Steuben County 4-H Members Participate in National Dairy and Livestock Contests!

Paige Demun, 10th year Dairy Dreamers 4-H member, competed in the **2015 National Junior Dairy Management Contest** during the All-American 4-H Dairy Show Event in Harrisburg, PA. Paige earned her spot on this team by placing 4th in the Sr. Division at the 2015 NYS Fair 4-H Dairy Challenge Contest. The NYS 4-H Dairy Management Team placed 3rd. Participation provides an excellent opportunity to evaluate top quality animals, gain experience in evaluation and decision-making, and demonstrate knowledge and skills in dairy management through various different exercises. Paige also earned a spot on the **2015 NYS 4-H Dairy Judging Team** that placed 6th overall and 5th in oral reasons at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, KY. Paige earned her spot on this team by placing 9th at the 2015 NYS Fair 4-H Dairy Judging Contest. The team spent the first two days of the trip practicing judging and oral reasons on their way to KY. The contest consisted of ten classes of various breeds. Dairy Judging requires participants to understand the concepts of dairy cow conformation and provide sets of oral reasons for choosing one cow over another.

Michelle Parsels, 11th year Howard Hillbillies 4-H member, who placed 8th in the 2014 NYS Fair 4-H Livestock Judging Contest earned a spot as a member of the **NYS 4-H Livestock Judging Team** that competed at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, KY. Livestock Judging requires participants to understand the concepts of the conformation of the particular species and provide oral reasons for choosing one animal over another. The contest comprised of judging eleven classes of livestock (beef, swine, sheep, and meat goat), giving reasons on four classes, and answering questions on three classes. The team visited various farms on their way to KY to practice judging and giving oral reasons. Michelle reflects “Being able to go to Louisville to compete is a once in a life time opportunity. When you are there, its a breath-taking experience. I was the second youngest competitor out of everyone that competed. I learned more in the 5 days I was down there then I have doing anything else. We went to farms at two colleges, went to an amazing sheep farm, and practiced giving reasons a lot. It wasn't until I was down there that I realized how important public speaking is. I talked to many people that I didn't know but they taught me so much because I talked with them. The most important part of our trip was definitely the friends we made, after judging about 40 sheep in one day, there was a lot of people we met.”
## Upcoming Events

**January** TBA – Dairy Quiz Bowl Practices  
TBA – Horse Bowl/Hippology Practices

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<td>4 Re-enrollment deadline to exhibit at 2016 Fair Tractor &amp; Machinery Operation Course Registration Due Market Beef Steer &amp; Heifer ID’s Due, Dairy Steer ID’s Due</td>
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<td>4-H Livestock Advisory Meeting 7 p.m. South Conference</td>
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<td>4-H Dairy Advisory Meeting, 1-3 p.m. County Office Building, F-1 Dog Obedience Classes @ Hillside Children’s Center, Snell Farm, Bath 6-8 p.m.</td>
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<td>16 (CLOVERBUD DAY 10-11:30 a.m. County Office Building Public Presentation Workshop 1-2:30 p.m. County Office Building)</td>
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<td>Dog Obedience Classes @ Hillside Children’s Center, Snell Farm, Bath 6-8 p.m.</td>
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|        | Tractor & Machinery Course 7-9 p.m. County Office Building, South Conference |        |        |        |        |  

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**The Cornell Cooperative Extension Office is located on the first floor of the Steuben County Office Building, 3 East Pulteney Square, Bath, NY 14810  Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday Phone: 607-664-2300**

### 4-H Program Committee

- **Sharon Bartoo**…………………………………………………………Bath  
- **Rachael Draper**………………………………………………Hammondsport  
- **Jennifer Hammond**……………………………………………Bath  
- **Julie Lawson**………………………………………………………Addison  
- **Nicole Luckenbach**………………………………………………Bath  
- **Tracey McCaig**………………………………………………………Jasper  
- **Donna Walker**………………………………………………………Piffard  

**Legislative Representatives:**  
- **Hilda Lando**………………………………………………………Corning  
- **Bill Peoples**………………………………………………………Addison  

**4-H Program Staff**  
- Kimberly S. Randall, 4-H Community Educator  
- Jenny Groen, 4-H Program Educator  
- Loree Symonds, 4-H Community Educator
### February

TBA - Dairy Judging Practices, Cow Colleges Saturdays 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

TBA Dog Obedience classes at Hillside Children’s Center, Snell Farm, Bath some Thursdays 6-8 p.m.

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<td>National Swine Judging entries Due</td>
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<td>Tractor &amp; Machinery Course 7-9 p.m. County Office Building, South Conference</td>
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<td>Backyard Bird Count</td>
<td>CCE OFFICE CLOSED</td>
<td>National Beekeeping Essay Contest Due</td>
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<td>Public Presentations 9a.m.-12p.m.; 1-3 p.m.; Horse Communications 1-3 p.m.</td>
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### March

TBA Dog Obedience classes at Hillside Children’s Center, Snell Farm, Bath some Thursdays 6-8 p.m.

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<td>Registration due to CCE for Spring Garden Meeting NYS Guernsey Calf Award Application Due</td>
<td>NY Holstein Association Inc, Calf Scholarship Application Due</td>
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<td>Tractor &amp; Machinery Course Driving Test 1-4 p.m. Location TBA</td>
<td>Tractor &amp; Machinery Course Written Test 7-9 p.m. County Office Building, South Conference</td>
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<td>March Dog Madness Registration &amp; Payment Due</td>
<td>National Agriculture Day</td>
<td>National Agriculture &amp; Ag</td>
<td>Literacy Week</td>
<td>19 March Dog Madness @ Cornell University Maple Weekend</td>
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<td>Maple Weekend</td>
<td>Pheasant Chick Order Due to CCE Office</td>
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<td>Market Chick Orders due to CCE office with payment</td>
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<td>District Presentations &amp; Regional Horse Communication @ Milllakes Maple Weekend</td>
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<td>Cornell Vet School Open House NTL 4-H Conference</td>
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<td>Maple Weekend</td>
<td>Animal Crackers Registration Due</td>
<td>Clothing Evaluations @ N. Cohocton Methodist Church 3-5 p.m.</td>
<td>11 Animal Crackers Registration Due 4-H National</td>
<td>NYSAAF &amp; NYSSSA Scholarship Applications due</td>
<td>Maple Weekend</td>
<td>Clothing Evaluations @ N. Cohocton Methodist Church 3-5 p.m.</td>
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<td>Animal Crackers Registration Due</td>
<td>Clothing Evaluations @ N. Cohocton Methodist Church 3-5 p.m.</td>
<td>Tractor Conference 4-H National</td>
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<td>Clothing Evaluations @ CCE Office 3-5 p.m.</td>
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<td>NYS Dairy Bowl Contest @ Cornell</td>
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<td>1 First Day to get Animal Health Certs for all NYS Fairs including Steuben County Fair</td>
<td>NEW MEMBER DEADLINE to Exhibit at 2016 Steuben County Fair</td>
<td>4-H Clothing Revue, Avoca School 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>4-H Clothing Revue, Avoca School 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>4-H Clothing Revue, Avoca School 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>4-H Clothing Revue, Avoca School 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Animal Crackers @ Cornell University</td>
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Please check [www.putknowledgetowork.org](http://www.putknowledgetowork.org) or [https://www.facebook.com/steubens4H/](https://www.facebook.com/steubens4H/) for the most current dates and information or any changes that may occur.
Office News

4-H Livestock Advisory Committee
The Steuben County 4-H Livestock Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, January 5 at 7 p.m. at the Steuben County Office Building, Bath, upstairs in South Conference room. Anyone interested in being a member of the 4-H Livestock Advisory Committee are invited to attend this meeting. All CCE volunteers including Advisory Committee members will need to be an approved current volunteer including having a current volunteer application completed along with the background check which has been approved within the last 3 years. The 4-H Livestock Advisory Committee will meet approximately 7 times a year (October, January, March, June, July, August, September) in Bath. The August meeting is the Monday evening of the fair at the fairgrounds. If you have any questions or are interested in joining the committee please contact Kim at 607-583-3185 or at ksb3@cornell.edu.

4-H Dairy Advisory Committee
The Steuben County 4-H Dairy Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, January 7 from 1-3 p.m. at the Steuben County Office Building, Bath, in F1 room. Anyone interested in being a member of the 4-H Dairy Advisory Committee are invited to attend this meeting. All CCE volunteers including Advisory Committee members will need to be an approved current volunteer including having a current volunteer application completed along with the background check which has been approved within the last 3 years. The 4-H Dairy Advisory Committee has in the past only met once a year. If you have any questions or are interested in joining the committee please contact Kim at 607-583-3185 or at ksb3@cornell.edu.

Cloverbud Day!!!
Saturday, January 16, 2016, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Just for Cloverbuds!

Calling ALL 4-H Cloverbuds from the county, a special day just for you!
Join us January 16th from 10-11:30 a.m.
County Office Building, Bath
We have 3 fun activities planned!
Station 1: Craft Time! – Sew much fun!!!
Station 2: Cooking Project – Learn to decorate!
Station 3: Show & Tell – bring a favorite item from home!

