretary Reports Due!
5	Bring your Farmsafe Posters to Fly Creek!
8-10	Farmers' Museum Jr Livestock Show, Cooperstown
9	FarmSafe Poster Contest Judging Day
12	Dairy Judging 101 Workshop, Garrattsville
17-20	4-H Horse Dayz (Fonda Fairgrounds)

August

2	4-H Day (Enchanted Forest, Old Forge)
5	Secretary Reports Due
12	Fair entries for non– animal exhibits
14-19	Herkimer County Fair
20	Exhibit pick up day
22-31	New York State Fair
26	NYS Hippology Contest

September

1-3	New York Sate Fair
5	Secretary Reports Due
12-13	CNY Farm Progress Show
22	4-H Livestock Show & Sale (Herkimer Fairgrounds)

Cornell Cooperative Extension Herkimer County

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

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4-H Honor Secretaries

Congratulations to: **Sasha Zaitseva**, Green and Growing 4-H Club; **Rider Morgan**, Kuyahoora Kaprines 4-H Club; **Madesen Spellman**, Merry Moos 4-H Club; **Seth Donahoe**, Milk Shakers 4-H Club; **Sabrina Reel**, Norway County Critters 4-H Club; **Cammie Marshall**, All Seasons 4-H Club; and **The Hawkes/Dyn family**, Independent 4-H members for turning in their March 4-H club secretary report by April 5.

Congratulations to: **Virginia Culver**, Barnyard Buddies; **Sasha Zaitseva**, Green and Growing 4-H Club; Kuyahoora Kaprines 4-H Club; **Madesen Spellman**, Merry Moos 4-H Club; **Seth Donahoe**, Milk Shakers 4-H Club; **Sabrina Reel**, Norway County Critters 4-H Club; **Cammie Marshall**, All Seasons 4-H Club; and **The Hawkes/Dyn family**, Independent 4-H members for turning in their April 4-H club secretary report by May 5.

Secretary Reports Due on the 5th of every month!!

COMMUNITY SERVICE AT THE UTICA ZOO

Herkimer County 4-H has teamed up with the Utica Zoo to grow vegetables for the zoo animals. 4-H members and volunteers will be maintaining and harvesting produce throughout the summer months. 4-H members and volunteers will also be maintaining and weeding the existing flower beds for the summer. It is not too late for 4-H members and volunteers to sign up with us for 1 to 2 weeks out of the summer to go to the Utica Zoo once per that assigned week and weed the gardens.

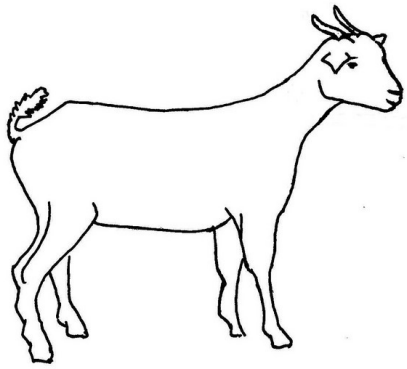
All participants will receive a t-shirt (indicating that you are there to work on the gardens), and free admission to the zoo on the day you work.

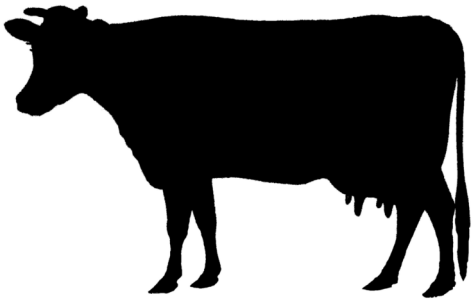
If you are interested in this great, fun filled opportunity, please check with the 4-H office to see what weeks are still available. Please give us your name and shirt size; and what week you are available to cover the care of the garden. For more information, please contact Wendy.

PULLORUM TESTING

When: June 25th
Where: Herkimer 4-H Office
Time: 3 pm

Pullorum testing will be done on Monday, **June 25** at 3 pm at the 4-H Office. All poultry being exhibited at the county or NYS Fair must be tested. Please call the 4-H office by **June 21** to let us know you will be coming and how many birds you will need tested.





Livestock Marketing Meeting

Tuesday, June 5
6PM

Selling a market animal in the September 22 4-H Livestock Auction? Then this meeting is for you. Come learn how to market yourself and your animal to achieve the highest price possible. Call the 4-H Office by June 1 to let us know how many will be coming.

