





4-H Facts



Cornell Cooperative Extension Herkimer County

April - May 2024

Secretary Reports due the 5th of every month!

April 	
8	Solar Eclipse
12	Registrations due for STAR
18	Horse Bowl Practice - CCE Oneida County
20	Alpaca Farm Tour - Canastota
27- May 5	Tractor Supply Clover Campaign
27	Splash! - Cornell University
 May	
1	Mendyka Scholarship Applications Due
1	Registrations Due for Utica Zoo Clean Up Day
2	Virtual Dairy Judging
3-5	STAR - Camp Shankitunk

 May 	
4	Animal Crackers - Cornell University
18	Utica Zoo Clean Up Day
18	Poultry Clinic - Madison
19-21	Capital Days - Albany
27	Memorial Day (CCE Office Closed)
June 	
1	NYS 4-H Horse Program Creative Writing Entries Due
28	Career Explorations - Cornell University

Follow Us on Social Media




@CCE Herkimer County
@Herkimer4H

NYS STAR



When: May 3-5

Where: Camp Shankitunk

Cost: \$125 per person

Registration Deadline: April 12

Ages: 13 - 19

STAR

There are some special treats in store for you this year starting with our Friday night activity, dinner/dance, workshops, and keynote surprises!

Contact Wendy at WLR45@cornell.edu to register.

<https://www.nys4-h.org/star>

Utica Zoo Work Day

When: Saturday, May 18
10am - Noon

Where: Utica Zoo

Registration due: May 1



Let us know t-shirt size(s) and a week or two that you can weed the gardens in the summer.

Call the office at 315-866-7920 or email herkimer4h@cornell.edu

Register here

<https://bit.ly/2024uticzoo>



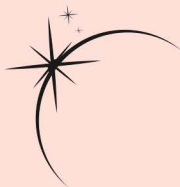
Plant Your Own Three Sisters Garden

**Free seeds for 4-H Families.
One set per family / household.**

We are distributing packages of seeds to create and Iroquois "Three Sisters" garden to 4-H families along with a guide for planting and learning about this important farming practice of the native peoples of the Mohawk Valley



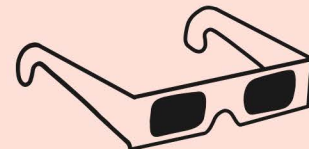
Contact the office at 315-866-7920 to get seeds for planting.



Solar Eclipse

When: Monday, April 8

Where: Across New York State



There is going to be a solar eclipse that will be partial or total in NY state. 4-H STEM PWT shared this link for fun solar eclipse activities to share with our 4-H members.

<https://ohio4h.org/solareclipse>

We have a limited quantity of solar eclipse glasses at our office for use by our 4-H members. Now, we have to hope for clear skies for viewing this event.

2024 4-H Career Explorations

When: June 26-28
Where: Cornell University
Registration opens: April 1
Registration due: May 15
Cost: TBD
Ages: 8th grade and up



Register here
<https://www.nys4-h.org/career-explorations-2024>

Primitive Pursuits 4-H Camp

Find the path less traveled!

Primitive Pursuits nature immersion overnight Camps offer **youth ages 9-16** development, survival skills and guided adventures in the great outdoors. This summer we can take campers further afield at the Arnot Forest with a historic lodge, cabins, and over 4200 acres of wilderness to explore. Choose a chill camp, an active camp, or one with a more focused skill.

All meals, lodging, star gazing and sleeping to the sounds of the nighttime forest are included.