TEENS (14 & Up): We will also need your help! This is a wonderful opportunity to gain Jr. Leader experience!

You MUST pre-register so we can prepare materials! Registrations form included as insert.

- See more at: http://putknowledge2work.org/events/2015/11/21/cloverbud-day#sthash.ZW6eouBY.dpuf
2016 4-H Award Trips Selections

Congratulations to the following 4-H members who were selected by the 4-H Awards Committee to attend the following 4-H Award Trips based on their completion of their Senior Summary Report by the September 14, 2015 deadline. The following member’s will be receiving more information closer to the event. If you were selected to attend one of these trips including as an alternate and know you will or will not be able to attend please contact Kim Randall at ksb3@cornell.edu or 607-583-3185. If you have any questions regarding these trips please contact Kim.

Citizenship Washington Focus Washington, D.C. (Sunday, July 10 -Saturday, July 16, 2016)
-You should have an interest in visiting Washington D.C. and learning about our federal government.
Selected are Madeleine Gurecki and Charlie Coley.
1st Alternate - Raven Foote, 2nd Alternate – Robert Murphy, 3rd Alternate – Michael Feinman

Capital Days, Albany (Sunday evening, May 15 – Tuesday, May 17, 2016) – Please note for 2016 this event has been changed to May instead of March. Selected are Brandon Sahrle and Kaitlin Matthews. 1st Alternate - Jessica Lawson, 2nd Alternate-Anna VonHagn, 3rd Alternate-Michael Feinman

**Note: The same 4-H member cannot attend Capital Days & Citizenship-Washington Focus in the same year.

State Teen Action Rep Retreat (STARR) (Friday evening April 29 – Sunday, May 1, 2016) NYS Fairgrounds – Selected are Peter Kelly, Ashlee Zschoche, Madeleine Gurecki, Molly Fox. 1st Alternate-Michelle Parsels, 2nd Alternate - Katlin Bidlack

NOTE: Any Steuben County 4-H teen member can attend STARR as long as he/she pays the registration fee (the registration fee for 2015 was $85) and registers to the CCE Office by the deadline providing there is adequate chaperone(s) and enough room for transportation or he/she provides his/her own.

CAREER EXPLORATIONS, CORNELL UNIVERSITY (Tuesday, June 28 – Thursday, June 30, 2016)
Participants will need to pay approximately $175 for the registration based on 2015 registration of $215 unless they apply and are selected for a NYS scholarship. ($40 registration and estimated $35 transportation is paid by 4-H Program) If 4-H members have not sold $50 worth of Cuba cheese/maple products or paid the $50 family enrollment they will need to pay 100% of the cost of the trip.

University U - 8th or 9th grade as of fall of 2016
Selected are Jade Atherton, Jacie Beebe, Nolan Bennett, Kaleb Dininny, Jadyn Gardner, Alicia Lawson, Cheyenne Murat, Isabella Painter, Baily Parsels, Kalyska Payne, Cheyanne Ritchey-Yeoman, Hannah Stewart, and Matthew Vosburg

Focus for Teens 9th grade if attended University U in previous year, 10th and above as of fall of 2016
4-H members who are attending 2016 Capital Days or Citizenship Washington Focus will be able to attend with the reduced rate if they are selected as a Focus Assistant or pay for the entire cost of the trip unless they apply and are awarded a state scholarship. Applicants must be at least 16 years old and have attended Focus for Teens previously. If interested in applying to be a FA, contact Kim for more information and further qualifications.

Gabriel Barone Justin Bennett Katlin Bidlack Charlie Coley
Paige Demun Michael Feinman Raven Foote Greg Fox
Molly Fox Madeleine Gurecki Priscilla Helgerson Rachel Hoffer
Peter Kelly Victoria Kelly Jessica Lawson Nathan Lawson
Kaitlin Matthews Robert Murphy Michelle Parsels Ainsley Robbins
Allison Roach Alyssa Ross Megan Ross Brandon Sahrle
Taylor Scott Bradley Sick Samantha Towner Anna VonHagn
Tyler Woodward Alaina Zeh Kendra Zeh Ashlee Zschoche

NOTE: Any Steuben County 4-H member can attend Career Exploration as long as he/she pays the registration fee (or applies for and receives a scholarship through the NYS 4-H Office) and registers to the CCE Office by the deadline providing there is adequate chaperone(s) and enough room for transportation or he/she provides his/her own transportation.
2016 4-H Award Trips Selections
Agri-Business Career Trip, Cobleskill
(September 29-30, 2016)

4-H members can attend this trip more than once if there are slots available after those who have never attended are given the option to attend OR if they pay their own registration fee. (The registration fee for 2015 was $95)

If members attend more than 1 year they must participate in different workshop tracts from the previous year.

Selected are: Katlin Bidlack, Nathan Lawson, Taylor Scott, Jade Atherton, Peter Kelly, Priscilla Helgerson, Justin Bennett, Rachel Hoffer.  1st alternate – Ashlee Zschoche

NOTE: Any Steuben County 4-H member 14-18 years old can attend the ABC Trip as long as he/she pays the registration fee or applies and is awarded the state scholarship and registers to the CCE Office by the deadline providing there is adequate chaperone(s) and enough room for transportation or he/she provides his/her own transportation.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Summer Camps

The 2016 NYSDEC Summer Camp is for youth 11-17 and registration will open January 27 at 10 a.m. and is completed online. Campers have the opportunity to complete NYS Hunter Safety Education or NYS Bowhunter Safety Education certifications during specific weeks of camp. DEC camps combine environmental education, sportsman education and outdoor fun.

- Camps use a fun, hands-on approach to teach about the environment.
- Campers learn outdoor skills as well as the essentials of backpacking, camping and canoeing.
- Campers come away with a life-long passion for nature and a dedication to stewardship of our natural resources.

The cost is $350 per camper per week. The Steuben County Sportsman Federation has some sponsorships available to youth who live in Steuben County. **If you are interested in applying for a sponsorship interested candidates need to send a letter or e-mail indicating their interest, age, and contact information (including e-mail address to help with response time) before the Steuben County Sportsman Federation’s January 26th meeting where selections will be finalized. Please send requests to Cheryl Warren, 2901 County Road 56, Hornell, NY 14843 or email her at warrenc344@aol.com.** Digital packets will be emailed to the campers selected so that they can complete their registrations as soon as possible. Last year several camp weeks were filled by the end of February! You must make a commitment to attend if you are notified of receiving a scholarship. The Steuben County Sportsman Federation can make substitutions if they know far enough in advance, but they lose their money if a camper just doesn't show up. The Steuben County Sportsman Federation had a waiting list in 2015 and were able to send 8 campers! For more specific information about NYSDEC Summer camps and to register visit [http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/29.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/29.html).

NYS 4-H Forestry Weekend

Join youth from across the state for a weekend of forestry activities, games, and competition during the 2016 4-H Forestry Weekend in May. This three-day event is for youth aged 10 and up (and volunteers) interested in learning more about forests, and to select the NYS team that will go to the 2016 National 4-H Forestry Invitational (must be 14-19 for the national event).

The Forestry weekend activities have included in previous years:

- Tree identification/Measurements
- Map reading/Compass usage
- Insects and diseases
- Geocaching
- Nature games
- Night hikes and more

This is a fun and educational weekend. Youth do not need to have extensive forestry knowledge to come. On Saturday is a chance to learn more and on Sunday is the competition. Estimated cost is $40 per person: includes food, materials, and cabin lodging. (A $95 value!). Space is limited. If you are interested in receiving more information when it comes available please contact Kim at CCE-Stueben at ksb3@cornell.edu or 607-583-3185 or visit [http://ccchenango99.squarespace.com/4-h-forestry/](http://ccchenango99.squarespace.com/4-h-forestry/). The 4-H van may be available to use if there is enough interest and a volunteer chaperone who has been approved to drive.
Pheasant Chick Project

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is once again distributing day-old pheasant chicks for rearing and release projects to qualified 4-H Youth. All state pheasants are hatched and delivered from the DEC Reynolds Game Farm, Ithaca. Parents, leaders, or other volunteers who are willing to oversee and assist youth with this project would be expected to first become familiar with the DEC's Pheasant Rearing Guide and DVD. CCE-Steuben can provide you with a copy of the guide and the DVD can be loaned to you. The rearing and release of pheasant requires a great deal of responsibility by 4-H members and a substantial time commitment.

For those interested in starting a pheasant rearing program, there are a number of responsibilities the person overseeing the project should plan on. You would be responsible for reviewing program requirements, discuss rearing techniques, and explain project expectations with those youth that you are overseeing. You would also be responsible for inspecting rearing facilities and evaluate the release site before approving participating 4-H members to ensure proper rearing and release condition for the birds. Youth and the adult volunteer usually monitor progress together and share their experiences with other participants at 4-H meetings. The number of pheasants released is recorded at the end of the project.