Farmers' Museum Junior Livestock Show

ENTRIES DUE TO 4-H OFFICE BY **JUNE 4**

THE FARMERS' MUSEUM

Many 4-H members take part annually in the Farmers' Museum Junior Livestock Show. They come with their animals from nine counties including: Herkimer, Otsego, Chenango, Delaware, Montgomery/Fulton, Madison, Oneida and Schoharie. They show beef cattle, dairy cattle, dairy goats, sheep and swine. You are invited to attend - even if you don't have an animal to show. Watching the show can be a fun and educational experience. The Livestock Show is held at the Iroquois Farm, River Road, Cooperstown. Admission is free and there are many exhibits to look at and tents full of animals to visit. The highlights of events are as follows:

Sunday, July 8
5 pm - Chicken barbecue
6:30 pm - Dairy Judging Contest and Livestock Showmanship 101
7:30 pm - Ice Cream Social
Monday, July 9
9:30 am - Dairy, Sheep, Beef, Goat Showmanship followed by
breed classes, then market animals
5 pm - NYCAMH discussion on "**Water Safety**".
6 pm - NYCAMH Farm Safe for Kids Poster/ Slogan Contest Awards, Dairy Tent
Tuesday, July 10
9 am - Swine Showmanship followed by breed classes, market animals. Judging of remaining dairy, goat and sheep classes.
2:30 pm - Parade of Champions! Selection of overall Dairy Goat Champion, Livestock Champion and Dairy Champion
-- NO SMOKING IN TENTS OR BUILDINGS.
-- ALCOHOL AND DRUGS ARE PROHIBITED ON THE GROUNDS.
-- NO PUBLIC DOGS ARE ALLOWED ON THE SHOWGROUNDS EXCEPT FOR WORKING COMPANION AND SEEING EYE ANIMALS

NYCAMH presents

2018 Farmsafe for KidZ Annual Poster Contest!

NYCAMH (The New York Center for Agricultural Medicine & Health) is sponsoring the 27th Annual FARMSAFE FOR KIDZ Poster contest!

The theme this year is Water Safety: Farmstead, Farm and Recreation. These areas are hazards when living on the farm.

Poster entries will be judged on Monday July 9th, at the Farmers' Museum Junior Livestock Show in Cooperstown.

For more details on how to enter, please contact **NYCAMH** at **1-800-343-7527** or your local 4-H Educator or Print out a registration form at www.nycamh.org.

Bassett Healthcare Network
New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health

Dairy Judging 101 Workshop

Who? Dairy youth from NY, all ages

When? July 12th, 9:30 am - 4pm

Where? Silver Spoon Farm: 4241 State Highway 51, Garrattsville, NY

Why?

- To get better at dairy judging, however experienced you are (or are not) now.
- To gain skill and confidence in your reasons.
- To eat ice cream!

CONTACT: Sonja Galley with questions. 607-267-2011

galley94@vt.edu

ONLINE REGISTRATION

http://bit.ly/NewYorkDairyJudging101Workshop

Please register in advance. Registration fee of $5 per person. Mail to Silver Spoon Farm, checks made payable to CCE Schoharie-Otsego with Dairy Judging Clinic in memo. Can also be paid onsite but please do register in advance. (so that we'll have enough ice cream!)

- **Sponsors sought**. All donations beyond workshop expenses will benefit the Virginia Tech Dairy Judging Team Endowment.

Junior Dairy Leader Program

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

The program is a year-long program for youth/adults ages **16-19** years old. Must 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 also attend the National 4-H Dairy conference. The program 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: http://ansci.cals.cornell.edu/extension-outreach/youth-extension/jr-dairy-leader-program

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.

Beginning Dairy Leader Program

"Helping Young People Explore Post-Secondary Agricultural" Education and Career Opportunities"

The Beginning DAIRY LEADER program gives high school participants the opportunity to explore post-secondary agricultural education and career opportunities in a networking environment through interaction with faculty and students, college planning, and personal development.

Program Cost: $100

Eligibility/Requirements

- High school students entering at least their sophomore year. High school graduates are not eligible.
- Have potential interest in dairy industry careers.
- Have an interest in pursuing post-secondary education in agriculture.

Can reasonably commit to one Saturday program in November of current year and February, March, April, and June of the following year.

More information can be found at https://prodairy.cals.cornell.edu/youth/beginning-dairy-leader-program

Applications are due to **Debbie Grusenmeyer** by **June 30th**.

The 2018 Herkimer County Local Foods Map is now available from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Herkimer County in East Herkimer; and is being distributed to organizations and businesses throughout Herkimer County and the Mohawk Valley including all of the Mid-York libraries and farmers' markets located in Herkimer County. To view an online version of this map, please visit http://bit.ly/2018HCLocalFoodsMap

There are 59 producers on the map along with ten Farmers' Markets this year. Support for updating and printing the map was provided by a grant from Herkimer County Mental Health through the Farm Family Assistance Project.

The benefits of "eating local" are many including fresher foods that taste great and are often more nutritious than foods that have traveled many miles and days to get to your table. Also when you buy directly from local farmers, your dollars stay within your community and strengthen the local economy which helps preserve farming as a livelihood and rural landscapes as farmland too.