Visit

<https://primitivepursuits.com/overnight-camps/overnight-catalog/>



SPLASH! AT CORNELL

When: April 27
10am - 5pm
Where: Cornell University
Cost: \$25 per person
Lunch provided.
Ages: 7th - 12th grade



A day to take classes taught by Cornell undergraduate students

Registration



<https://cornell.learningu.org/learn/index.html>

Capital Days 2024

When: May 19-21
Ages: 14-18 (as of Jan. 1)
Cost: \$275 per person
Registrations due **April 22**



Register through Jenn at
JLR34@cornell.edu

Information
<https://www.nys4-h.org/capital-days>



Registration
<https://bit.ly/3wPiGM5>

All youth and coaches are invited to attend.
Learn from Dr. Doug Waterman and Kevin Ziemba

VIRTUAL DAIRY JUDGING SERIES

7 - 8 PM EST

- May 2
- May 9
- May 16

NYS 4-H Horse Program Creative Writing Contest

Are you an Equine Enthusiast with an
interest in creative writing?
Consider entering this contest!
Entries due **June 1**.



<https://bit.ly/3ucr86X>



Contact Jessica Tyson for
more information at
JMS943@cornell.edu

4-H Horse Bowl Practice

Where: CCE Oneida
County

When: 6:30 - 8:30pm

Dates:

- April 18
- May 16
- June 20
- July 11
- August 15



Register
<https://bit.ly/499glcy>



Poultry Clinic

When: Saturday, May 18
10am

Where: Brouillette
Poultry Farm
Madison, NY

Showmanship, breeds,
and basic care will be
covered.



Register
<https://bit.ly/3SmDzWa>

VIRTUAL LIVESTOCK JUDGING SERIES



All Zooms start at
7PM EST

- **April 3:** Judging Market Swine
- **April 10:** Judging Market Sheep & Goats
- **April 17:** Judging Breeding Cattle
- **April 24:** Judging Breeding Swine
- **May 1:** Judging Breeding Ewes



Register
<https://bit.ly/3xjmsNN>

Animal Crackers

All Creatures Great and Small featuring Beef, Dog, Horse and Swine!

When: Saturday, May 4
Where: Cornell University
Cost: \$25 per youth
\$15 per adult/chaperone

Ages: Designed for 8-12, but all youth 8 and older are welcome.
Lunch provided.

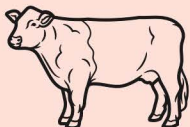
T-Shirt provided to youth participants.

Registration must be done through the 4-H office, so call today to reserve your spot.



Information

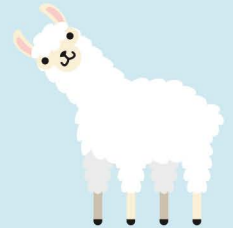
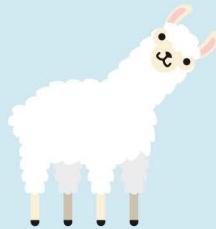
<https://bit.ly/3vh7ZBH>



Tour an Alpaca Farm

When: Saturday, April 20
10am

Where: Little Creek Alpacas
Canastota, NY



Register
https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/Alpaca_230

SAVE THE DATES!



June 15-16:
4-H STEM Camp
Camp Shankitunk

August 1:
4-H Day at Water Safari



August 13-18:
Herkimer County Fair
'Saddle Up and Go to the
Herkimer County Fair'



Scholarship Opportunities

Mendyka Family Scholarship: Offers scholarships to high school seniors and students already enrolled in college or other post high school programs who are looking to become First Responders (Police, Fire Fighters, EMTs) or K-12 Teachers. Application due May 1.

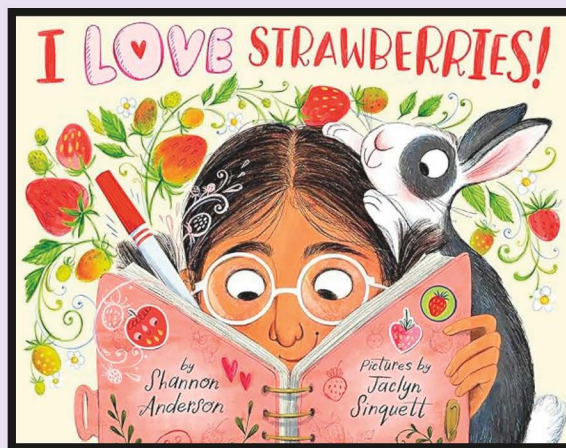
<https://www.mendyka.info/scholarship>



Ag Literacy Week

Thank you to all of the volunteers that read to 2nd grade students throughout Herkimer County for 2024 NYS Agricultural Literacy Week. All together over 600 youth from 9 Herkimer County School Districts were read the book "I Love Strawberries" and were able to participate in a strawberry related activity!