In addition to the actual rearing project, leaders may choose to integrate other wildlife management strategies. Pheasants could be banded and released at different ages and on different sites to monitor mortality and survival.

4-H Tractor and Machinery Operation Certification Program To Be Offered in 2016

Youth who will be 14 and over as of March 1, 2016 can take the course for certification. Participants who want to earn their certification must pass both the written exam and the driving test. The cost for this course is $20.00 for 4-H members to cover the cost of materials and is payable to CCE by Monday, January 4th with the registration form, the Tractor Acknowledgement of Risk Form, the CCE Permission Slip/Medical Release which can be found on the website at www.putknowledgetowork.org and click on 4-H Youth Development and then click on other programs or by contacting Kim at Cornell Cooperative Extension at 607-583-3185. Non-4-H members are eligible to take this course but in addition they will need to complete a 4-H enrollment form as an independent member and the general 4-H acknowledgement of risk form by Monday, January 4 which is found on the above website and pay the $5.00 4-H enrollment fee.

The schedule for the course is as follows: Mondays, January 11 - February 29 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Steuben County Office Building, South Conference

Hands-On Sunday Sessions in January and February from 1-4 p.m. with the locations and dates to be announced.

Sunday, March 6 (driving test) Location TBA 1-4 p.m.
March 7 (written test) 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Steuben County Office Building, South Conference.
The Great Backyard Bird Count

The Great Backyard Bird Count is February 12-15, 2016. This annual four-day event engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one or more of the count days, anywhere they like. It’s free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds. Then they enter their counts on the Great Backyard Bird Count website www.birdsource.org/gbbc The Great Backyard Bird Count is lead by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, with Canadian partner Bird Studies Canada and is sponsored by Wild Birds Unlimited, Cornell Information Technologies, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and National Science Foundation. As tallies pour in from around the United States and Canada, everyone can watch the results in real time.

2016 Spring Tree Sale

Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District is offering an opportunity to order tree seedlings and transplants. These Bare Root Plants are offered for Conservation Planting.

All orders, including payment, must be received to the Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation, 415 West Morris Street, Bath 14810 at the end of March. Date orders are due TBA.

Trees and wildlife packets must be picked-up mid-April (date and time TBA) at the District Maintenance Building located on Mt. Washington (County Route 113), Bath. Members are responsible for arranging for pick-up of their orders.

To receive an order form when they become available or for more information contact Soil and Water Conservation at 776-7398, Ext. 3.

The Great Backyard Bird Count

2016 National 4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest

Sponsored by: The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc.

2016 Essay Topic: "Bees and Pollination. How Important is it?"

Beekeeping has had its five minutes of fame for the past five years. Now more than ever, people are asking "What will happen if the bees are gone?" Your paper should research and help answer this question. Survey your community to see what is being done. Include your state in your survey to see if there are any programs they are using for pollination or any other program that could aid the honey bee.

The scope of the research is an essential judging criterion, accounting for 40% of your score. The number of sources consulted, the authority of the sources, and the variety of the sources are all evaluated. Personal interviews with beekeepers and others familiar with the subject are valued sources of information and should be documented. Sources, which are not cited in the endnotes, should be listed in a "Resources" or "Bibliography" list.

*Note that "honey bee" is properly spelled as two words, even though many otherwise authoritative references spell it as one word.

Rules Overview: (failure to meet any one of the requirements will result in a disqualification)

- Preparation for Judging: Typewritten or computer-generated, double-spaced, 12pt Times font or similar type style, on one side of white paper following standard manuscript format.
  - Must submit an essay, 750 to 1000 words, on the essay topic
  - All factual statements must be referenced with bibliographical-style endnotes.
  - A brief biographical sketch of the essayist, including birth date, gender, complete mailing address, e-mail address, and telephone number, must accompany the essay.

Entries are due to the NYS 4-H Office by February 16 by email to Adam Davis at adamdavis@cornell.edu
- All National entries become the property of the Foundation and may be published or used as it sees fit. No essays will be returned.

Eligibility:
Contest is open to active 4-H members only. 4-Hers who have previously placed first, second, or third at the National level are NOT eligible; but other state winners are eligible to re-enter.

Awards for the National Contest:
First Prize: $750.00, Second Prize: $500.00, Third Prize: $250.00
The National winners' essays will appear in an issue of the American Beekeeping Federation's Newsletter. Each State Winner, including the National Winners, will receive an appropriate book about honey bees, beekeeping, or honey.

If you have any questions, please contact Regina K. Robuck, Executive Director, Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees at 404.760.2887 or by e-mail at reginarobuck@abfnet.org
4-H Spring Garden Meeting

All 4-H members, leaders, and parents are invited to attend the annual 4-H Spring Garden Meeting.

Date: Saturday, March 12th
Time: 1:30 p.m. Seed Distribution, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Program
Location: Civil Defense Building, Route 54, Bath (across from Kwik Fill)

Please plan to attend the annual spring 4-H garden meeting. Tips will be presented on both flower and vegetable gardening and how to exhibit them at the Steuben County Fair. Tom Cortright will present information on exhibiting flowers. You will be able to ask questions. Door prizes will also be awarded to 4-H members. Free seeds will also be given out to 4-H members.

In addition, you will be able to have the pH of your soil tested. If you would like the pH of your garden tested, you need to bring a SMALL amount (2 oz.) of air-dried soil from your garden. In order to get an accurate sample, take soil from four or five places in your garden, mix it all together, let it dry thoroughly and put about 2 oz. in a bag. Please label the bag with your name and phone number. The soil sample will be tested at the CCE Office and you will be notified of the results. The soil sample will tell you the pH balance of your garden plot.

To register for the 4-H Spring Garden Meeting return the enclosed registration form or email Jenny at jmg422@cornell.edu or call 607-583-3245 by Monday, March 1st. Mark your calendars for an informative and fun filled afternoon on Saturday, March 12th!!

Steuben County 4-H Robotics

The Steuben County 4-H Program is currently using an EV3 that was purchased through the 2015 Tyrtle Beach Youth Fund Grant. Anybody that has a Lego robot or laptop that can be used for programming is welcome and encouraged to bring them with you. We are also looking for some teen and adult volunteers to assist. All adult volunteers will need to be an approved current volunteer including having a current volunteer application completed along with the background check which has been approved within the last 3 years. We hope to be able to break into groups if we can obtain more robots. There also might be a fundraiser(s) to help purchase more equipment if needed. We also may be able to borrow some beginner robots. We plan to meet once a month for 2 hours until the 2016 New York State Fair Challenge is released in May/June then we will meet more frequently to prepare for the Contest. The meetings will probably be at the Howard Community Building but the exact dates and time are to be determined. For more information about the Steuben County 4-H Robotics Program please call/text Marlaina Bennett at 607-661-6383. For more information about the NYS 4-H Robotics Program and the NYS Fair Robotics Challenge visit http://sp.nys4h.cce.cornell.edu/about%20us/Pages/4-HRobotics.aspx

Maple Weekend

The New York State Maple Producers Association invites families from across the Empire State and neighboring areas to learn all about the production of maple syrup and other related products. For a perfect family outing plan to attend one of the days of Maple Weekend on Sat. March 19 and Sun., March 20, 2016 and on Sat., April 2 and Sun., April 3, 2016 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Admission is free. For specific locations and information go to www.mapleweekend.com.
Animal Careers Resource

The Animal Careers website (http://animalcareers.cornell.edu/) is a resource for students, teachers, parents and others who have an interest in learning about career opportunities related to animals. Come explore the large field of animal-related careers! Visit the Using This Site tab to find out the best way for you to use this site!

- Think about what you like to do and what you are good at! How does this match up to various careers with animals? Find out by visiting the You tab.
- By visiting the careers tab on the home page, guests will see an alphabetical list of careers that real people hold across the country and throughout the world. There are likely jobs involving animals that you haven’t even heard of! Explore those and more!
- By searching key words such as "horse", "cattle" or "wildlife" students will see a short list of job titles along with skills or degrees required to enter each position.
- For a glimpse of what real people have to say about their own jobs, visit the people tab. Explore “A Day in the Life” of a career. See Career Profiles and interviews with people who work with animals.
- The experience tab offers students tips about how to gain experience. What can you do to prepare yourself for a specific career? What work, internship, and school experiences are there?
- The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) link includes responses to student questions such as, where do I need to go to learn about advanced learning opportunities? Is college the right choice for me?
- There is a Resource page to discover the information that is already out there.