For more information or to pick up a map, please call Cornell Cooperative Extension at (315) 866-7920.

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Herkimer County Fair

Fair time is fast approaching, so here are some dates to remember. Non-animal exhibits can be entered at the fair on August 12 from 10 am – 2 pm. If you would like to help out on the day of judging, please contact the 4-H office. We need adults to help with evaluating; and youth to help as assistants.

All exhibits are released to be taken home on August 20 from 9 am – 11 am. Any exhibits not going to State Fair will need to be picked up at this time. Any exhibits not picked up will remain at the Herkimer County Fair. If you have any exhibits going 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 Exhibitor Entry card and Exhibitor Entry Statement.

Leaders and parents, now is the time to assist your 4-H members in preparing for the County Fair. An early start will help 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 Herkimer County Fair book with your 4-H 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 members to fill out their entry blank and exhibit tags COMPLETELY, prior to the fair. It makes for a much smoother day; and less stress on everyone if you come with all your paperwork completed ahead of time.
● Explain the conference evaluation style of judging to members. Conference judging helps the member feel at ease and in a more receptive frame of mind. Conference evaluation is often easier for the judge. The member gains a greater benefit from the experience. Conference evaluation eliminates the question of why an item received a certain ribbon, therefore, making the evaluation of project work more educational.
● Explain the Danish System. Within the Danish System, each exhibit - be it a birdhouse or a flower - is compared to the ideal for the exhibit given the exhibitor's experience & age. Exhibits are not placed in a anking, rather each item is judged on its own merit. Participants receive either a blue ribbon (excellent), red ribbon (good) or a white ribbon (worthy). Green ribbons (participation) are distributed to exhibits that are display only. The emphasis is placed on the process of learning, not necessarily the end product.

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!!!

Reminder STATE FAIR 4-H EXHIBITOR ENTRY CARD

Any 4-H exhibits chosen for NYS Fair must have the Exhibitor Entry card and include the Exhibitor Entry Statement filled out and returned to 4-H staff by the end of Herkimer County Fair PRIOR to picking up your exhibits. They both need to be included on every NY State 4-H Youth Building exhibit that will be evaluated. Only exhibits with entry cards and statements, filled out completely and attached by August 20, by 11 am, can go on to the State Fair. The Exhibitor Entry Statement is a fillable pdf form, found here: http://4hstaff.cce.cornell.edu/system/files/exhibitorentrystatement.pdf that can be filled out on a computer and printed, or printed as a blank form and filled out by hand. The State Fair Exhibitor Entry Cards will be on green card stock. Please toss or recycle any old entry cards you have.

4-H PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS & MAKE N' TAKES AT THE HERKIMER COUNTY FAIR

The 4-H office would like to encourage 4-H clubs to do a Public Presentation and/or Make 'N Take activities at the County Fair August 14-19. If there is a project your club worked on during the year, please consider demonstrating what you learned in the youth building for the public. Pick whatever day and time works best for you. We can help you with ideas and supplies if needed.

The county 4-H is sponsoring a STEM activity about fishing to go with the Herkimer County theme of "Oceans of Fun". Please plan to help showcase 4-H in the exhibit building by participating in interactive activities with the general public. Contact Wendy to reserve your time.

"You Be the Judge!"

Calling all youth, parents, coaches and 4H/Jr Holstein leaders interested in Dairy Judging

When: Saturday June 2nd, 2018

Location: Venture Dairy Conference Office, 6978 State Rte. 80, Tully, NY 13159 & Currie Holsteins, 7369 Rte. 11, Tully, NY 13159 Time: 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

8:30 AM - 12 noon: Overview of dairy judging principles and how to prepare oral reasons at Venture Dairy Conference Office

12:00/Noon: Lunch provided and sponsored by Nutreco/Trouw Nutrition and Select Sire Power at Venture Dairy Conference Office

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM: Practice dairy judging and oral reasons at Currie Holsteins. Bio boots will be provided.

Instructors: Dr. Doug Waterman and Kevin Ziemba

Who: Open to all youth interested in gaining exposure to dairy judging and reasons to be competitive at a county, state or national level.

How: Please send registration including how many will be attending and county to djc27@cornell.edu by June 1, 2018.

We look forward to seeing you!

Teen Leader Opportunities

There are many teen leadership opportunities that are available at State Fair, both in the Youth Building and throughout the animal barns for 4-H members 13 – 19 years old. There are teen leader opportunities in evaluations, poultry, cynology, GPS/GIS, fashion review, shooting sports, and sustainable energy. The youth building also has opportunities in Jr. Iron Chef, Robotics, and in the new Activity Zone. 4-H teens may also take advantage of working in our county booth with the public. This is a great way for teens to learn basic job skills, make new friends and take leadership role in 4-H. A $12/day premium for 6 hours of coverage will be available.

