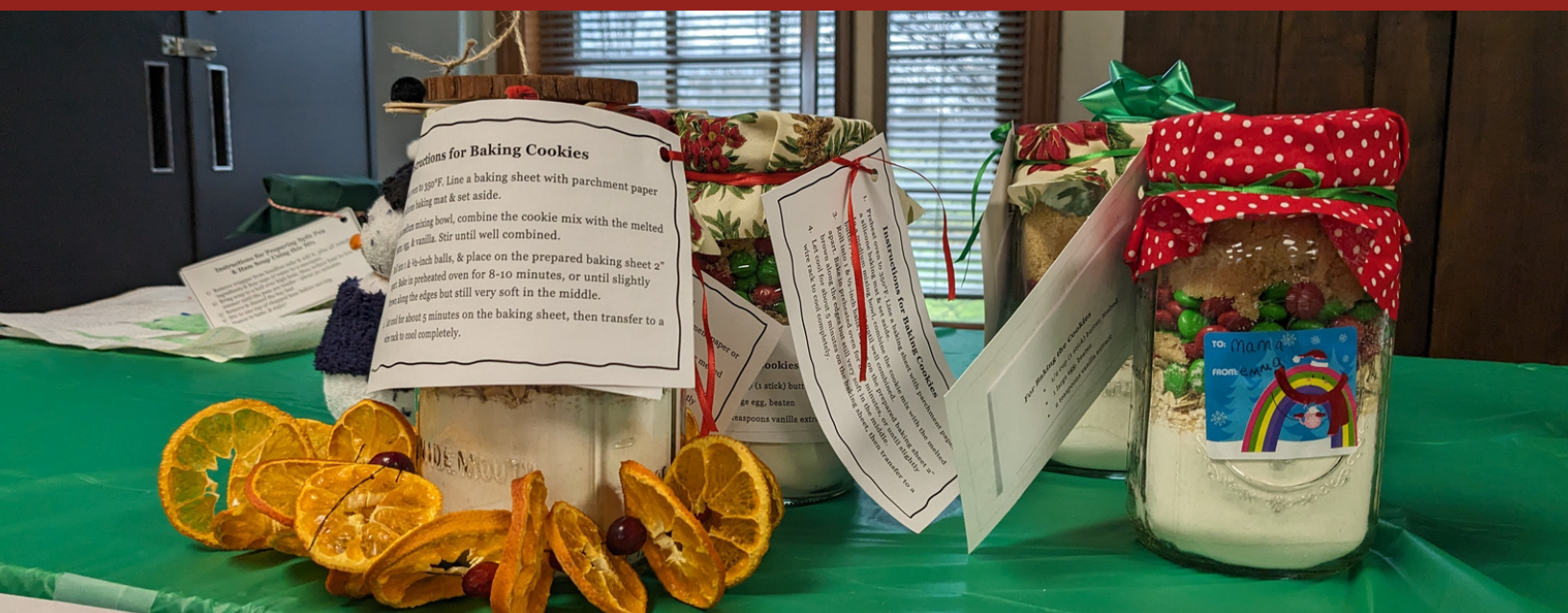


December 2023

»»» WAYNE COUNTY 4-H «««

Monthly Newsletter

CLOVER CHRONICLES



IN THIS MONTH'S EDITION

- p. 1 ~ Holiday Special Recap
- p. 2 - 3 ~ Make Your Own
- p. 4 ~ Parent Testimonial
- p. 5 ~ 4-H Lending Closet
- p. 6 ~ Volunteer Corner
- p. 7 - 8 ~ Club Updates
- p. 9 - 10 ~ Teen Happenings
- p. 11 - 14 ~ Upcoming Opportunities
- p. 15 ~ January Workshop: Blanket-Making Session
- p. 16 - 17 ~ December Baking Challenge!
- p. 18 ~ Mark Your Calendars

HAVE A QUESTION? CONTACT US!