See more photos on our Facebook page @CCEHerkimerCounty



Hannaford Bloomin' 4 Good



Hannaford Bloomin' 4 Good Program chose Herkimer County 4-H to receive \$1 for each specially marked Bloomin' 4 Good bouquet sold during the month of February 2024 at their Herkimer, NY store. Herkimer County 4-H raised **\$43** in the Bloomin' 4 Good Program. Thank you to all who helped support us in this way!



4-H HONOR SECRETARIES



Congratulations to: **Halleli Brackett**, of the Green and Growing 4-H club; **Hannah Carnright**, of the Kuyahooro Kaprines 4-H club; **Olivia Pierce**, of the Wanderlust 4-H club; Independent 4-H members **Laken Dyn** of Hawkes/Dyn family, and Nathan Teachout; for turning in the January 4-H club secretary report by February 5.

Congratulations to: **Halleli Brackett**, of the Green and Growing 4-H club; **Hannah Carnright**, of the Kuyahooro Kaprines 4-H club; **Olivia Pierce**, of the Wanderlust 4-H club; Independent 4-H members **Nathan Teachout**, and **Laken Dyn** of Hawkes/Dyn family; for turning in the February 4-H club secretary report by March 5.

Spring 2024 4-H Government Intern

The 4-H Government Program, sponsored by the Herkimer County Legislature and administered by Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development Program of Herkimer County, completed the spring program with four students from three Herkimer County school districts. The focus of the program is on Youth Voice for Community Change. The students interviewed members of their community and researched issues that were important to them. Students debated different issues, toured county facilities, interviewed county legislators, and attended a county legislature meeting.

Participants were **Annamarie Lyman** from Central Valley Academy; **Johnny Campagna** and **Leslie Xio** from Herkimer High School; and **Daniel Brutsky** from Mount Markham High School. Key presenters spoke to students about their roll in local government. (*Bob Hollum, Sheri Ferdula, Kim S. Tranter, Robert Hoyt, Linda Patten, Joe Carlesimo, Garet Livermore, several staff at the DMV, and Judge Thad Luke*).

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

- Mental health event for High School students
- Mental health days at Central Valley Academy
- Renovation of the Palmer House for affordable housing

The Herkimer County Legislature looks forward to the youth participating to hear what youth ideas for change and progress in the county will be.



VET SCIENCE

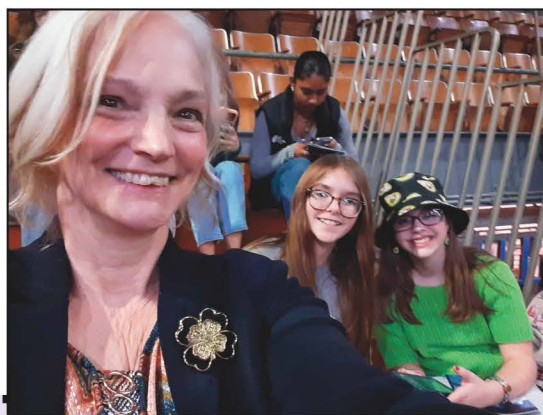
Youth from Herkimer & Oneida County finished a four-session vet science program. They had the opportunity to visit DJ Farm (a horse farm), Insight Dairy Farm, Pet Zotics, and Herkimer Veterinary Associates. Thank you to all of the businesses that opened their doors to help educate our youth on the different types of animals and what goes into their veterinary care.