Junior Superintendents

These positions are designed for 4-Hers age 16 and over who wish to be involved in a much deeper State Fair leadership experience. **There are a limited number of spots and they fill very quickly!** Besides positions in the youth building, there are also opportunities in animal science. **First year Junior Superintendents are typically only be scheduled for 1 week.** A premium of $40 per day will be paid to youth selected to be Junior Supers. These youth should be highly motivated to serve and be the most responsible/hardest working members that counties have! Their roles will be key to the day-to-day success of 4-H activities at the fair. More specifics can be found in the handbook and the application procedures.

Youth Leader activities for 9 to 12 year olds – *NEW*

YOU ASKED FOR IT…YOU GOT IT! Counties have been asking for an opportunity for younger 4-Hers. This year 9 to 12 year olds can work in their county booths or in the Activity Zone, both under county supervision. A $6/day premium for 3 hours of coverage will be available.

4-H DAY AT
ENCHANTED FOREST WATER SAFARI

When: Thursday, August 2

Admission tickets are $28 per person. Admission with an all-you-can-eat lunch buffet will be $38 ($31 for those 3-7 years of age).

Buffet includes: hamburgers, hot dogs, grilled chicken breast, salt potatoes, corn on the cob, chips, watermelon and all-day beverages. The lunch buffet will be served from 12:30 - 2 pm so come at the beginning, middle and end and get your fill. Also included with the lunch buffet option will be all you can eat ice cream novelties. They will be served from 3:30-4:30 pm in the pavilion, which will be a great afternoon snack.

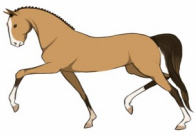
For those that choose to purchase the lunch option, you will have use of the reserved pavilion for the day to get out of the sun, store your stuff, etc. Only those purchasing the lunch option will have access to the pavilion.

Tickets will be on sale thru July 27. Tickets must be paid for in full before they will be given out. If you already have a pass to Enchanted Forest, you can add on the lunch option for $15 (8 and older) and $5 (3 - 7 years of age), which will give you the options as listed above. Feel free to invite family and friends (even if they are not in 4-H) and to take advantage of this great price.

And don't forget…if you did a 4-H Public Presentation at either of our county-wide events, you will get $10 off of your ticket! Call Jenn with any questions.

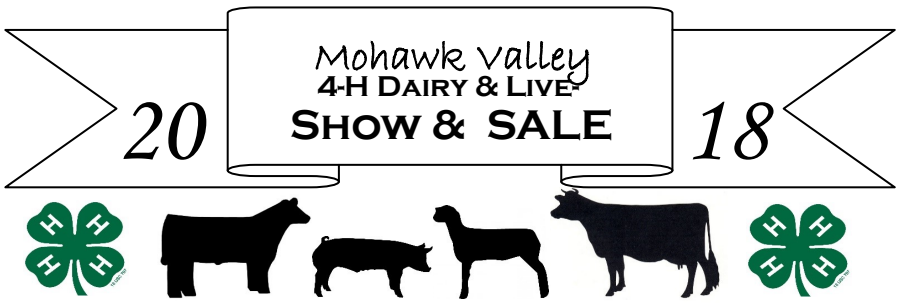
28th Annual 4-H Horse Dayz

Formerly known as "4 - H Horse Camp"



The Fulton-Montgomery 4-H Horse Program will be holding the 28th Annual 4-H Horse Dayz event Tuesday, July 17th through Friday, July 20th, 2018 at the Fonda Fairgrounds. We are pleased to invite 4-H youth from our surrounding counties to participate in this equine educational event. Our instructors will be covering a variety of disciplines including classes in Riding, Driving, Reading Horse Behavior, Showmanship, Trail, Farrier Work, Nutrition and separate tracks for Cloverbuds and Miniature Horses**. Please note: In order to ride or drive at a 4-H horse event within Fulton & Montgomery counties, 4-H youth must be evaluated on the specific horse they intend to use.** For additional information regarding the event please email Kyle Yacobucciky292@cornell.edu. 4-H Horse Dayz registration is due by June 7th.

2018 Fulton-Montgomery 4-H Horse Show being held on Saturday, July 21st, 2018 at the Fonda Fairgrounds. This year's judge is Andrea LaManque. Pre-entries are due to the Fulton-Montgomery 4-H office by Monday, July 2nd. Late entries will be accepted for a higher entry fee.