DOG OBEDIENCE CLASSES FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS BEGIN

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County’s 4-H Program is offering dog obedience classes for youth and adults. They are currently being held on certain Thursday evenings from 6-8:00 p.m., at Hillside Children’s Center, Snell Farm, 7320 Snell Hill Road, Bath. Classes are anticipated to be starting indoors in Arkport in the future and classes will be starting in Howard in the spring. Youth participants age 5-18 years old as of January 1, 2016 must be enrolled in the Steuben County 4-H Program. Youth ages 5-7 years old must have an experienced adult on the lead at all times. Non-4-H members may take the course by enrolling as an independent 4-H member. You can enroll as a 4-H member by paying the $5.00 enrollment fee and completing the 4-H enrollment form and acknowledgement of risk form which can be found at http://putknowledgetowork.org/4-h-youth/club-programs

New 4-H members must be enrolled by May 1, 2016 to be eligible to enter your dog or other projects in the 4-H division of the 2016 Steuben County Fair. The classes are also open to adults at $5 each session. Participants should be prepared to clean up after their dog as necessary.

Any 4-H member who is taking dog obedience classes privately must participate in the Steuben County 4-H Dog Obedience Graduation to be eligible to exhibit at the 2016 Steuben County Fair. Any 4-H member who is interested in trying to qualify for the NYS 4-H Dog Show for Grooming and Handling Classes or for Obedience Classes must attend graduation. Please note the NYS 4-H Dog Show will be Sat. Aug 20, 2016 at the NYS Fairgrounds in the Coliseum. For 2016 the NYS Dog Show is a ONE Day show for all classes (Grooming and Handling, Obedience, Rally, Agility, Brace) Graduation date, time and place is to be determined.

DOGS CAN BE MIXED BREED OR PUREBRED BUT PLEASE NOTE THAT PIT BULLS, ROTWEILERS, DOBERMANS, AMERICAN BULLDOG, CANE CORSO, HUSKY, MASTIFFS, WOLF HYBRIDS OR ANY MIXES OF THESE BREEDS AND OTHER AGGRESSIVE DOGS ARE NOT ALLOWED DUE TO INSURANCE. All dogs must conform to the rules and regulations of the Livestock Health requirements as determined by the Department of Agriculture and Markets. Dogs must have current vaccinations for rabies, distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus and leptospirosis (as appropriate for their age). It is highly recommended to also have your dog vaccinated for Bordetella and parainfluenza virus. Participants should consult their veterinarian for further information about these vaccines as well as internal and external parasite control programs. Participating members need to provide a COPY of current vaccinations at the first class or they can be faxed to 607-776-9103. Acceptable proof of Rabies vaccination is a rabies certificate or a copy of the dog license that contains the rabies vaccination information. Acceptable proof of Rabies vaccination must include the signature of the veterinarian, the name of the product used, the date of administration and the duration of immunity. Dogs must be at least six months old to be exhibited at the Steuben County Fair or the NYS Fair.

This is a great opportunity to have fun with your dog and learn about being a responsible dog owner. The more well behaved your dog is, the more it is appreciated by family, friends and neighbors.

If you are interested in more information about dog obedience when it comes available contact Kim at Cornell Cooperative Extension at 607-583-3185 or email her at ksb3@cornell.edu.
March Dog Madness Adult and Teen Leader Training

March Dog Madness is an annual conference for adult and teenage 4-H volunteer leaders. Workshops engage participants in science based information training. Current animal health, animal behavior, industry trends and youth development issues are addressed. Since 2002, guest presenters have included stakeholders, extension professionals, community and youth experts.

All interested adult and teen leaders are invited to attend this one day information packed program on March 19, 2016 at Cornell University, Ithaca in Morrison Hall and the Livestock pavilion on Judd Fall Road from 9 am – 3 pm. This program helps community leaders understand and practice principles that they can take back and share with 4-H members at the local level. Adult and teen leaders gain networking skills, exchange ideas and have an opportunity to work together in a university setting. Registrations will be taken on a first-come-first served basis with the registration fee due to Cornell University. To cover the cost of lunch and program materials, there is a charge of $25.00 per person. There is a limit of 20 people per concurrent workshop. Registrations and payment are due by March 13. Space is limited to the first 100 people whose PAYMENT is received by March 13. Online registrations will require payment by credit/debit card and will open up sometime in January. Paper registrations must be accompanied by a check.

For more information and to register please visit the NYS 4-H Dog program website at http://4h.ansci.cornell.edu/events-2/march-dog-madness/ or contact Kim at ksb3@cornell.edu or at 607-583-3185 (leave a message even after hours) and when the information becomes available she will let you know.

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NYS 4-H Dog Show

Saturday, August 20, 2016 is now the date for the 1 DAY, NYS 4-H Dog Show in 2016 at the NYS Fairgrounds in the Coliseum (prior to state fair opening). For 2016 the NYS Dog Show is a ONE Day show for all classes (Grooming and Handling, Obedience, Rally, Agility, Brace) and expect the show day to be LONG. Please note that the Steuben County Fair will still be occurring. Entries for the show will be due August 1. The NYS 4-H Dog Program does not have access to the coliseum during state fair during the usual (Wed) time in 2016, due to construction plans in the Open Class Horse area.

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NYS 4-H Youth Development Animal Crackers Program

Saturday, May 7, 2016 with the focus for 2016 on Dairy Cattle & Goat (Dairy and Meat Goat)

When/Where: Morrison Hall, Cornell University campus at 9 a.m.
Who: 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.
Why? 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.
How? Please contact Kim at the CCE Office at ksb3@cornell.edu or 607-583-3185. Registration & payment is due by Monday, April 11th to the CCE Steuben Office.
Cost? $15.00 per youth to cover basic handouts and occasional presenter expenses. Chaperones are free
*****Participants must bring their own lunch and drinks. *****
More information will be found at http://4h.ansci.cornell.edu/events-2/animal-crackers/
STARR (State Teen Action Rep Retreat)
The State Teen Action Rep Retreat is a three-day fun-filled event where 4-H teens, ages 13 – 19, participate in a variety of workshops and activities meant to challenge, excite and further develop life skills. STARR Program is open to all NYS 4-H Teens and their adult chaperones. The event is planned by teens and adults serving on the youth/adult STARR planning committee. Steuben County 4-H volunteers and members serving on the 2016 STARR Planning Committee are Rachael Draper, Christine Towner, Bethany Draper, and Samantha Towner. STARR will be held April 29- May 1, 2016 at the New York State Fair/4-H Youth Building, Syracuse, NY.

Congratulations to the following teens who were selected by the 4-H Awards Committee to attend STARR based on their completion of their Senior Summary Report and whose registration fee will be paid for by the 4-H Activity Fund if they sold at least $50 worth of Cuba Cheese Products/Hennings Maple Farm Products or paid the $50 family 4-H enrollment and register for STARR by the deadline. Those selected are Peter Kelly, Ashlee Zschoche, Madeleine Gurecki, and Molly Fox. 1st Alternate – Michelle Parsels, 2nd Alternate – Katlin Bidlack. These members will be receiving more information including registration information when it becomes available. A chaperone at least 21 years old is needed for the trip. If you are interested in chaperoning contact Kim at the CCE Office at ksb3@cornell.edu or 607-583-3185.

Any Steuben County 4-H member ages 13 -19 may participate in STARR provided that they pay the registration fee, there is enough room for transportation or they may need to provide their own transportation and if there is adequate chaperone(s). The estimated cost is $85 per person registration fee covers lodging, meals, and workshop supplies and will need to be paid to CCE-Steuben with your workshop choices. Additional fees may be charged if you register late, cancel, or don't show up. If you are interested in participating contact Kim at ksb3@cornell.edu or at 607-583-3185 (messages can be left after hours).

Kim will need to complete your online registration including your workshop choices and online registrations. The earlier your registration is received the better chance you will have of getting your workshop choices. It is encouraged to have delegates spread out so that each county has teens/adults in a variety of workshops, rather than having everyone from one county sign up for all the same workshops. If you think about it, taking part in a variety of workshops provides a powerhouse of teens and adults prepared to return to the county to share skills and knowledge gained at STARR. If Steuben County 4-H members attend Steuben County must also provide adult chaperone(s).

For more information check out the website: http://sp.nys4h.cce.cornell.edu/events/Pages/STARR.aspx

Public Presentation Workshop
It’s Public Presentation Time! Need some help? Come to a county-wide public presentation planning workshop at the 4-H office on January 16th (Snow date Jan. 23rd) from 1:00- 2:30 pm. at the 4-H office in the County Office Building. This workshop is for 4-Hers 8 and up, parents, leaders, and judges.

For members, please have the topic chosen and bring your research information. What will be covered in the workshop:

- What type presentation should I do? Demonstration, Illustrated Talk, Speech, Dramatic Interpretation, Recitation?
- Tips on planning your presentation (using the Presentation Planning Worksheet) including an introduction, body, summary, source of information and closing. Also how to answer questions from the audience.
- How to plan, prepare and use a poster; or when and how to use a PowerPoint.

Please pre-register (see insert in this Steubenite); call: 607-664-2300; e-mail: jmg422@cornell.edu so we can appropriately prepare!

Planning worksheet can be found on the 4-H website: http://bit.ly/presentation-plan or ask your leader.