The Wayne County 4-H Team:

- Ryan Kincaid, 4-H Team Leader: rkk73@cornell.edu
- Amy Pelton, 4-H Educator: alp257@cornell.edu
- Melissa Spoon, Food & Fitness Educator: mss466@cornell.edu





Earlier this month, we held our annual Holiday Special, an event during which youths made a variety of gifts for family and friends. Some of the items made this year include: sock snowmen, evergreen swag, ornaments, soup mix and cookie mix in a jar, cardinal pictures, cranberry and orange garland, cat toys, crackers/poppers, wall hangings, and more! Younger participants also enjoyed a movie and “snowball fight”. A fun day was had by all; thank you to all of the parents and other volunteers who assisted to make the event a success!



Did you miss the event?

Check out the instructions on the next couple of pages for how to make a few of the crafts.

MAKE YOUR OWN: SOCK SNOWMAN

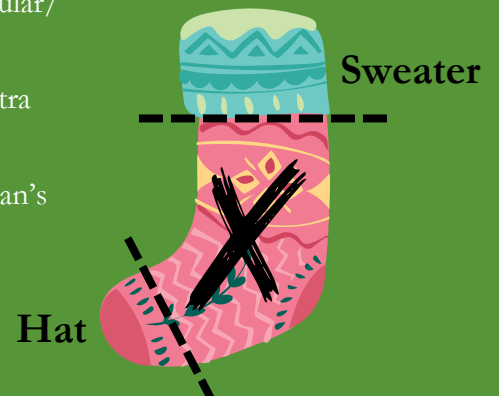
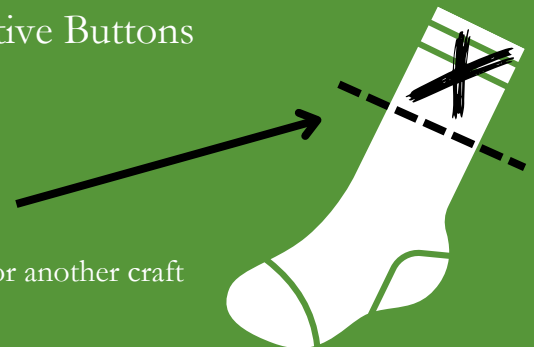


You Will Need:

- 1 White Sock
- 1 or More Colorful Fluffy Sock(s)
- Scissors
- 2 - 4 Cups of Rice
- 3 Rubber Bands
- Cup or Other Scoop
- Hot Glue Gun & Glue
- Small Piece of Orange Pipe Cleaner
- Small Black Buttons or Beads
- Other Festive Buttons
- Funnel

Instructions:

- 1) Cut the sock a little above the ankle, leaving a small amount above the heel. You may discard the portion above the ankle or use it for another craft (such as a cat toy!).
- 2) Turn the sock inside out so you can see the textured, kind of fluffy side.
- 3) Put a few scoops of rice inside the sock, using the funnel to guide it down into the toe. Fill the sock until you have just a little bit of sock left at the top.
- 4) Use the rubber band to close off the top of the sock, holding the rice inside.
- 5) Put another rubber band or two about a third of the way down from the top, separating the rice into two round portions. Set the white sock aside. Plug in the hot glue gun.
- 6) Cut your colorful sock(s) as shown to the right, so that you have a rectangular/cylindrical portion for the sweater and a little cap (toe) for the hat.
- 7) Place the sweater and hat on your white sock, so the toe cap covers the extra little bit (where the opening was) at the top, and the sweater goes around the snowman's middle, up to and slightly covering the rubberband at the snowman's neck. Use a hot glue gun to secure the hat and sweater in place.
- 8) Carefully glue buttons/beads and pipe cleaner to make the snowman's eyes, nose, and buttons.



MAKE YOUR OWN: REINDEER ORNAMENT

Supplies:

- 3 Popsicle Sticks
- 1 Pompom
- Shell, Bow, or Bead
- 2 Googly Eyes
- Piece of Ribbon
- Tacky Glue, or Hot Glue



Directions:

- 1) Arrange the popsicle sticks so two are in a “V” formation, with the third crossing horizontally, leaving the top of the V exposed to be antlers.
- 2) Place a small dot of glue under each place where the sticks overlap.
- 3) Place a small dot of glue at the bottom of the V for the nose, and glue the pompom on. Then, place a dot of glue on either side, below the crosswise piece, and place the eyes.
- 4) Glue on a small decoration if desired.
- 5) Tie a ribbon at the top.