September 22, 2018

Meat Birds are back at the 4-H livestock auction! You must register and pay the $10 deposit for the birds by **June 1st**. It is required by New York State law to purchase a minimum of 6 birds at a time however you may order as many as you want. If you are ordering for multiple youth in your family be sure to have a couple extras to account for possible losses. Orders will be taken until **June 1st**. Once we have a complete order number we will know how much the birds cost but they will be no more than $1.65 per a bird, the more we order the lower the price. You must order your birds from us in order to sell in the auction. Jennifer will call you with the final price and amount owed after the order is placed. We will be ordering from NEPPA Hatchery in Fort Plain, NY. Birds will be available for pick up on **August 1st,** from the Herkimer CCE office. Time of pick up will be determined by hatchery, and communicated to participants by mid July.

The auction will take place on **September 22, 2018** at 5 pm. Enrolled youth must follow the Rules and Regulations established by the Mohawk Valley Show and Sale Committee. Expectations include record keeping and securing at least 2 buyers per a pen (2 birds) sold. Each member is allowed to sell one pen of two meat birds. Birds will be processed for buyers on Sunday **September 23rd** and must be picked up by the buyers that afternoon. Youth may process their extra birds at that time at their own expense and are responsible for pick up.

Any questions or concerns, please contact Jennifer. Go to this link to order your birds no later than **June 1st**! https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/Meatbirds2018_221

Also…
Those planning on selling a hog or lamb must send in the animal ID forms to the Herkimer CCE office no later than **June 1st**! This includes those recipients of the Earn a Project Award animals as well as any youth that purchase an project animal elsewhere. The chick order (see above) is the official registration for the poultry portion of the Show and Sale. Contact Jennifer if you need an ID form or if you are interested in participating in this opportunity!

4-H Agribusiness Career Conference

The 41st Annual New York State 4-H Agribusiness Career Conference will be held on **October 18-19, 2018** at SUNY Cobleskill and local agri-businesses. The conference is co-sponsored by NYS 4-H, the NYS Farm Bureau, and the State University at Cobleskill.

This career exploration conference is open to all youth ages 14 and over who wish to become more aware of opportunities with agriculture and also academic requirements for professional positions available in the various agri-business. It will feature mini-tours to farms and operations in the Cobleskill area as well as seminars, guest speakers and guided tours of the SUNY Cobleskill agriculture facilities.

Participants and chaperones will be staying at The Inn at Cobleskill. A participating fee of $95.00 per youth ($80 per chaperone) will include all overnight accommodations and meals.

Again this year, we are offering five scholarships for attendees. Please contact Jenn for the scholarship application or to let her know you are interested in participating in this trip.

4-H Earn A Calf

Any Traditional 4-H Member involved or interested in a 4-H cattle project can apply (previous winners are not eligible). Applicants must be active participants of the Herkimer County 4-H Program for at least one 4-H year prior to applying.

Please call the 4-H office to get application, requirements and information on the rules for the Earn-A-Calf Award. Winner will received $500 towards the cost of a calf. Applications are due October 1.

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TEEN WINTER WEEKEND

Three Herkimer County 4-H teen members participated in Teen Winter Weekend in Lewis County back in February. The theme for the weekend was "The Polar Express". **Danica Karn, Eleonore Collins** and **Fern Bick** spent the weekend hiking, doing team building activities and enjoying the outdoors at Camp Oswegatchie.

4-H TRACTOR SAFETY CERTIFICATION

On April 24-26, 13 youth from Herkimer & and surrounding counties participated in the 4-H Tractor and Machinery Certification Program held in Clinton and sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Herkimer & Oneida Counties and Clinton Tractor and Implement Company.

4-H Youth Development provides Tractor and Machinery Certification for youth 14 years and older. This certification allows 14 and 15 year olds to legally operate tractors and machinery while off the family farm. Farm safety awareness is a major focus.

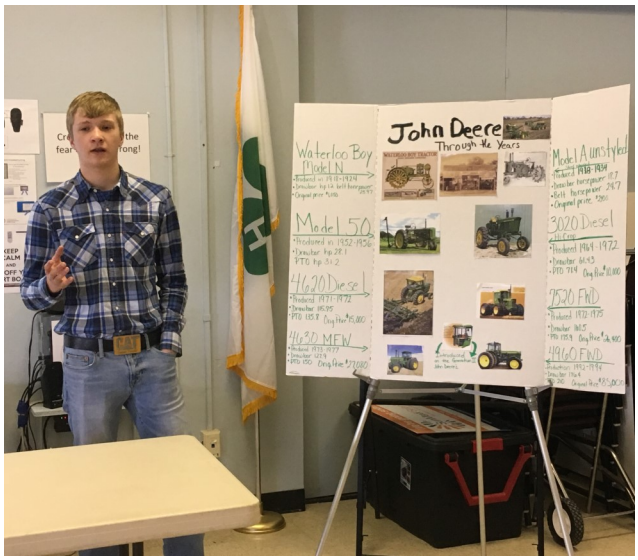
Class instructors included NYS Trooper Bernie Kennett; Bill Gibson, New York Center for Agricultural Medicine & Health (NYCAMH); Jason Taylor, Clinton Tractor; Erik Merrill, paramedic; Roger Neff from Bureau, Fire Prevention; Emily Mandresh from 811 Call Before You Dig and Dave Schieferstine.