See more photos on our Facebook page @CCEHerkimerCounty



District Dairy Quiz Bowl

Congratulations to **Addison** and **Erin Brown** for competing in the District Dairy Quiz Bowl competition on March 9 at CCE Lewis County



FASHION SHOW AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY

The 40th annual student fashion show at Cornell University was so much fun. The first thing 4-H guests did is take a tour behind the scenes. We got to see some of the workshops and galleries of the College. We also got to go behind the stage before the show started where we each got a gift bag. There were a lot of people back there; designers, models, etc. all getting ready for the show to start. From where we sat to watch the show, we had a perfect view of the runway and the models. My favorite design was one of the conversion dresses. It was a short, puffy white dress that changed into a long dress that was white on top and had a silky floral skirt. Overall, I had a really great time and I definitely want to go again.

By **Coco Brackett**, Secretary of Green & Growing 4-H club

WINTERFEST

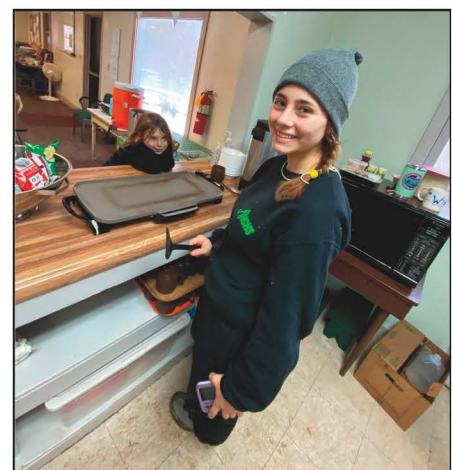
Before we left Winterfest I had already asked my mom when we could come back! My favorite parts from the weekend was meeting new friends, spending time with my mom, learning to cross-country ski AND playing capture the flag! That was my favorite activity, especially at night. I also enjoyed working in the kitchen. We ate really well. It was my first time sleeping in a bunk bed and my mom was so proud that I didn't jump bunk to bunk, lol. I can't wait to attend more 4-H activities so I can learn new things and see my friends again.

By **Nikolai Glova**, Independent 4-H Member



I liked that Winterfest was very engaging and fun. We did a lot of activities like skiing, snowshoeing, and the winter Olympics. The food was good and there was even enough for seconds. I will say that Winterfest was fun and you should try it out for sure.

By **Gami Brackett**, Green & Growing 4-H club



UTICA ZOO VISIT

The task has fallen to me to recount the recent visit made by the **Green and Growing 4-H club** to the Utica Zoo. It was a cold but snowless day making it my first snowless snow shoeing activity. We entered the ticket hall where we paid the entrance fee required by every visitor and made our way to the auditorium next door to the tamarin and reptile exhibits and upstairs from the habitats of creatures not on display.

We proceeded to listen to the educational speaker at the zoo give an immensely informative talk. He told us that the official name for a four-stomached animal is a ruminant as opposed to a two-stomached animal called a pseudo ruminant. He told us that the Utica Zoo has a variety of ruminants as well as pseudo ruminants among which are the muntjacs, the long horned sheep, and the camels.

After his speech we conducted an exercise to help us better understand the ruminant's digestive system. Miss Wendy led us in the activity helping to make sure we understood the instructions. We used various ingredients to simulate different parts of a ruminant's digestive system: carbonated water for the gastric acid, crackers for food, and water for saliva. We went through a complex sequence of adding soda and mashing, sometimes transitioning from plastic bag to plastic bag, and ending with a massive hunk of soggy washed and leached crackers. In the end we all had a thorough knowledge of the inner workings of a ruminant's digestion process, and the horrors of soggy mashed up crackers.

We were then encouraged to wander the zoo grounds watching in awe as the many animals interacted with their surroundings and each other. Most of us were able to listen to a talk on the golden lion tamarins which was an invaluable insight into the lives of the intelligent little creatures. We walked the North American and the African trail, with lots of breaks for "oohs" and "ahhs" and even posed for a picture on the big chair in between the two trails.

The zoo visit is definitely one I can recommend without any disturbance to my conscience, and I would go back there with the 4-H group. If the weather allowed I definitely would have enjoyed the snow shoeing, but alas not this year. I encourage any other 4-H groups out there to bring their members on a trip to the Utica Zoo.

