

Feb 2024

Ontario County 4-H

Clover Chronicle

February 2024

Announcements

Welcome Back Sarah!!!

4-H Educator Sarah Wilhelm will be returning from maternity leave in February. She will be part time during February and March, returning back to full time in April. During her part time hours, Amy & Michele are still around to help out whenever needed.

Lots of information in the following pages. Check out



Looking Forward...

February 2024

February 6, 9, 10 Public Presentations

February 7 Horse Educational Meeting

February 13 Public Presentation Snow Date

February 19 Entrepreneurship Club-What is an Entrepreneur?

February 21 Horse Educational Meeting—All About Bits

February 21 WHEP Meeting

March 2024

March 2 Horse Extravaganza
March 7 Teen council Meeting
March 9 Step Into - Photography
March 9 Finger Lakes Dairy Bowl

March 9 4-H Livestock Auction Quality Assurance Meeting

March 18 Entrepreneurship Club-How do I come up with the Idea?



Did you miss the January meting for Entrepreneurship Club? We are happy to catch you up on what you missed and have you join us! Reach out to Michele at mla226@cornell.edu.

In this club 4-H'ers will leave with an understanding of the following.

- How to take a business from idea to reality, we will hear from business owners in our community that have taken a passion and turned it into a career.
- How to obtain funding for your business, a local lender will be talking to the group about how people successfully get loans and different ways to fund your business.

Participants will come up with an idea, turn it into a business plan, and at the Ontario County Fair they will present it "shark tank style" for project funding.

This club is anticipated to go once a month from February to July with the last few months focused working on a project that the kids will be judged upon at the Ontario County fair.



The annual Dairy Discovery program provides New York youth with fun, hands-on science-oriented learning experiences in dairy production and management topics that feature the unique facilities, industry professionals, and staff at Cornell University.

Youth learn will understand, observe and participate in technical skill training by rotating through a series of hands-on stations that focus on specific aspects of the dairy industry, including:

Dairy Herd Health and Management Calf and Heifer Production Management

Quality Milk and Milk Production Whole Farm Management Planning

Maximizing the Feed Management Program.

Registration is now open for the NY State Dairy Discovery Program held March 29th and 30th, 2024. It is open to youth 14 to 19 years old. Held at Cornell University

Here is the link for information and how to register for the program:

https://cals.cornell.edu/pro-dairy/our-expertise/youth/dairy-discovery-workshop



Join us for learning throughout the fall/winter months! Anyone interested in horses is welcome!

October 9th, 2-5pm: Anatomy and Grooming @Little Bear Acres

October 22nd, 2-5pm: All about Tack @Little Bear Acres

November 1st, 6-8pm: Color Genetics @CCE Office

November 15th, 6-8pm: Horse Quizzing Fun @CCE Office

December 6th, 6-8pm: Equine Nutrition @CCE Office

December 20th, 6-8pm: Horse Educational Kit @CCE Office

January 10th, 6-8pm: Equine Conformation @CCE Office

January 24th, 6-8pm: Horse Quizzing Fun @CCE Office

February 7th, 6-8pm: Horse Education Kit - @CCE Office

February 21st, 6-8pm: All About Bits! @CCE Office

**Any 4-H participant is welcome to join the horse bowl team for a fun contest in March but this is NOT required! We just want to keep the learning going through the winter.

Feb 2024 | Ontario County 4-H | Clover Chronicle | Page 4



Champion Choice Camp to NY Sunday, May 19th in Ballston Spa

This camp is a Nationally recognized camp that focuses on taking kids to the next level in the show ring and in preparing their animal for show. The kids bring their own animals and learn everything from teaching the brace, showmanship techniques in the ring, desensitizing their animals, nutrition and fitting of their animal. The camp is for youth interested in Meat Goats and Sheep. Each kid should bring their own animal with them. Registration space is limited.

The camp is \$250, regular price but it seems they have sales periodically. (as of 1/30 it was \$175)

To find out more information or for kids to register visit www.championschoicecamps.com.

Info is also available on; NYS 4-H Dairy and Livestock Facebook

National 4-H Conference—Open to 4-H Teens!