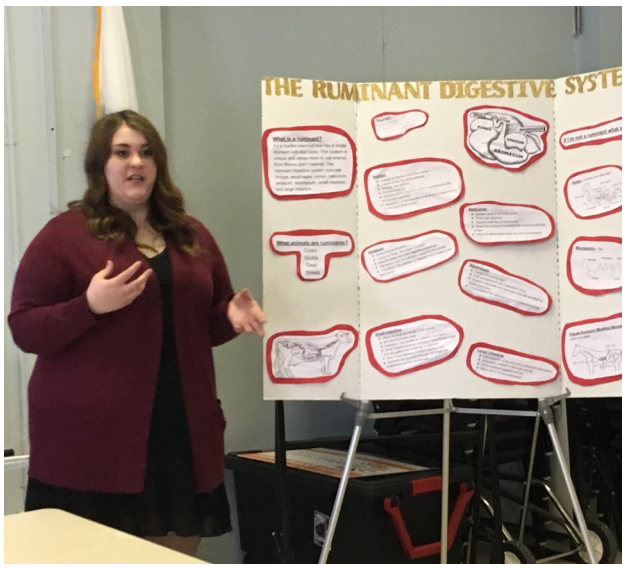
4-H Public Presentations

North Central District Event

The North Central District 4-H Public Presentation event was held on April 7 at CCE Oneida. Twelve presenters from five counties shared their Demonstrations Interviews and Recitations in front of four judges.

Representing Herkimer County in the Junior Division, **Fern Bick** received 1st place and **Darby Bick** received 2nd place (8-12 years old). **McCaylia Plungis** received 2nd place and **Harold Goodwin** received 4th for Senior Division (13-19 years old).





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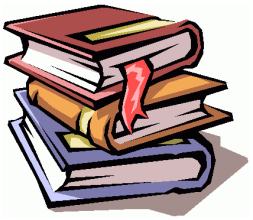
Connecting with Kids: Resource Sharing

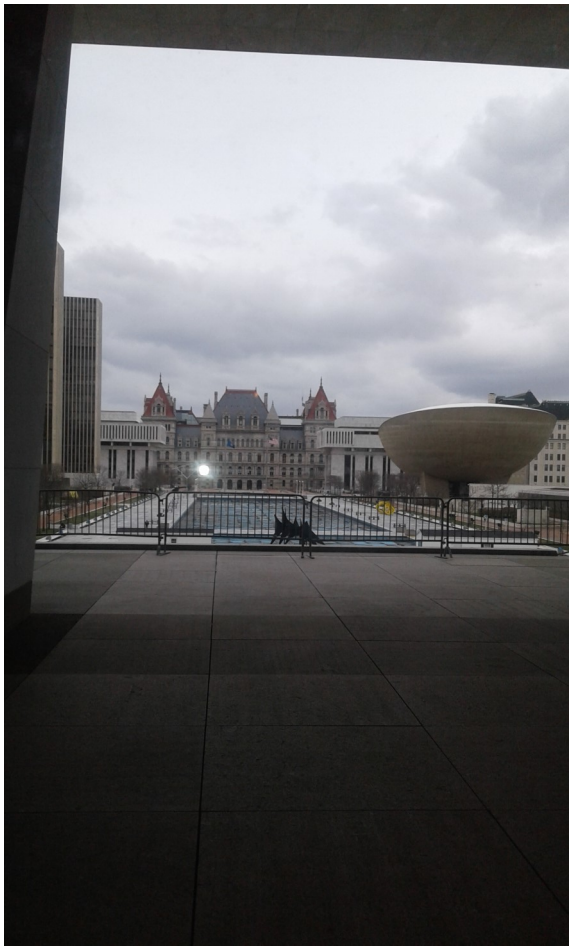


In April, eleven educators, parents and volunteers came together to learn about youth opportunities in STEM, Community Service, Clothing and Textiles, Home Interiors, Horticulture and Child Development, Exhibits Entrepreneurship and Competition opportunities. The workshop was led by Herkimer County 4-H Educator Wendy Richardson who shared great ideas 4-H is offering for today's youth.

Participants built Lego boats to see whose could hold the most pennies without sinking, sewed together a marble maze as a community service project, were shown simple screen printing with freezer paper, and much more. There was also lots of project curriculum for them to browse through and take home.

Participants earned 2 hours of educational training as part of the Connecting with Kids grant from the Slocum-Dickson Foundation.