Mark Your Calendar: Public Presentations Day will be held on Saturday, February 27, 2016 from 9:00-noon and 1:00- 3:00 at the 4-H Office in the Steuben County Office Building. See more below…
Public Presentations

When former members of 4-H are asked what helped them the most in preparing for their adult years, the answer was doing public presentations. The reason for this is that it prepared them to organize information and be able to get up in front of a group at work, in the community or at a club meeting and feel comfortable. With this in mind, the 4-H Program Committee decided that everyone in 4-H should do a presentation each year, whether it is at the county or club level. Remember, a 4-Her’s total involvement in 4-H is considered when selecting for most awards and trips.

ALL 4-H members ages 8 and up as of January 1, 2016 are required to participate in the public presentation program to receive their project completion sticker on their certificate. Cloverbuds are strongly encouraged to do a presentation but it is not mandatory. In addition to the County presentations, there is another option of presenting at a Club Meeting and being “judged” by one of the leads of the club. If you are an independent member, you can give your presentation to family and friends, and have a parent complete the club level evaluation form. The Club Presentation is meant to be just a stepping stone for a year or two, and the member should then attend the county level event. A club level presentation does NOT make a 4-H member eligible to be selected to participate in District Public Presentations.

If members 8 and over as of January 1, 2016 do not give a public presentation at the club or county level, then you do not receive a project completion sticker on your year-end certificate AND the club does not receive 100% completion.

If an individual or club would like help with any part of the public presentation process, come to the Public Presentation Workshop that is being offered on Saturday, January 16th from 1:00-2:30 at the County Office Building in Bath. (January 23rd snow date) Information on preparing for presentations is on the website, or available at the office.

County Public Presentation Day: General and Horse Public Presentations is being held on Saturday, February 27, 2016 at the Steuben County Office Building.

NEW THIS YEAR FOR HORSE PRESENTATIONS:

General Presentations including general horse: Time 9:00 a.m. to Noon and 1:00 p.m.-3:00p.m. If you are doing a horse presentation and do not want to go to be considered for Regional Horse Communications, you can sign up for morning or afternoon. Register on the General Public Presentation Form.

Horse Presentations to Qualifying for Regional Horse Communications: 1:00-3:00 only. If you want to be considered for Regional Horse Communications sign up on the Horse Presentations Form.

If you are a new club or new to public presentations, you are welcome to come and watch the presentations in February and give your presentation on Wednesday, August 17 at the County Fair.

To register your club, please complete the form for the General Presentations and/or the one for the Horse Presentations. The registration forms are in this issue, on the website at www.putknowledgetowork.org and mail, email or fax (607-776-9103) it to the CCE office by Friday, February 19, 2016.

“Before a group you speak with ease, you can put ideas across, it’s a breeze. Because you have learned to organize what to do and say, planned ahead and practiced before the big day. With poise and self-confidence you smile at the evaluator. It’s a public presentation you have done, and it’s a life skill you have won!” – Source Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County.
Remember the four “P” of presenting:
P#1 – Plan – Select a topic about something you are interested in telling people about or learning more about. Think about your topic and plan what you want to say, how you will show the audience “how-to” if it is a demonstration.
P#2 – Prepare – After you have selected a topic, think about how you will present the topic. Prepare a poster (unless it is a public speaking), various steps of the finished product or other visuals that will help you explain your topic to give an effective presentation.
P#3 – Practice - Practice, practice, practice! The more you “run through” your presentation, the easier it will be on the actual presentation day.
P#4 – Present – Present your 4-HPresentation at the club level or at the County Level on February 27 or August 17 in Bath

District Public Presentations
Finger Lakes District Public Presentations will be held on Saturday, April 2nd at Midlakes School (Phelps-Clifton Springs). 4-H members will be selected to represent Steuben County by the judges from the November and February Public Presentation Days. 4-H members that are selected will be receiving detailed information about District Presentations after County Presentations.

County Fair General Public Presentation Day
The summer General Public Presentation event will be in the Youth Building at the Steuben County Fair on Wednesday, August 17, 2016. This will also include “Produced in New York” presentations. 4-H members who give their presentation at the fair are ineligible to attend the public presentation award trip and are ineligible to be selected to participate in district public presentations.

2016 Clothing Evaluations and Revue

It’s time to get out your sewing machine, choose your clothing project, and get sewing! The clothing revue will be here before you know it. Here are the important dates.

Clothing evaluation locations and dates are:

Wednesday, April 6th, North Cohocton Methodist Church, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Wednesday. April 20th, 4-H Office, County Office Building, Bath, 3:00-5:00p.m.

Friday, May 6th, Clothing Revue at the Avoca Central School in Avoca, NY

Times for arrival: Seniors: 6:45 p.m. to get evaluated (if needed) and registered. Juniors: 7:00 p.m. to get registered. Clothing Revue begins at 7:30.

Family and friends are welcome to attend.

Organizational leaders, project leaders and independent families will be sent a packet with more information in January. The information will also be posted on the 4-H web site. If you have any further questions, please contact Loree (las65@cornell.edu) at the CCE Office

We Need You and Your Ideas for the 4-H Clothing Revue
The 2016 4-H Clothing Revue has been scheduled for Friday, May 6th Avoca Central School. If you have an idea for a theme for this year's revue or suggestions about the Revue or if you are an adult or teen and would like to serve on the planning committee, please contact Loree at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Office! The planning committee meets only two times, once the last of March to get the night planned and in April just before the revue to get everything finalized.
Clothing Project Idea: Make It With Wool Contest

Each year there is a New York State “Make it Yourself with Wool” Contest. It is held at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds in Rhinebeck, NY, October 15-16, 2016. As you are choosing your clothing project for this year, you may want to choose something that will fit this contest.

The contest has three parts: modeling the outfit, garments judged on and off the participant. Garments can be sewn, knitted (by hand or on a knitting machine), crocheted, or felted from fiber that is more than 60% wool. This contest has proven to be fun, educational and all participants walk away with a prize.

This contest is held at the New York State Sheep and Wool Festival in Rhinebeck, NY. For more information: http://sheepandwool.com/ or contact the 4-H office.

Cornell Fashion Collective Runway Show

Every year, Cornell students showcase their design skills and creativity through the Cornell Fashion Collective runway show at Barton Hall. The date for the 31st annual show has been set for Saturday, March 12, 2016 at 7:00pm. The final schedule and ticket sales will be announced later via the group’s website, http://www.cornellfashioncollective.com. This is a fun experience for youth engaged in 4-H Clothing & Textiles. Plan now to take your 4-H Club.

National Ag Day Essay Contest Announces January 29 Deadline

The Agriculture Council of America (ACA) calls on ninth- to 12th-grade students in the 2015-2016 school year to submit an original, 450-word essay or a two-minute video essay about the importance of agriculture. This year’s theme is “Agriculture: Stewards of a Healthy Planet” and the deadline is January 29, 2016. The national written essay winner receives a $1,000 prize and a trip to Washington, D.C., for recognition during the Celebration of Ag Dinner held March 15, 2016 at Whitten Patio. The video essay winner wins a $1,000 prize.

This is the 43rd anniversary of National Ag Day. The goal of the ACA is to provide a spotlight on agriculture and the food and fiber industry. The ACA not only helps consumers understand how food and fiber products are produced, but also brings people together to celebrate accomplishments in providing safe, abundant and affordable products.


Entry forms and essays must be received by midnight CST, January 29, 2016, and sent to: 2016 Ag Day Essay Contest, Agriculture Council of America, 11020 King St., Ste. 205, Overland Park, KS 66210 or jennyp@nama.org. Please send by either mail or email but not both. To submit the video essay, visit http://agday.leapfile.net and follow the directions as guided on the page, OR the video may be burned to a DVD or CD and mailed to the address above. Visit http://www.agday.org/media/pr5.php to read official contest rules and for more details regarding entry applications.

National Agricultural Day, March 15, 2016

National Ag Day is a day to recognize and celebrate the abundance provided by Agriculture. The 2016 Ag Day Theme is "Stewards of a Healthy Planet". Every year, producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies and countless others across America join together to recognize the contributions of agriculture. Join us as we honor agriculture for providing safe, abundant and affordable products, a strong economy, a source of renewable energy, and a world of job opportunities. For more information about celebrating National Ag Day, go to http://www.agday.org/. The site includes fun facts, links to other sites, resources, and planning guide.
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 1st of application year. You do not have to belong to 4-H, FFA, or a breed club to participate. Award will be presented to the winner at the New York State Guernsey Breeders’ Annual Meeting in March or April. There are questions that need to be answered in the form of an essay. All applications are due on March 1st. Please EMAIL your application to: Seth and Amber Ripley at seth.ripley@gmail.com If you win this calf, you will be required to exhibit it in at least one local fair, and also at the New York State Fair for TWO consecutive years. If you do not exhibit the animal at the required fairs, the New York State Guernsey Breeders will make a determination as to the placement of the calf. Our purpose is to promote the Guernsey Calf Scholarship Program; therefore, exhibition at the fairs is our prime opportunity to fulfill this mission. Each winner will be also required to fill out a County Achievement Form each spring. For complete rules and regulations and an application visit http://nyguernseybreeders.com/youth the 2016 application will be there shortly or contact Kim at the CCE Office at ksb3@cornell.edu or 607-583-3185.