By **Daniel Busch**, Green and Growing 4-H club



CLUB NEWS

The **Green and Growing 4-H club** met in January. Members took time to review what makes a strong Public Presentation and discussed their topic ideas. Then members created scrapbook pages to display their various 4-H participation and activities in a scrapbook. Some members were new to the idea of scrapbooking and left excited to do more. Members will insert their own photos at a later time.

The club met at the Utica Zoo in February to learn about ruminates at the zoo. Zoo staff Zac Hughes spoke to the group about the ruminant animals at the Utica Zoo and their diets. The club members then did the lesson Ruminant Navigation with 4-H Educator Wendy Richardson when they learned about the 3 or 4 chamber stomachs of Ruminant animals and got to experience how digestion works.

Congratulations to club member **Gamliel Brackett** for having his design chosen for this year's Winterfest 2024 mug design by the Cornell YNOE PWT.

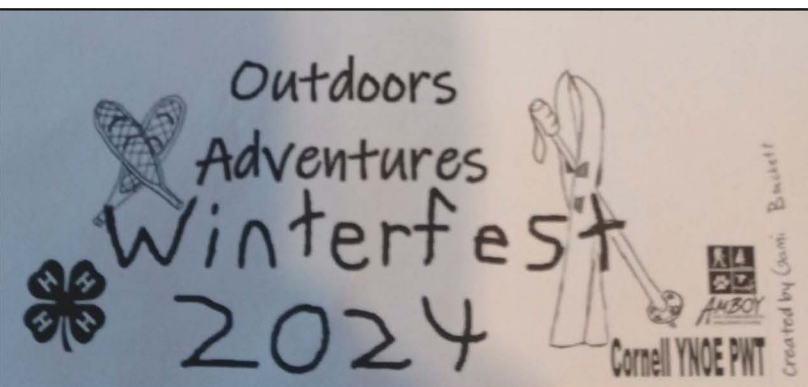


The **Wanderlust 4-H club** met in January at the Mohawk Homestead for crafts and visiting. The 4-H members did a craft with residents and shared a snack while they enjoyed talking and sharing. The residents loved it! They also met at the Herkimer Library for games. The 4-H member did crafts with melting beads and played board games. The club had a field trip to a goat and chicken farm and learned about the farm's setup. They helped weigh goats and got to play with the goats and dogs as well. It was a terrific time ending with Hot Cocoa!

The club was very busy in February. They met at the Herkimer Library for crafts and game and introduction for a new family to 4-H. The club members also held a Valentine's Day party, where members had snacks, decorated bags, passed out Valentine cards, and made clay items. The club also met for a sewing class to make pincushions. The members sewed either by hand or with a sewing machine. Those using a machine also got a brief tutorial of threading and beginner safety for sewing machines. The club also met for sledding that was so cool, with snacks, and s'mores after.

The club is planning on a cheese making activity in March.

Submitted by **Olivia Pierce**, club secretary



Independent members of the **Hawkes and Dyn family** did not hold a 4-H meeting in January. Submitted by **Laken Dyn**.

The **Kuyahoorra Kaprines 4-H club** did not hold a meeting in December. Club members are working on their Public Presentation ideas. Submitted by **Hailey Carnright**, Club Secretary

The **Milkshakers 4-H club** held their January meeting. Club members are planning a sledding party if the weather cooperates. Submitted by **Mason Donahoe**, club secretary

Nathen Teachout worked on his dairy judging and is thinking of ideas for the fair.

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Herkimer County
5657 State Route 5
Herkimer, NY 13350

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4-H Youth Development Staff

Jennifer Collins: 4-H Extension Educator, jlr34@cornell.edu
Wendy Richardson: 4-H Program Educator, wlr45@cornell.edu
Mary Franklin: Administrative Assistant, mf566@cornell.edu
Barbara Johnson: Administrative Assistant, bmj9@cornell.edu

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