



Clover Chronicle

October- November 2025

<i>Annual Meeting and CCE Ballot</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>4-H Club Reports</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>The 4-H Promise.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>How to reach us</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>4-H (PDC)</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Leader's Digest</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>National 4-H Week</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Teens</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Hippology</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Mane Team Event</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Recognition Banquets</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Bowl Season is Coming</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>4-H Shooting Sports Volunteer Meeting</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Junior Chefs</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>NYCAMH's Annual Farm Safety Art Contest</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Clover Trail Fun Run/Walk</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>NYS Livestock Ambassador Program (LAP)</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>4-H Winter Fair.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Schaghticoke Fair Wrap Up</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>The Magical Fall Foliage.....</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Fundraising.....</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Teen Exchange Wreath Order</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Member Birthdays.....</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	<i>26</i>

Annual Meeting and CCE Ballot

Please be on the lookout in early October for our CCE Rensselaer Annual Elections for determination of new representatives to our Board of Directors and respective Program Development Committees. Please be sure to follow the instructions for voting. Our CCE Annual meeting will be at the Hilton Garden Inn on Hoosick Street on November 3rd with Social Time starting at 5:30 PM followed by our Annual Meeting at 5:50 PM, dinner at 6 PM followed by volunteer and staff recognition and program. RSVP guidance and payment for dinner guidance will be in the ballot mailer.

For our youth the road ahead may be challenging, yet 4-H'ers are succeeding. Data shows that compared to their peers they're:
2x more likely to have the goal of being a leader.

3x more likely to participate in community service.

2x more likely to report living life with intentionality and purpose.

**Tufts University
longitudinal study of
Positive Youth
Development, 2021*



4-H Club Reports

Club Reports

At the end of each month, club secretaries should submit the Secretary's Monthly Report form to Kandis Freer at the CCE.

Refer to page 27 in the "4-H Club Secretary's Handbook" for examples and forms. Even though the Clover Chronicle is printed bi-monthly, secretaries should submit their reports every month. You receive points on the Honor Club Application for every Secretary's Report submitted on a timely basis.

The Secretary's Monthly Report is also available on the Rensselaer County 4-H website. You can find it on the 4-H Forms page. Secretaries, please email reports to kmf83@cornell.edu.

Northern Lovestock- Blake McCormick, Pittstown

During our meeting in July, we talked about getting two snack bar shifts, going to a fishing tournament, what our club display will be, and what we want to do for the basket raffle. We also talked about fair cleanup day on August 13th, make it and take it, and fair entries. We tie dyed shirts to enter in the fair. We also built parts of bird houses for our club display.

During July one of our members participated in the summer archery program. Two of our other members were excited to attend a Washington County Jr Beef Ambassadors' meeting. During our meeting in May we made jam. To make the jam we used strawberries, raspberries, and blackberries, mashed them up, mixed them together, and cooked them in a pot and put sugar and pectin in the pot. We made triple berry jam and strawberry jam.

The 4-H Promise

The more you invest, the more you grow.

Whether you attend every meeting or lead a project, your effort shapes your experience. 4-H is what *you* make it!

Leadership Skills

Learn to lead meetings, organize events, and speak with confidence.

STEM & Environmental Education

Explore robotics, coding, gardening, natural resources through fun, interactive projects.

Community Engagement

Make a difference through service projects and civic involvement.

Career Readiness

Build skills in communication, teamwork, and problem-solving that prepare you for the future.

Friendships & Fun

Connect with peers who share your interests and values.

4-H Project Year Calendar Rensselaer County

Please note: All dates are tentative and subject to change.
Always refer to the Clover Chronicle

OCTOBER	National 4-H week ABC (Agri-Business Career) Conference at SUNY Cobleskill Year End Recognition Events (Recognition Banquets) Club Enrollments DUE
NOVEMBER	Year End Recognition Events (Recognition Banquets)
DECEMBER	Winter Fair Dairy Bowl & Horse Bowl Practices begin National Conference Applications Due
JANUARY	Capital Days Applications due Dairy and Horse Bowl practices continue
FEBRUARY	Trip Applications Due – Cornell Career Exploration, Pre-Teen Adventure 4-H Family Fun Day (Pre-Teen Fun Day, Cloverbud Day, Cabin Fever Workshop) Dairy and Horse Bowl practices continue
MARCH	Capital Days County Horse Communication Event County Demonstration Days Regional Dairy and Horse Bowl Events – for teams Tractor Certification Program – open to all members 13 and older Spring Dog Sessions begin (Subject to staffing and location availability)
APRIL	Regional Horse Presentations – qualified members District Demonstration Day Hippology Practices begin Tractor Certification Program continues STAR (State Teen Action Retreat)
MAY	ALL ENROLLMENTS DUE BY MAY 15th (to be eligible for FAIR PARTICIPATION) Regional Animal Science Day – Albany County (varied topics) Plant Distribution Hippology continues
JUNE	Regional Hippology Event – teams participate Cornell Career Explorations
JULY	Pre Teen Adventure Cloverbud Outing Fair Theme Workshop @ Fairgrounds Teen Exchange (Host or Travel – alternating years)
AUGUST	Cattle Judging continues Fair Clean-Up – Fair Set-Up, Pot Luck Picnic, Make It & Take It Workshop, Leader Training State Fair Schaghticoke Fair Opens
SEPTEMBER	Schaghticoke Fair Closes (Labor Day) Post-Fair Clean-Up (Day after Labor Day)



How to reach us

Call the CCE Office: (518) 272-4210
Monday through Friday, 8am to 4pm

You can leave a voicemail message
any time!