National 4-H Conference is the pinnacle experience in 4-H Civic Engagement, providing the opportunity for young people to connect, learn, engage, lead and impact their communities, nation and world. At the conference, delegates will have the opportunity to participate in round table discussions and present to federal partner agencies along with the opportunity for delegates to engage with their U.S. Senators and Representatives

April 19-24, 2024 Hyatt Regency, Crystal City Arlington, Virginia

https://www.nifa.usda.gov/national-4-h-conference



WHEP Information

In February it is still winter but, if you pay close attention, Nature is offering us a promise of the coming Spring! Where? in the song of some of our birds. As winter continues, the longer days stimulate the production of hormones which initiate breeding behavior in certain of our resident songbirds. Listen closely and you may hear a black-capped chickadee singing its "fee-bee" mating calls - two whistles, each about 1/2 second long with the second whistle a slightly lower pitch than the first. Tufted titmice announce the beginning of winter's end with a fast-repeated, clear whistle song that sounds like "Peter, Peter". A mourning dove's mournful lamentation - "coo-coo-oo", is another song that can be heard at this time of year. In addition to actual songs both downy and hairy woodpeckers use non-vocal communications - the steading hammering on nearby trees - to attract a mate. The drumming of the hairy woodpecker is faster - about 25 taps/ second - than the smaller downy's drumming at 15 taps/second. Finally, by month's end you may even hear the "clonk-la-ree" of returning male red-winged black-

birds. Each season offers moments/experiences not to be repeated at any other time of year. The late winter mating songs of some birds is a great example of one such moment. So, put on some warm clothes and venture outside to listen for these beautiful sounds. They may provide you with just the hope you need to get you through the rest of winter.

Source used: "Naturally Curious Day by Day.....A Photographic Field Guide and Daily Visit to the Forests, Fields, and Wetlands of Eastern North America", by Mary Holland.



Upcoming WHEP Program! February 17th

The February outing of the WHEP Young Birders Group will be at 10 am on February 17. We will be meeting at the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center to hear a presentation by "Eagle Lady", Jackie Bakker on "The Bald Eagles of Montezuma". Jackie monitors area eagle nests for the D.E.C., is the head bird surveyor at the Refuge and handles the Refuge's Visitor Center information desk on Mondays. She will be telling us about how eagles were reintroduced to Montezuma in the mid 1970's. Efforts to restore bald eagle populations in NY state have been an incredible success. When first started, there were only 400 pairs of



eagles in the contiguous US. Currently it is estimated that there are now about 300,000 individuals for the entire U.S. excluding Hawaii. Jackie will also be addressing eagle growth and development, and their nesting and general behavior. After her talk we will be visiting the spot where it all began - the actual Hacking Tower on Clark's Ridge where the young eagles were raised and released!

Hope you can join us at 10 am on February 17 RSVP to Nina at nmccar56@gmail.com

Scholarship & Award Opportunities

The Guernsey Calf Scholarship is a great opportunity for youth to get involved in different organizations or programs along with learning about the Guernsey Dairy Breed. Youth who have won this scholarship in the past have had the opportunity to grow personally through learning to care and show their animal, meeting and mentoring with others in the dairy field, and building



long lasting friendships across the dairy community. This scholarship application is open to youth who do not already own a Guernsey animal and are ages 9 to 15 as of Jan 1. The scholarship application is due March 15th and includes an essay. Please reach out to Sarah if you would like more information sab432@cornell.edu

2024 SAGES Advancement in Agricultural Studies Scholarship

The Student Association of the Geneva Experiment Station (SAGES) is now accepting applications for the 2024 Advancement in Agricultural Studies Scholarship. Members of SAGES include graduate students, postdoctoral associates, and research technicians at Cornell Agritech (formerly NYS Agricultural Experiment Station). The Advancement in Agricultural Studies Scholarship was established as a way to give back to local communities, help support interest in agricultural studies, and nurture future professionals.