4-H Spring Government Intern Program



Sixteen students from six Herkimer County school districts visited Albany on April 19, 2018, as a culmination of the 4-H Government Intern Program, sponsored by the Herkimer County Legislature and administered by Cornell Cooperative Extension, 4-H Youth Development.

The trip was chaperoned by Town of Webb teacher, **Tim Leach,** Herkimer County Legislator, **Peter Manno** and Cornell Cooperative Extension employee, **Wendy Richardson**.

The students had a tour of the Capitol and a tour of Senator James Seward's office. The group also visited the Court of Appeals, Corning Tower and the NYS Museum.

The 4-H Government Intern Program is offered by the Cornell Cooperative Extension, 4-H Youth development program of Herkimer County in the fall and spring of the school year. For questions on this or other 4-H programs, please contact the 4-H Office at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Herkimer County at (315) 866-7920.

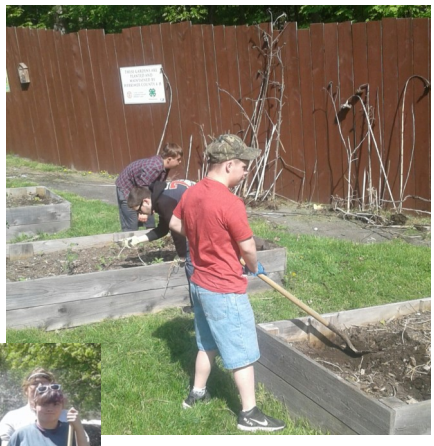
Utica Zoo Garden Clean-up day!

Herkimer County 4-H would like to thank the 4-H volunteers and 4-H members that came out on May 18 and May 20 to weed and plant the flowers and vegetables at the Utica Zoo. 4-H members and volunteers planted the raised beds with sunflowers, lettuce, kale, squash, peppers, beans, carrots, strawberries, cucumbers, borage and sweet potatoes. At the same time, flowers beds along the paths within the zoo were also weeded and cleaned up.

Herkimer County 4-H will be providing volunteers to maintain these gardens for the summer months along with zoo staff, right up to the fall harvest. Many 4-H families and volunteers will be coming in weekly to weed and water the new garden beds. Zoo staff will be helping 4-H members harvest the garden produce throughout the summer month to feed to the many zoo animals.

This is part of the Utica Zoo garden project and is open to all Herkimer County 4-H members and their families. We are so proud of all the hard work that was done by all who came. We appreciate all that you do to make Herkimer County 4-H part of our greater community.

Herkimer County 4-H clubs participating included: Green and Growing, Kuyahoora Kaprines, Occupational Hazards, and Independent members.



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

2018 Conservation Day

On May 23, nearly 700 sixth grade students from 10 Herkimer County schools participated in the Annual 4-H Conservation Field Day School Enrichment Program at the Diamond Mines KOA Campground in Middleville.

Participating schools included: Central Valley (Jarvis), Dolgeville, Herkimer, Little Falls, Mt. Markham, Oppenheim-Ephratah/St. Johnsville, Owen D Young, Richfield Springs, West Canada Valley and Poland. The students visited 14 stations and each received a tree seedling donated by the New York State DEC Saratoga Tree Nursery.

The stations and presenters included: **Lost in the Woods** /FR Piersma, FR Richardson and FR Hoag / NYS DEC Forest Rangers; **Conservation in Our Forests** / Michael Marsh and Daniel Welc / NYS DEC Lands and Forests; **Tree Planting** / Gerry Smithson, Rachel Radicello and Katie Whitcomb/ Herkimer County Soil and Water Conservation District; **Herkimer Diamond Quartz Crystals** /Cait Gannon/ Herkimer Diamond Mines; **Fisheries Management in NYS** / John Draper / NYS DEC Fisheries; **Whitewater Paddling for Fun and Safety** / Dale Gates and Craig Stewart / West Canada Paddlers; **Fire Prevention Fighting** / Roger Neff / NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control; **Deer Management and Aging** / Steve Heerkens / NYS DEC; **NYS Fur Bearing Animals /** Bill Ballou & Dale Wheeler / NYS Outdoorsmen Hall of Fame; **Wastewater Treatment Process** / Alvin Montana II and Maurice Luck III / Herkimer County WWTP**; Soil Health** / Olga Vargas / USDA - NRCS; **Recycling** / Jamie Tuttle and Emily Albright / Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority; **Bee Keeping** / Terry Ford; **Pet Responsibility** / Ed View / Herkimer Humane Society.

Congrats 2018 Graduates!!

Claire Marie Connolly is a graduating senior from Little Falls Jr/Sr High School. She has been an Independent Herkimer County 4-H member for 13 years.