New York Ayrshire Club Calf Award
Application
The purpose of the Calf Scholarship Award Program is to select a youth who is worthy of the award and to provide money that can be used to help purchase a Registered Ayrshire Calf at a public auction. The program offers the opportunity to a youth who has demonstrated the interest and ability to develop the calf to her fullest potential and who will also grow through this project. Applicants for this award must meet the following specifications 8-15 years of age as of January 1st of the current year. The youth member cannot own more than 2 Registered Ayrshire or 2 registered animals of another breed. Youth must have adequate facilities and supervision to raise a calf in New York State. Applicants must be or must be willing to join the New York and National Junior Ayrshire Club. Applicant must be a resident of New York State. Youth must welcome periodic farm visits. Winner must be willing to show the calf at appropriate shows. Winner will provide yearly progress reports to the NY Ayrshire Club. The 2016 application will be available shortly at http://www.nyayrshire.com/applications.html or email us at nyayrshire@gmail.com. Applications must be postmarked by the March 15th deadline. Assistance will be available in selecting the calf if needed.

2016 NY Holstein Association, Inc. Calf Scholarship
The purpose of the Calf Scholarship Award Program is to select a youth who is worthy of the award – a Registered Holstein calf with the potential to develop into a future brood cow. The program offers such a calf to a youth who has demonstrated the interest and ability to develop the calf to her fullest potential and who will grow through this project. Youth must be between 12-15 years old as of January 1, 2016. Applications and the specific requirements can be found at http://www.nyholsteins.com click on forms and applications and click on calf scholarship or by contacting Kim at the CCE Office at 607-583-3185 or ksb3@cornell.edu or by calling the NY Holstein office at 607-273-7591. The entry deadline is postmarked or emailed to ssherman@nyholsteins.com on or before March 2, 2016. There needs to be one reference written from an adult (such as Jr. Holstein Advisor, 4-H leader, teacher, adult mentor). The calf will be awarded to the winner during the NY Holstein Spring Carousel, April 8-11, 2016, NYS Fairgrounds, Syracuse.
NYS Association of Agricultural Fairs (NYSAAF) and the NYS Show People’s Association Scholarship (NYSSSA)
Deadline: April 8, 2016

The NYSAAF and the NYSSA offer an annual scholarship program which is available to students who are New York State residents, who currently are (or have previously been) active in a fair that is a member of the NYSAAF and who is in his/her senior year of high school in New York State and plans to attend (or already attends) college in pursuit of a degree in agriculture or fair management at an accredited institution of higher learning. The fair where you have been active must endorse your application and will submit it for you. Up to ten $1,000 scholarships will be awarded.

Applications, 2 letters of reference, and transcript must be submitted by a member Fair of the New York State Association of Agricultural Fairs. The deadline for submitting your application to a Member Fair is Friday, April 8, 2016. Steuben County applications are to be sent to Bob Whitney, 8000 Mt Washington Road, Bath, NY 14810. Applications are expected to be available the end of January at http://nyfairs.org/scholarship.htm or contact the CCE Office.

Small Animal

2016 4-H Market Chicken Projects

Steuben County 4-H members (ages 8-18 as of January 1, 2016) will have an opportunity to raise market chickens to be consigned to the Steuben County 4-H & FFA Livestock Sale to be held on Friday, August 19 at the Steuben County Fairgrounds. There will be a class in the Steuben County Fair 4-H Poultry Division for Market Chickens Consigned. 4-H members will be allowed to enter 2 chickens in the market chicken consigned class and sell 2 market chickens through the sale. An additional 2 market chickens may be entered in the Fryer class. It is recommended that 4-H members purchase more than 2 market chickens incase of fatality before the fair. Animals cannot be entered in both market classes and breeding classes. 4-H members interested in exhibiting and consigning market chickens can place their order through Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County by Monday, March 28. Orders are limited to only enrolled 4-H members and each member may only order 12 chicks. You will need to make arrangements to pick up the market chickens on the day they arrive or the market chickens will be given to someone else. Pick up date will be confirmed closer to delivery. Refer to the Market Chicken Help Sheet and the order form on the web at http://putknowledgetowork.org/4-h-youth/4-h-program-areas/small-animals

Members can purchase their own Market Chickens, but they MUST be hatched June 14th or later! Proof of hatch date must be provided with fair entries! Only birds receiving a Blue/Excellent Ribbon will be sold through the sale on Friday, August 19, 2016. 4-H Cloverbud members can place an order for the market chickens but Cloverbuds will be ineligible to show and sell their chicken in the 4-H and FFA Livestock Sale.

Showmanship - If the market chicken(s) are the only chickens that a 4-H member are exhibiting at the Steuben County Fair then the 4-H member must participate in the non-owner showmanship class borrowing another chicken or their county fair poultry premiums will be withheld. The birds for non-owner showmanship will be designated on Tuesday, August 16 in the poultry barn and those 4-H members who want to practice with that bird before the showmanship contest on Wednesday, August 17 at 9 a.m. will have the opportunity to do so. The questions for non-owner showmanship will not be breed specific. We encourage 4-H members who are ordering market chickens to come to the Poultry Clinic to practice showmanship with another member’s bird. You will receive a certificate from the hatchery indicating that these birds have come from a Pullorum-Typhoid Free Flock so you will not need to bring your market chickens to the clinic.
Cow College is another name for Dairy Judging.

Who can attend cow college? Any 4-H member and their parent, grandparent, leader, etc. Please NOTE: Cloverbud members 5-7 years old (as of January 1, 2016) who are interested in learning how to dairy judge may participate only if they are accompanied the entire time by a responsible adult who is at least 21 years old.

Where is cow college held? Practices are held in barns at different farms around the county (dress warm and wear appropriate foot wear because you will be in the barn or at times outside depending on the weather!)

When is cow college? Saturdays during February – April from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Schedule to be announced.

Why should I go to cow college? It will help you understand what to look for when choosing your show animal. It will also help you understand why the judge places your animal the way he does at county fair or any other dairy show.

What happens after the cow colleges? There is a county dairy judging tour in the spring. There will be several judging trips throughout the summer that selected 4-H members will be invited to attend. 4-H members can participate in the Dairy Judging Contest at the Steuben County Fair and if selected can represent Steuben County at NYS Fair Contest.

If you are interested in participating in dairy judging and have not done so already please contact Kim at 607-583-3185 or at ksb3@cornell.edu.
Hoard’s Dairyman Dairy Judging Contest

The 86th annual Hoard’s Dairyman Cow Judging Contest is officially open for 2016 visit http://judging.hoards.com/. You, your family, and club members are invited to join the thousands of others who participate in this fun and educational picture judging contest. The interactive web-based portal contains all five classes, and allows you to submit your entries online and receive your scores by email at the completion of the contest. The 2016 Hoard’s Dairyman Dairy Judging Contest booklets will be mailed from Hoard's Dairyman to those clubs who participated in 2015. If your club participated last year and you do not receive a booklet and you wish to participate in the 2016 contest, please contact the CCE Office. If you need more booklets or anyone else would like to participate in the contest and needs the booklet with the classes and the entries, contact the CCE Office. The deadline for entries is Thursday, March 24, 2016. Participants need to send the original to Hoard’s Dairyman for the National Contest and a copy of their entry to the CCE Office or email to Kim at ksb3@cornell.edu for the County Contest by March 24.

4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl

The primary objective of 4-H Dairy Bowl Contests is to provide an opportunity for youth enrolled in a 4-H dairy project to demonstrate their knowledge of dairy related subject matter in a competitive setting where attitudes of friendliness and fairness prevail. The Dairy Bowl Program is designed to encourage youth to increase their dairy knowledge through study and preparation for the contest. Youth learn life skills as they prepare for contests - critical thinking, decision-making, problem solving, communication skills, listening skills, speaking skills and independent thinking. They experience the value of teamwork, character building, and goal setting. Youth gain knowledge in dairy nutrition, milk quality, herd health, breeding and genetics, marketing, dairy foods, calf raising and all cattle breeds.

Age of contestants is as of January 1, 2016.

Novice Contest
8 - 10 years old with some experience or 11 - 13 years old with no previous district contests experience.

Junior Contest
9 years to 13 years old

Senior Contest
14 years to 18 years old.

Market Beef Steer/Market Beef Steer Small Frame/ Market Beef Heifer/ Market Dairy Steer Ownership and ID’s Due January 4, 2016

4-H members exhibiting Market Beef Steers, Market Beef Steer Small Frame (such as Lowline, Dexter, Mini Herefords, etc.), Market Beef Heifers, and Market Dairy Steers at the 2016 Steuben County Fair must own their animals by January 1, 2016 and the identification forms are due to the CCE-Steuben Office by Monday, January 4, 2016 along with the signed 2016 4-H Market Animal Quality Assurance Pledge. Heifers shown in market beef classes are not eligible for beef breeding classes.