SAGES established this scholarship in 2009, and since then has awarded \$14,750 to local high school seniors who have shown leadership in the classroom, in their communities, and who have expressed a desire to pursue higher education in agriculture-related fields of study. SAGES hopes to build upon this legacy by offering a \$500 scholarship for up to 2 deserving students from the Class of 2023.

The scholarship committee will accept applications from graduating seniors. Eligible applicants must be residents or attend high school in the following counties: **Ontario**, **Yates**, **Seneca**, **Tompkins**, **Cayuga**, **Schuyler**, and **Wayne**.



Successful applicants must be graduating high school seniors who intend to enroll in a 2 or 4-year degree program in the agricultural sciences or an agriculturally-related field (examples are listed on the application). Eligible students can obtain application materials by emailing the chair of the SAGES Scholarship Committee, Jocelyn Schwartz (jas975@cornell.edu), or from their high school guidance counselor. Applications are due by **April 15, 2024** and winner(s) will be notified by the end of May. Please reach out to Sarah if you would like more information sab432@cornell.edu

Feb 2024 | Ontario County 4-H $\,$ | Clover Chronicle $\,$ | Page 7 $\,$

Save the Date **Tractor Safety Course** See flyer below for details





SAVE THE DATE:

NYS 4-H Horse Judging Clinic

9am-2pm February 11th, 2024

Cornell University 507 Tower Road Frank B Morrision Hall

Registration information will be sent out soon!

Cost: \$10 per youth/adult participant with a cap of \$25 per family!

Join us for a day of learning about horse judging and how to prepare and give reasons! We will be having three judges from across the state joining us!

> Contact Jessica Tyson at jms943@cornell.edu with any questions!





2024 NYS 4-H LIVESTOCK SUMMIT

JANUARY 24TH TO FEBRUARY 24TH @ 7 P.M. VIA ZOOM

- · January 24th AgVocating for your Market Animal Eileen Jenson, New York Animal Agricultural Coalition
- January 31st Getting it Done at Home! Tracy Dendinger, Champion Choice Camps
- February 7th Swine Health John Heins, National Pork Board
- February 21st Animal First Aid Kate Perz, Suffolk County Farm and Education Center Educator
- February 28th Where is that Steak From? Jessica Waltemeyer, NYS Extension Small Ruminant Specialist

To Register: https://cornell.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMvcOGvpjgiHNO-OmN6ENgjxt8vWMfIVYiG

For more information contact Brian Aukema at bja14@cornell.edu

Regional Dog Bowl

Saturday, February 24, 2024 **Alfred State College Farm**

Teams typically consist of 4 members but everyone is invited. If necessary, we will combine counties to make a team so everyone can play!!

Tentative Schedule:

9:30 Registration/Check-In

10:00 First Rounds Noon: Lunch (provided)

Possible tours of A-State campus, **Agriculture Building and Veterinary Technology**

1:00 Final Rounds

Contact: Kathi (kchambliss@gmail.com) for more information and to sign-up.

Please register by Feb. 10 for lunch count.







What's Bugging You? Insects & Critters of NYS 4-part virtual series.

Brought to you by The Youth Nature and Outdoor Environment Program Work Team.



Wed. Feb 28, Wed. March 6, Wed. March 13, & Wed. March 20

Virtual Zoom Sessions will be held at 6:30pm on:

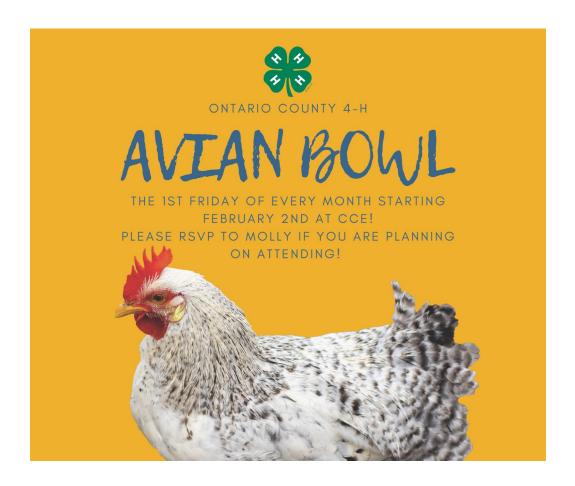
What makes an insect an insect? And are they different than bugs? This group of animals is the most diverse on the planet with an estimated 5.5 million species, of which only 1 million are known and identified. They outnumber humans in every way and affect our daily lives in many ways for good and for bad. Join us for 1 session or for all 4!

