4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Twelve students from three Herkimer County high schools are participating in the spring 4-H Government Intern Program. Also, the students were invited to the Herkimer County Chamber of Commerce B2B Breakfast with state and federal representatives.

Six Herkimer County 4-H members competed in the District Dairy Quiz Bowl contest. Four of the six placed in the top 10 of their divisions. Bryce Windecker placed 4th in the senior division and will be representing Herkimer County at the NYS contest in April.

Youth workers attended the Connecting with Kids workshop entitled “Food Systems, School Gardens and Your Students.” Connecting with Kids is supported by a grant from the Slocum Dickson Foundation.

Fifteen youth from Herkimer and Oneida Counties participated in the 4-H Vet Science program. During the two-day program, youth toured the Herkimer Veterinary Association Clinic, learned how to do a healthy exam and got to participate in a herd health visit with Dr. Fischer at Salmstead Farm.

Fifty-two 4-H youth participated in Public Presentations, with six going to the district contest in April.

AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

Over 400 area farmers took part in trainings offered by the Central New York Dairy and Field Crops Team this quarter including: “Field Crop Pest Management,” “Winter Dairy Management Transition Cows - How to get Fresh Cows off to a Great Start,” “2016 Corn Day,” “Hay Crop School,” “Milk Outlook: How Things are Flowing” and “2016 Dairy Day.”

Ag staff organized workshops on “Landowner Rights & Responsibilities” and one on “Growing Hops in the Mohawk Valley.” Over thirty participated.

HUMAN ECOCOLOGY PROGRAM

Nutrition staff completed the “Choose Health: Food, Fun, and Fitness” 6-session curriculum from Cornell University in two of Michelle Gaspa’s 5th Grade Science classes at Benton Hall Academy in Little Falls. Students learned how to make healthier food choices and be more physically active.

Nutrition staff are piloting a new Breastfeeding Curriculum from Cornell University geared to limited income moms in Herkimer County. So far 11 participants have been enrolled in the program.