If you have any questions please contact Kim at ksb3@cornell.edu or 607-583-3185.
What is Livestock Judging?

Livestock judging is the process of ranking four animals (beef, sheep, swine, and/or meat goat) of one class top to bottom based on criteria such as bone structure, muscle, body capacity, body composition, performance.

Livestock Judging develops the following life skills: critical thinking, organization, time management, public speaking, self confidence, self motivation, team building and competition.

While all of this sounds intimidating Livestock Judging is a really fun way to learn about beef cattle, sheep, swine and meat goats. Livestock Judging allows 4-Hers to get involved, compete, and make new friends. 4-H members 5-18 years old are eligible to participate and parents/volunteers/coaches are needed. **Cloverbud members 5-7 years old** (as of January 1, 2016) who are interested in learning may participate only if they are accompanied at all times by a responsible adult who is at least 21 years old who will be accompanying them the entire time. If you are interested in volunteering to help teach Livestock judging or if you are interested in giving Livestock Judging a try, please complete the Livestock Judging Interest Form or e-mail Kim at ksb3@cornell.edu We look forward to hearing from you. A schedule of practices and competition dates will be available later if there are 4-H members and volunteers interested.

What is Livestock Skillathon?

The objectives of the Livestock Skillathon contest is to provide youth with the opportunity to blend knowledge and skills acquired in livestock judging, demonstrations, care and exhibition of animals into one activity. This is also an opportunity for youth even if they have no opportunities for livestock ownership to learn about the importance of beef, sheep, swine and goat and their products to the environment and economy. Livestock Skillathon consists of 3 parts: Written quiz, identification and team questions. For the 2 question written quiz (100 points possible per person). Individuals will complete the exam independently. Potential topics are nutrition, health, breeding, management, genetics and current industry topics. Individuals may be asked to identify retail meat cuts, livestock feeds, and breeds, evaluate cuts of meat and hay or wool samples and complete a quality assurance exercise. Team participation will be required in a quality assurance exercise, evaluation of livestock feeding and performance information and an animal breeding or marketing scenario and exercise. Livestock Skillathon instills ethical values, good sportsmanship and product evaluation skills.

Livestock Skillathon recognizes youth for their total involvement in and comprehension of the livestock industry.

For more information and resources visit [http://4h.anisci.cornell.edu/events-2/nys-fair/livestock-skillathon/](http://4h.anisci.cornell.edu/events-2/nys-fair/livestock-skillathon/)

While all of this sounds intimidating Livestock Skillathon is a really fun way to learn about beef cattle, sheep, swine, and meat goat. Livestock Skillathon allows 4-Hers to get involved, compete, and make new friends. 4-H members 5-18 years old are eligible to participate and parents/volunteers/coaches are needed. **Cloverbud members 5-7 years old** (as of January 1, 2016) who are interested may participate only if they are accompanied at all times by a responsible adult who is at least 21 years old. If you are interested in volunteering to help teach Livestock Skillathon or in giving Livestock Skillathon a try, please complete the Livestock Skillathon Interest Form or email Kim Randall at ksb3@cornell.edu We look forward to hearing from you. A schedule of practices and competition dates will be available later if there are 4-H members and volunteers interested.
2016 National Swine Picture Judging Contest

Each year, the National Swine Registry sponsors the National Picture Judging Contest. It is open to youth and adult participants, and includes divisions for 4-H, FFA and collegiate teams. The contest runs in the December issue of Seedstock EDGE and on nationalswine.com with entries due Feb. 1. The National Swine Registry Picture Judging Contest is available now. For the Steuben County 4-H Contest Entries must be sent to the CCE office postmarked by February 1, 2016 and for the National Contest you must enter the contest online at http://www.nationalswine.com/seedstockEDGE/picture_judging.php. Remember to save a copy of your placings to send to the CCE Office postmarked by February 1 to be eligible for the County Contest. For the contest information and entry form go to http://www.nationalswine.com/seedstockEDGE/picture_judging.php or contact Kim at 607-583-3185 or ksb3@cornell.edu.

Horse

Attention 4-H Members with Horses

All re-enrolling 4-H members who wish to show their horses at any Steuben County 4-H Horse Show, including the Steuben County Fair or the New York State Fair Horse Show, must be enrolled in Steuben County 4-H by January 4, 2016 and participate in at least one 4-H Horse Educational Event (i.e. Public Presentations (club or county), Horse Quiz Bowl, Hippology or Horse Judging) at the county level or beyond or write an educational essay. New 4-H members must be enrolled by May 1, 2016 in order to participate. 4-H members age 8 - 18 as of January 1, 2016 are eligible to participate in the Steuben County 4-H Horse Shows after meeting the Steuben County 4-H Horse Show Rules. 4-H club members who are age 5-8 as of January 1, 2016 have the option of participating in the Cloverbud Leadline and Walk/Trot classes offered at our qualifying shows. 4-H families with members 5 and older enrolled in a horse project will be receiving a post card informing them of the updated show information available on the web/from their leader. The 2016 Show Packet will be sent to each Organizational Leader and will include the 4-H Horse Certificates, horse eligibility requirements, a calendar of dates, Steuben County 4-H Horse Show rules, class listings for the Steuben County qualifying shows, entry forms for the Steuben County qualifying shows, point system and information on protective helmets. Last year’s packet/information can be found on our website: http://putknowledgetowork.org/4-h-youth/club-programs/horse. If you have any questions or would like to be added to the mailing list to receive a packet, please contact the CCE Office or email Jenny Groen at jmg422@cornell.edu.

4-H Horse Quiz Bowl & Hippology

If you are interested in participating in jmg422@cornell.edu or at 607-583-3245.

2016 Horse Record Question Insert for 4-H Members

ALL 4-H members are required to answer the appropriate Life Skills Wheel question, included with your record, along with completing their horse project record. Your horse project record can be entered in the County Fair. If you wish to do so, the deadline for ALL county fair ENTRIES is July 11th, 2016; this includes records (please do NOT turn in records at the time of Entries, you should keep them until fair time if you’ve entered them, or until the end of the year when all records are due). DEADLINES WILL NOT BE EXTENDED!!! A Horse Project Record must be turned into the CCE Office by 4:30 p.m. on September 12, 2016 to receive project credit and/or to be eligible to show your horse at the 2017 County Fair if you showed your horse at the 2016 County Fair.
The 39th Annual New York State 4-H Agribusiness Career Conference will be held on October 1-2, 2015 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 agribusiness. It featured 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.

Steuben County 4-H members were selected for this trip based on their 2014 Senior Summary Report and additional 4-H members 14 and over could also attend if certain qualifications were met. The seven Steuben County 4-H members who attended were Justin Bennett, Greg Fox, Priscilla Helgerson, Rachel Hoffer, Michelle Parsels, Merranda Switzer, and Ashlee Zschoche. Thank you to Marlaina Bennett for chaperoning this trip.

Priscilla Helgerson, Rachel Hoffer and Michelle Parsels attended Schoharie Valley Farms and Speaking with a Vet. Schoharie Valley Farms was once the largest carrot growing farm east of the Mississippi, Schoharie Valley Farms is now owned and managed by the Ball Family. Diversification has helped make this farm a popular stop for local shoppers of fresh produce as well as major tourist attraction. Participants learned how much the farm store adds to the operation and how the farm survived during the rain of this past summer. Participants also spoke with a veterinarian to learn about his/her experiences. They learned what the vets enjoy, and what attracted them to their career.

Marlaina Bennett, Justin Bennett, Greg Fox, Merranda Switzer, and Ashlee Zschoche attended the Sweet Tree Farm and Fairbanks Stable Tour. Sweet Tree Farm produces grass fed beef, natural pork, eggs and pure maple syrup. Hogs and laying hens are raised on pastures we need to be a NOFA-certified grains. Fairbanks Stable is a boarding, training and lesson barn located on a 156 acre family farm in the town of Richmondville in Schoharie County. It is owned by Faye Benedict, a certified riding instructor, (by the American Riding Instructors Association) level II in Stable Management, Hunt Seat and Eventing. They are active competitively in eventing, hunters and hunter paces. Fairbanks Stable is home to 40-50 horses at any given time.

Fall 2015 4-H Tractor Supply Paper Clovers

Thank you to the following 4-H Clubs for selling papers clovers October 7-18 at Tractor Supply to raise money for the Steuben County 4-H Program, NYS 4-H Program and National 4-H Council. The Blue Ribbon Roundup 4-H Club sold paper clovers at the Hornell store. The Blue Ribbon Roundup club even won the sweepstakes drawing for a $150 Tractor Supply Company gift card. Members of the Country Bunch Club and the Kickin Kountry Kids 4-H Clubs sold at the Bath Store. At the Painted Post Store the Canisteo Valley 4-H Stars Club sold.
Two Steuben County 4-H members participate in Junior Dairy Leaders (JDL) Program

Ian Stewart, a 13th year Independent 4-H member, and Paige Demun, a 10th year Dairy Dreamers 4-H Club member, were selected as 2 of 29 youth for the September 2015-August 2016 NYS Junior DAIRY LEADERS Program.