PAPER BEADS

You can use scraps of wrapping paper to make your own beads! Cut them into thin triangular strips, and roll them around a straw or pencil. Use a little glue so they stay together. (You can use Mod-Podge to coat the outside of the bead to make it last longer.) If you use a pencil, carefully pull the bead off so that it has a hole in the middle. If you use a straw, you can simply cut the straw at the desired length. Once your beads are dry, place them on an elastic or string to make an upcycled bracelet or necklace!



PARENT TESTIMONIAL



“Hi, my name is Kate Smith and I have three children involved in 4-H. They are currently 11, 13, and 15 years old. They enrolled as Cloverbuds between the ages of 5 and 7. As I take the time to reflect on all they have done through their participation in 4-H, it becomes clear how much 4-H has enriched their lives.



As Cloverbuds they learned about some of the foundational concepts 4-H is associated with....gardening, environmental resources, cooking, nutrition, etc. They were focused on “Learning by doing”.....which is 4-H’s slogan. They often spent time in small groups making crafts, baking, exploring new concepts, performing simple experiments, learning about nature, and developing independence skills.



As they got older their participation was influenced by their individual interests. They began to better understand the four Hs of 4-H....Head, Heart, Hands, and Health and how those concepts applied to various topics. By working on all four Hs, they developed into well-rounded individuals. Their activities shifted to more advanced projects, working as part of a team, and opportunities to learn communication and leadership skills.



Their participation in 4-H continues to evolve now as teenagers. “To make the best better” is the 4-H motto and this seems to fit their current involvement. They now have the opportunity to utilize previously learned skills in different environments and on a larger scale. They are building their capacity for leading by developing organizational, time management, and long-term planning skills. They have taken trips through 4-H that have introduced them to other 4-Hers from different regions/backgrounds/experiences, they have learned about agencies and professions associated with government, they have developed job-skills through leadership roles at camp and fair, they have employed the structural framework needed to oversee a project from idea to reality through grant writing, and they have begun to explore areas that interest them individually more deeply.



I suspect that as they continue to grow, 4-H will allow them to take areas of interest and strength and naturally begin to explore how they could become potential career fields in the future.



4-H has remained a consistent presence in my children’s lives because it has evolved with them by recognizing and accommodating their growth and changing interests. While 4-H is a constant in their lives, the remarkable reality is that 4-H is almost impossible to concisely define because it is designed to be inclusive of a wide array of areas and developmental stages. My children have had the luxury of relying on a singular organization for much of their childhood. 4-H has provided a consistent resource for them to explore new interests, meet influential people and develop friendships, hone skills in preferred areas, gain skills necessary for success now and in the future, and maybe even find a career path for adulthood. The stability of 4-H has been a comforting during what can sometimes be a tumultuous time in a child’s life. I am grateful for all the opportunities my children have had as a result in their participation in 4-H.”



Reach out to Melissa to learn more!



4-H LENDING CLOSET

OUR FOCUS IS EDUCATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

Open to Club Leaders

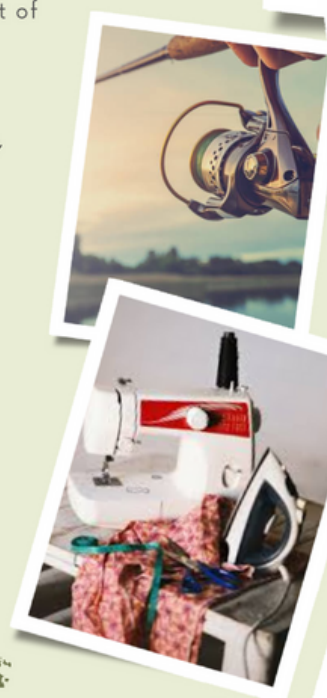
Come sign-out items at CCE to challenge your Club! We have a wide variety of items available to try new things without the huge cost of purchasing the items.