Claire has volunteered at the Alpine Nursing home in Little Falls, the Herkimer Humane Society, "I Love my Park Day" at the Herkimer Home, and "Canal Cleanings" with Big Brother/Big Sisters. As an active 4-H member, she has participated at the Herkimer County Fair, the NYS Fair, County 4-H Public Presentations, Farm Safety poster contest at the Farmer's Museum Junior Livestock show, and Christmas caroling at the Farmer's Museum.

Claire has worked for the Herkimer County summer youth program at a nursing home. She has also worked at the Ole Sal's Café and Creamery. She has been very active in school and has won several art awards, been a Girl's State representative, a National Honor Society (VP), FBLA (treasurer, secretary), Student Government president, and also played field hockey (senior captain), basketball (senior captain), and softball. Claire is active in her church serving as lector, alter server and parish council member for Holy Family Parish.

Claire plans to attend Herkimer College as a Business major and transfer to a 4 year college.

Bryce Windecker is a graduating senior from Frankfort-Schuyler High School. He has been a Schuyler Hillbillies and Independent Herkimer County 4-H member for 10 years.

Bryce has been an active 4-H member, participating at the Herkimer County Fair, the NYS Fair, County 4-H Public Presentations, the Farmer's Museum Junior Livestock show, Dairy judging, and Dairy Bowl. He is also a member of the Junior Dairy Leaders.

Bryce has been very active in school as a member of the football team, OHM Holstein club, FBLA, and National Honor Society.

Bryce plans to attend SUNY Cobleskill as a AG Business major and return to the home farm.

Did we miss you? Send in your Senior photos to be featured in the next 4-H Facts!

Club News

The **Hawkes Dyn** family held a 4-H meeting in March to organize donations for the Herkimer Humane Society. Their pet drive was a huge success! They received a lot of support from the Richfield Springs Central School community and Burrstone Animal Hospital in New Hartford.

4-H members attended the Hog and Lamb workshop hosted by Top Notch Livestock in Jordanville. There they learned showmanship techniques for each species and were each able to make a hog waterer to take with them to upcoming shows. The workshop was very informative! Thank you to Top Notch Livestock and Jennifer Collins for all of the great information!

Anna Hawkes, Laken Dyn, Dylan Dyn

Hog & Lamb Workshop @ Top Notch Livestock, Jordanville

The **Kuyahoora Kaprines** did not hold a meeting in March. 4-H members participated in the County Public Presentations and club member McCaylia Plungis was chosen to go on to the district event. They did not hold a meeting in April.

The **Merry Moos** and **Mini Merry Moos** did not meet in March. Club members Denten and Logen Spellman, Brooklynn Williams and Dylynn Casanova read to the West Canada Valley 2nd Graders for Ag Literacy week and treated them to ice cream. 4-H members Madesen Spellman, Nathan Goodwin and Collin Petrie participated in County Public Presentations with Nathan being chosen to move on to the district event.

The club met in April at the Salm's house. Club members worked on their fair projects. The 4-H club made and painted 4 bird houses to donate to the West Canada Valley School Garden Club. 4-H members will be meeting with the garden club in May to give the birdhouses to them.

The **Milkshakers** 4-H club did not hold a meeting in March or April.

The **All Seasons** 4-H club met in March to plant seeds for their garden project. They did not hold a meeting in April.

Club News

The **Norway Country Critters** had a meeting in March to plan parades for summer and the theme for the 4-H Club floats.

The club also met in April to make their new 4-H t-shirts. 4-H members tie dyed their shirts which they are going to get the club name and the 4-H logo on. The members also watched the Wizard of Oz so they could pick out which character to be for the parade in the summer. The club planned the next meeting for May 1st to bake some cookies just to say thank you to our three local fire departments.

The **Green and Growing** 4-H club held a meeting in March to go over possible new meeting locations. The club discussed working on a club project of a large ocean display for the county fair. In April, club members made garden waterers from plastic bottles. The club also talked about possible dates for a club trip.

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

I went to the STARR 4-H Teen Retreat at the NYS Fairgrounds with fellow 4-H club member Autumn Borek and had a lot of fun. The State Teen Action Representative Retreat (STARR) is a three-day, fun-filled event where 4-H teens participate in a variety of workshops and activities meant to challenge, excite and further develop life skills. When we first arrived we were split up into roundtable groups with kids we didn't know. We had 5 roundtable sessions throughout the weekend where we had icebreakers, challenges and played games.

We also got to pick what workshops we wanted to participate in. I choose to make ice cream, learn about the gravity of the planets, and Life Net (where we learned about firefighters and emergency vehicles). My favorite part of the weekend was meeting new people and becoming good friends with some of them. I had a great time at STARR 2018 and can't wait to go again next year.

-Katie Livingston

STARR Teen Retreat

Post your photos on social media and tag us, using **#4Hgrowshere**

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