Paige states “The Jr. Dairy Leader Program, JDL, is a program designed to ready students for futures in the dairy industry. The first program of the year we went to Madison, Wisconsin for a week; while in Wisconsin we toured multiple farms before going to the National 4-H Dairy Conference and World Dairy Expo. The second program we spent time at Cornell University working on team building in addition to touring Sunnyside farm.”

Ian reflects, “I am very grateful for being accepted into the Junior Dairy Leaders program. My first trip in the JDL was to Wisconsin. We spent two days traveling and another two days touring farms; then another three days as New York’s delegates to the National 4-H Dairy Conference. Just in this first trip alone I made a lot of good friends from all around the country. Touring the farms really broadened my view of different management styles. It also gave me a lot of ideas of how to do things better on my own farm. In all I learned a lot, made many friends and had a lot of fun.”

If you are interested in learning more about the Junior Dairy Leaders Program for youth between the ages of 16-19 who have an interest in exploring careers in the dairy industry with an opportunity to gain hands-on experience visit http://ansci.cals.cornell.edu/extension-outreach/youth-extension/jr-dairy-leader-program. Applications for the 2016-2017 year are due June 30, 2016.

2015 ACHIEVEMENT NIGHT

Saturday, November 7th was Steuben County 4-H’s Annual Achievement Night. It was held again at Avoca Central School and marks a night of year-end accomplishments and growth. Over 200 Steuben County youth, ranging from ages 5-19, were recognized for achieving various milestones within the project year of October 1st through September 30th. Highlights of the night included Cloverbud Graduation, for members aging out of the Cloverbud Program and into the regular 4-H Program; Friend of 4-H Awards, for an outstanding individual and local business; Year End Horse Show High Points; County Project Champions; Country Fair Special Awards; State Fair Awards; Specialty Awards, for high achievement for youth in a specialized concentration; “I Dare You” Leadership Award, for youth with a little encouragement, are ready to see themselves as leaders; Outstanding 4-H’er Award, for youth who embody the 4-H motto of “To Make the Best Better”; and Outgoing Members. Our program would not be capable of such outstanding outcomes if it weren’t for the continued support of our local communities and our dedicated volunteers!

See the Achievement Night Program and pictures: http://putknowledgetowork.org/4-h-youth/2014-2015-4-h-year
Fall Cheese Fundraiser

The 2015 Fall Fundraiser featured Cuba Cheese and Henning’s Trout Creek Farm Maple Products. The fundraisers help to support the 4-H Activity Fund, which provides the funds for the many trips and awards that benefit 4-H members. Individual 4-H club treasuries also benefit from the sales. Thanks to each 4-H member who participated in the fundraiser!

Congratulations to the following 4-H members who were recognized as the top sellers.

### 2015 COUNTY FUNDRAISER TOP SELLER AWARDS

**Top Overall Sales Person:** Cole Sherer – Country Bunch – $1,102.25  
**2nd Top Sales Person:** Olivia Lewis – Willing Workers - $951.50  
**3rd Top Sales Person:** Nathan Randall – Country Bunch - $814.50  
**4th Top Sales Person:** Lola Coots – Kickin Kountry Kids - $802.25  
**5th Top Sales Person:** Natalie Cornell – Dairy Dreamers - $724.00

**TOP CLOVERBUD:** Cody Stebbins – Blue Ribbon Roundup  
**TOP JR MEMBER (8-13):** Cole Sherer – Country Bunch  
**TOP SR MEMBER (14-18):** Olivia Lewis – Willing Workers

Congratulations to all for your hard work! A special "Thank You" to all leaders and parents who helped to motivate, collect money, sort products, and transport products for the 4-H'ers.

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Steuben Youth Leadership Summit

Three Steuben County 4-H members: Charlie Coley, Loon Lakes Raiders 4-H Club; Michal Ecker, Country Bunch 4-H Club; and Taylor Scott, Kickin Kountry Kids, applied and were selected to participate in the 2015 Steuben Youth Leadership Summit presented by the Steuben County Youth Bureau on November 14 at the Campbell-Savona High School. The Steuben Youth Leadership Summit provides youth with the opportunity to develop leadership skills, identify priority issues, and discuss these priorities with state and county government leaders.

Participants were asked to identify a person who they felt was a good leader and of course 4-H leaders came to their mind.

Michal Eckler reflects, “Being considered a leader in 4-H, I had the privilege of participating in the Steuben Youth Leadership Summit 2015. The forum included a leadership workshop led by Amanda Chafee, Steuben County Assistant District Attorney; breakout groups where student leaders identified priorities in our county and an issues forum with NY Assembly member Philip Palmesano, Chairman Joseph Hauryski of the Steuben County Legislature and Steuben County Manager, Jack Wheeler. Parents were invited to watch the issues forum at the conclusion of the day. I learned that John Quincy Adams once said, "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." I realized that everything I do affects those around me. I also learned, that through 4-H, I can learn from those who are my leaders and lead those who are younger than me. If I am able, I would love to participate again, in 2016.”
CLOVERBUD DAY

On November 21st, 2015 Steuben County 4-H Educators hosted the first “Cloverbud Day” event. This is a new series that is a county-wide educational opportunity that provides programing geared specifically for our youngest 4-H members. Eighteen youth, ages 5-7, participated in the event making turkey craft, pumpkin pudding, and started their 4-H Memory Books. In addition to providing programming for the younger members, this event also lends itself to leadership opportunities for our teens. We had two Steuben County 4-H teens who took the lead on the Turkey Craft activity, and they also started the day by leading the group in the 4-H Pledge. The next Cloverbud Day has been scheduled for January 16th at the County Office Building in Bath. Registration information can be found on our website: http://putknowledge2work.org/events/2015/11/21/cloverbud-day

2015 Swine Picture Judging Results

The swine judging picture contest is an annual event sponsored by the National Swine Registry. The ten classes consisted of Duroc Boars, Hampshire Boars, Landrace Boars, Yorkshire Boars, Prospect Duroc Gilts, Hampshire Gilts, Landrace Gilts, Yorkshire Gilts, Grand Drive Barrows, Crossbred Market Hogs. The total possible score was 500 points. Listed below are the results of the Steuben County Contest. All the members who participated in 2015 were from Howard Hillbillies 4-H Club. We hope that some of the other 4-H members will participate in the 2016 contest. For the 2016 contest information and entry form go to http://www.nationalswine.com/seedstockEDGE/picture_judging.php For the Steuben County 4-H Contest Entries must be sent to the CCE office postmarked by February 1, 2016 and for the National Contest you must enter the contest online If you have any questions contact Kim at 607-583-3185 or ksb3@cornell.edu.

Cloverbuds (5-7 years old as of Jan. 1, 2015) who participated were Bradley Bottum and Arianah VanSkiver

Juniors (8-13 years old as of Jan. 1, 2015)
1st Lacey Loucks, 354; 2nd Faith Loucks 327; 3rd Wyatt Hammond 321

Seniors (14-18 years old as of Jan. 1, 2015)
1st Daniel Northup 388; 2nd Greg Fox 356; 3rd Amber Northup 344; 4th Aaron Northup 325; 5th Shelby Hammond 308; 6th Matt Smith 306; 7th Amber Loucks 296; and 8th Mariah Stocum 257

Adults
1st Bo VanSkiver 361; 2nd Dave Dockstader 357; 3rd Thomas Fox 341; 4th Cindy Loucks 331; 5th Vicky Dockstader 307; 6th David Dockstader Jr. 267

Clubs – Team Entries
1st Place – Howard Hillbillies Score - 365
Amber Northup, Daniel Northup, Mariah Stocum, and Arianah VanSkiver

2nd Place – Howard Hillbillies Score - 307
Faith Loucks, Lacey Loucks, Shelby Hammond, Wyatt Hammond

3rd Place – Howard Hillbillies 4-H Club Score - 282
Bradley Bottom, Amber Loucks, Greg Fox, Aaron Northup
Youth Corner

With the start of the New Year, we’d like to offer a place in our publication for youth to contribute! We would like to hear from the Youth what they’ve been doing in their clubs and community. Articles/pieces do not have to be written by club secretaries, but any youth who would like to share what they’ve been doing. Please send articles to jmg422@cornell.edu and we will do our best to get them in the next circulation of The Steubenite!

‘Tis the Season
Prattsburgh Pioneer’s 4-H Club participated in the annual Tree Decoration/Food Drive. Each year, different businesses and community programs are given a small Christmas tree to decorate. The club met and decided to go with a farm theme this year. First, we decorate the tree, they the town provides boxes with community members use to vote by placing non-perishable food items in the box. Each item represents one vote. The food is then donated and delivered to needy families in the community. Prattsburgh Pioneers won the Youth Group Division of this year’s event. We also met in December for craft. We each got to make our own snowman, which is good since there is no snow outside! 4-H is a lot of fun and I can’t wait until January to meet again!