Items Available

- Water Bath Canners
- Pressure Canners
- Fishing Poles
- Juicer Kit
- Sewing Machines
- Youth Science Kits
- Stem Challenge Kits
- Snow Shoes
- Gardening Kits
- Strainers
- Rolling Pins
- Slicing sets

BORROW TODAY!

📍 1581 Route 88 North, Newark, NY 14513
 📞 (315) 331-8415
 🌐 ccewayne.org



VOLUNTEER CORNER



In January, be on the lookout for information about Background Checks and tracking volunteer hours.



CLUB LEADERS

We will be holding “Club Leader Meet-Ups” the same evenings as our next few 4-H Advisory Committee Meetings (so you don’t have to make an extra trip). These will be an opportunity for you to chat with other club leaders, brainstorm ideas, and borrow resources from CCE.



4-H ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Our next Advisory Committee Meeting has been rescheduled; it will now take place on Wednesday, January 24th at 6:15pm (at CCE). The Club Leader Meet-Up will take place immediately following the Advisory Committee Meeting.



THANK YOU

Thank you so much to all of the volunteers who helped with our Holiday Special this year!!! If you have not yet stopped by to pick up your thank you gift from CCE, you can do so M-F, 8:30am to 4:30pm in the new year.



CLUB UPDATES

Barnyard Bandits visited Alasa Farms.

The group made goat treats and took them to the goats there when they visited.



Ruff N Tails December Shenanigans!

We made keepsake clay paw prints & cookie cutter ornaments. We had so much fun these were the only pictures we got! We are taking the rest of December off from obedience classes, but will resume the 2nd Saturday in January. Please follow Ruff tails on Facebook for up-to-date info.



CLUB UPDATES, CONTINUED



“On November 11, 2023 the **Farm Friends** 4-H Club hosted a 4-H sleepover for 13 members ranging in ages from 5 to 14 years old. As a service project we made dog treats, dog toys and cat toys to donate to the Wayne County Humane Society. We had a lot of fun doing our community service project and making Thanksgiving crafts. As the reporter for my club, I enjoy the variety of projects available through 4-H.

4-H is a fun opportunity for all ages, if you have child who would be interested in volunteering for community service, learning new activities and learning to work as a team, contact Cornell Cooperative Extension at (315) 331-8415 to ask about joining a club today.”

~ Lillie Spoon, Farm Friends 4-H Club Reporter


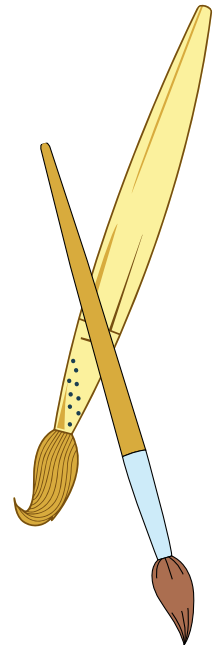


TEEN HAPPENINGS

Teen Activity Nights

Teen Activity Nights take place the **third Wednesday of each month**, typically at CCE in Newark. They are open to any teen or tween (ages 12 and up) currently enrolled in Wayne County 4-H. We'll do different activities each month, including board games, art projects, and cooking. Snacks are provided!

Our January session will take place on Wednesday, January 17th from 6:30 to 8pm, and we will be painting a wintry scene of a fox in the snow!



Any teens and tweens interested in participating should reach out to Ryan by noon on Monday, January 15th so she can make sure she has enough materials available.



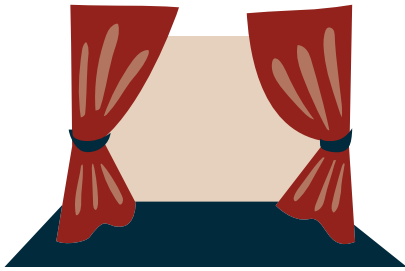
During our December
Teen Activity Night
we made five different
types of cookies! Yum!



UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

National Arts Promotion

“Calling all artists, creators and performers! We’d love to see what YOU do best. Submit your work for a chance to be featured at upcoming National 4-H events. We’re looking for singers, dancers, instrumentalists as well as visual artists and creators of all kinds. Enter today to showcase your unique talent on this national stage!” Scan the QR Code or click the link below to apply; applications (from youths ages 14-19 accepted) through **January 1st, 2024.**



2024 Arts Promotion Application



Cloverbud Club

In January, we will be starting a Cloverbud Club for youths ages 5-7. This opportunity is especially geared for youths not already in another club so they can get the club experience. The club will meet once a month and will be led by Laura and Maeve. Sessions will generally take place on the weekend at CCE in Newark, and we are hoping for the same youths to attend each month. Each session will include such activities as: crafts, cooking/food prep, game, book, etc. The first three sessions are scheduled for:

Sun., 1/21 (1-2:30pm) Sun., 2/18 (1-2:30pm) Sat., 3/30 (10-11:30am)

There are limited spots available, so club membership will be on a first-come first served basis. If you would like to sign your 5-7 year old up for the Cloverbud Club, please email Ryan with the information below:

- Youth's Name
- Youth's Age
- Youth's Interests
- If the youth is available on the dates listed above



2024 WAYNE COUNTY 4-H



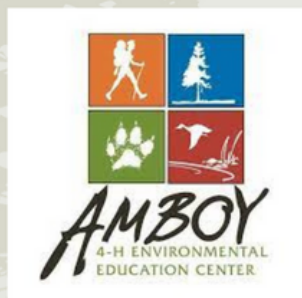
S'MORE FUN

FEBRUARY 2-4

WINTER WEEKEND

DISCOVER NATURE'S BEAUTY WITH US AT AMBOY 4-H ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

Join our S'more fun winter weekend adventure for a unique opportunity to explore nature, learn valuable hiking, sledding, and snowshoeing skills while having an unforgettable adventure. Open to 4-Hers ages 12 and older, cost \$45 per youth. Come for s'mores, crafts, games, hot dog roast, community service project, friends and lots of fun.



REGISTER HERE

☎ 315-331-8415

<https://forms.gle/HP5t14Yho1cxJmEd9>



748 State Route 183,
Williamstown, NY 13493

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





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

JANUARY WORKSHOP: BLANKET-MAKING SESSION TO BENEFIT



Project Linus

Saturday, January 13th -- Open to Youths Ages 8+ Who Are Comfortable Tying

For our next monthly workshop, we'll be doing a little community service. Participants will make a tie-blanket, which we will then donate to Project Linus, an organization that gives handmade blankets to children who need some warmth and comfort - due to a serious illness, trauma, or other challenging circumstance.

Please register using [this link](#), or scan the QR Code to the right.



Each youth should bring a fleece tie-blanket kit or two large square pieces of fleece to make a blanket. If you are unable to attend, but would like to contribute, you can donate extra fleece or completed blankets (these can include quilts, crocheted, or other types of blankets) to the CCE office prior to January 12th.



December Baking Challenge

16

INSPIRED BY THE SHOW "NAILED IT" !

FESTIVE COOKIE TREES

Divide into teams in your family or 4-H Club and see who makes the most delicious and most festive trees!

Yields: 16 Tree cookies

INGREDIENTS:

Cookie Dough

- 2 1/4 c. all-purpose flour
- 3/4 c. unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 1 c. sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp. almond extract
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1/4 tsp. kosher salt

Frosting

- 1 c. butter
- 4 c. powdered sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 3 tbsp. water or milk
- Green gel icing/food
- 3 tbsp. of sprinkles



Adapted from Lindsay Conchar's Recipe at delish.com:

<https://www.delish.com/cooking/recipe-ideas/recipes/a50445/christmas-tree-cookie-stacks/>