Each session will be 45-minutes and jam-packed with educational fun. This series will unravel the mysteries of insects, with experts from Cornell University, Albany Pine Bush Preserve & 4-H educators presenting this program.

Register with QR Code:







The target audience for March Dog Madness is 4-H Teens, Volunteers and Educators interested in the 4-H Dog Program. For more information please visit http://tinyurl.com/bdf2s69u.



VIRTUAL 4-H DAIRY **BOWL PRACTICES**

Join other youth from across the state for Virtual Dairy Bowl practices, hosted by the NYS 4-H Dairy Committee.

JANUARY 11 JANUARY 25 FEBRUARY 8 FEBRUARY 22 **FEBRUARY 29**

TIME: 7:00 - 8:00 PM

Register at:

https://bit.ly/2024DairyBowlPractice

CONTACT DEBBIE GRUSENMEYER WITH ANY QUESTIONS AT DJC27@CORNELL.EDU



The Bulletin Board

Whep member Madison Glaudee works on her kestrel nesting box with 4-h leader Steve Wyckoff



Whep is creating Kestrel nesting boxes to address the decrease in population of this bird. NYSGE will put the 4 boxes up on electric poles identified by 4-h members as good kestrel habitat. Members will then monitor these boxes as part of a citizen science program. Madison will be doing her 4-h presentation on this topic if you want to know

Habitats and winter signs were explored at the January whep meeting. This luge track is from a mink.

February's meeting Wednesday the 21st will be a game afternoon from 4:30-6.

Come play some previous favorites like Birdopoly and Habitat, or new ones about butterflies or bird migration (Wingspan). This event is offered to family members and guests.

Registration is required by Monday, February 19th by email to Nina at nmccar56@gmail.com.



One year anniversary for WHEP

It was great. Had the red HEADED wood pecker at state park...then tundra swans, eagle, mergansers, greater black-baced gull on lake. Snow geese on the fields.

Nice stroll thru Hobart property with cardinal, Creeper, geese and grow. Explored lots of plant life. Fun!!







The Bulletin Board

Hens and Hares: The first meeting of the month, Mason Michaelsen, our vice president for rabbit related subjects, led a meeting on rabbit digestion and nutrition. We discussed why water is such an important nutrient, and talked about the five major nutrients rabbits need. We also compared a few different feed tags, and talked about how hard it would be to recreate the commercial feeds.

The second meeting was led by our other vice president, Isaac Wheeler, the topic was American standard poultry breeds. We talked about the standard poultry breeds, and their characteristics. We also talked about different classes of poultry breeds, and what the word 'class' means.

We will be hosting a pancake breakfast on April 7th at Charlie Riedels, keep an eye out for more details





Czadzeck Family: We have been busy with a variety of things. We attended a meeting about pack goat and milking goat. Spent lots of time working with our animals for show and getting them ready. Our group also took some time to make Valetine's Day cards for sailors to help brighten their day.



Spark Club spent the month of January gearing up for Public Presentations. At our meeting we learned about how to prepare for presentations with the help of Teen Leader, Fernando. We are excited to see what everyone decided they are going to talk about for their presentation in February! Our February meeting will be all about science!



The Bulletin Board

Step Into! We held our first Step Into Workshop on January 13th. Presenter Karen Clark led our workshop on dot painting. Participants chose an animal they wanted to paint and using Q-tips to use the dot method. We had a very fun morning and we have some very talented artists! Join us on March 9th for our next Step Into Program on photography!







4-H Livestock Auction - Our 4-H Livestock Auction program held their large animal feeding workshop. We had a guest speaker from SunGlo feeds join us to talk about feeding your market animal. Thank you to Mark and Anna Spoor from MCS Feeds who helped organize our speaker.







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