RECOMMENDED TIME FOR CHALLENGE: 50 MINUTES

STEPS

1. Pre heat oven to 350 degrees & prepare 2 cookie sheets
2. For cookie dough, use a mixer to cream butter and sugar together until light and fluffy, 3 to 4 minutes. Mix in egg and vanilla and almond extracts. In a separate bowl, whisk together dry ingredients. Add dry ingredients to wet ingredients and mix until smooth. Your dough will be thick!
3. Make three sizes of cookie dough balls: 1 teaspoon, 2 teaspoons, and 3 teaspoons. (You should have an even number of each.) Place medium and large cookies on a cookie sheet and press down slightly on each. Place small cookies on 2nd cookie sheet and do the same.
4. Bake until center looks mostly cooked, 7 to 8 minutes for the medium/large and 5 to 6 minutes for the small. When cookies are done, remove from oven and let cool 2 to 3 minutes, then transfer to a cookie rack to finish cooling.
5. For your frosting, use a mixer to beat butter until smooth. Add half the powdered sugar and mix until smooth. Add vanilla and 2 tablespoons water and mix until smooth. Add remaining powdered sugar and mix until smooth. Add green gel icing color to frosting and mix until your desired shade of green.
6. To assemble cookies, add frosting to ziplock bag, squeeze out air and seal, then cut one corner. Pipe a swirl of frosting onto the largest cookie, then top with medium cookie. Repeat steps with smallest cookie & then decorate with sprinkles. Refrigerate until you are ready to eat!

December Baking Challenge

SUGGESTIONS

Here are some ideas on how to make the most of this cookie challenge for your family or 4-H Club!

SUPPLIES:

Pull all of your supplies out before you start!

- 2 baking sheets for each team/competitor
- Parchment paper to line the baking sheet (recommended)
- A mixer
- Bowls for mixing cookie dough and frosting
- A ziplock bag or piping bag for each competitor
- Measuring spoons
- Measuring cups
- Spatula
- Cookie rack for cooling if you have one!



COME UP WITH A PLAN

Discuss if you will break up into teams or all work together on this cookie challenge. Grown-ups vs. Kids is always a fun dynamic!

HOW WILL THE COMPETITION BE JUDGED?

Is there an impartial party who can see and taste the cookies made and issue a ruling? Could you use a 4-H style of judging, ranking the trees off of a set of agreed-upon criteria?

DISCUSS THE WHAT IF's

Go over any challenges you might face in this competition, and go over possible solutions. If one team is not done when the timer goes off, what happens? Is a tie possible? Agree on the adjustments and the rules ahead of time.

SHARE THE FUN!

Encourage your friends and family to join in the friendly competition, and share photos or videos with your 4-H Club and the CCE Office! We'd love to see what you come up with and share with the community!

NEW TO BAKING? WATCH THIS VIDEO FOR VISUAL STEPS:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uVdKNsrBeoM>



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

18

Looking Ahead to 2024

- Wednesday, January 3rd ~ Last Day to Enroll in Wayne County 4-H in order to participate in the 2024 Wayne County Fair
- Monday, January 8th, 9am to 4pm ~ \$\$ Premium Pick-Up \$\$
- Thursday, January 11th, 5:30pm to 8pm ~ \$\$ Premium Pick-Up \$\$
- Monday, January 15th, 5:30pm to 8pm ~ \$\$ Premium Pick-Up \$\$
- Sunday, January 21st from 1 to 2:30pm ~ Cloverbud Club
- Wednesday, January 24th, 6:15pm ~ 4-H Advisory Committee Meeting, followed by Club Leader Meet-Up
- Sunday, February 18th from 1 to 2:30pm ~ Cloverbud Club
- Saturday, March 30th from 10 to 11:30am ~ Cloverbud Club
- April 24th to May 5th ~ Spring Paper Clover Campaign at Tractor Supply Co. (A great promotion opportunity for clubs!)
- May 3rd to May 5th ~ STAR @ NYS Fairgrounds
- Saturday, June 15 - Sunday, June 16th ~ Wayne County 4-H Horse Show
- Saturday July 13th - Sunday, July 14th ~ Wayne County 4-H Horse Show
- Monday, July 8th - Friday, July 12th ~ Camp Beechwood @ Beechwood State Park
- Monday, July 15th - Friday, July 19th ~ Gardening & Cooking Camp *NEW*
- October 2nd to 13th ~ Fall Paper Clover Campaign at Tractor Supply Co. (A great promotion opportunity for clubs!)



CALL FOR NEWSLETTER ADDITIONS

If you have a photo, story, idea, or shout-out that you'd like us to include in a future newsletter, please email it to Ryan Kincaid, with "Newsletter Additions" in the subject line.