STAFF

Bernie Wiesen, Executive Director
(518) 272-4210 x-102
Bw27@cornell.edu

Kandis Freer, 4-H Team Leader
(518) 272-4210 x-106
kmf83@cornell.edu

Mamnenge Gbim-Gbade, 4-H Youth and Adult
Agriculture Educator
518-272-4210 x 105
mbq242@cornell.edu

Eileen DePaula, 4-H Program Coordinator
(518) 272-4210 x-104
Emd32@cornell.edu

Catherine LaPorta, 4-H Environmental Program
Educator (518) 658-2055
cl2752@cornell.edu

Fax: (518) 272-1648 - ATTENTION 4-H

Facebook: Rensselaer County 4-H

YouTube: CCE Rensselaer
<https://www.youtube.com/ccerensselaer>

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rensselaer County

99 Troy Road, Suite 203
East Greenbush, NY 12061

**Cornell Cooperative Extension is a unique
educational network, linking Rensselaer County
with resources from Cornell University, USDA,
and the land grant university system.**

**Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer
and educator recognized for providing equal
program and employment opportunities in
accordance with applicable laws.**

4-H Program Development Committee (PDC)

4-H PDC members are available to you.

*If you have comments or suggestions don't hesitate
to reach out to any of our PDC members.*

Donna Bradbury
donna10_6@yahoo.com

Laura Holmes
laholmes@rcany.org

Liz Ruepp
rueppliz@gmail.com

Megan Myers
megan.pb.myers@gmail.com

Dona Ries
luckydmr2@gmail.com

Susan Jacon
sjacon@nyiso.com

Natalie Shudt
mailto:nshudt99@aol.com

The Clover Chronicle is published six times a year
by the 4-H Youth Development staff of Cornell
Cooperative Extension of Rensselaer County as
part of our informal educational programs for youth.

No one shall be denied the opportunity to
participate or receive information based on their
ability to pay. If you have special needs that we can
accommodate, please contact us at (518) 272-4210
or renselaer@cornell.edu

The information in this publication is provided for
educational purposes only. Advertisements and
references for businesses, producers, products,
services, or trade names are made with the
understanding that no endorsement or
discrimination is implied or expressed by Cornell
Cooperative Extension.



Leader's Digest

Volunteers are the life's blood of our organization.

We would like to thank all our volunteers for their passion for working with youth, and their dedication to 4-H.

Welcome to our new 4-H Volunteers
Amanda Tromblee – Growing Clovers
Shane Thrasher - Independent

Reenrollment Update

For the 2025-2026 4-H year, we will again be doing reenrollments and new enrollments virtually through 4-H Online beginning on October 1st. If you have not already done so, you will need to reset your password on 4-H Online the first time you log in. Use the email address which you are receiving the email blast with to sign in. If you have any questions, please contact Eileen at emd32@cornell.edu. If you have any questions, or if you would prefer hard copies of your paperwork, please contact Eileen. Also, Eileen would be more than happy to join your club meeting to help members get re-enrolled.

To complete the reenrollment process please follow the instructions below:

Log into 4-HOnline; *You will be asked to reset your password if you have not logged in before.* Use the email address which you are receiving the email blast with to sign in. Update any incorrect information and add any new projects.

Go to the CCE website 4-H Forms section at <https://rensselaer.cce.cornell.edu/4-h-youth/4-h-forms> and complete a Code of Conduct & Acknowledgment of Risk Form/ Photo Release for each youth.

- Acknowledgement of Risk/ Photo Release
- Code of Conduct

These can be uploaded to 4-H Online, or emailed to Eileen at emd32@cornell.edu

Volunteers do need to complete and submit a Volunteer Code of Conduct. These also can be uploaded to 4-H Online, or emailed to Eileen at emd32@cornell.edu

Payment for your reenrollments can be made via the CCE website donation page at <https://rensselaer.cce.cornell.edu/donate> please note that the payment is for 4-H Re-enrollments and for who, or a check payable to CCE Rensselaer County, that can be mailed to the 4-H office at 99 Troy Rd., Suite 203, East Greenbush, NY 12061

Enrollment fees are:

\$15.00 for each child (maximum of \$45 for families with more than 3 children)

\$10.00 for each leader (Maximum \$10 per couple)

A maximum of \$55.00 per family

Re-enrollments need to be submitted by November 1st. If you have not reenrolled by then please know that you are not covered by our insurance. If you plan to participate in any 4-H activities, make sure you have completed the reenrollment process. Youth do need to be enrolled by May 15th to show at the fair.

Annual Volunteer Harassment Prevention Training

4-H volunteers, the Harassment Prevention Training is an annual requirement to be enrolled as a Cornell Cooperative Extension volunteer and needs to be completed each year. The virtual training takes approximately 10 minutes and can be found at <http://blogs.cornell.edu/ccevolunteertraining/required-training/>. When completed, please forward the confirmation email to cce-rensselaer-volunteer@cornell.edu.

National 4-H Week

Sunday, October 5th - Saturday, October 11th

Don't let this opportunity pass you by —

You and your club can participate in a variety of ways:

October 6th – Go Green - On Monday of National 4-H Week, Go GREEN and show your 4-H State spirit! A simple, cohesive way for youth, professionals, volunteers, alumni & supporters across the country to celebrate their 4-H programs being Beyond Ready. Wear a green hat, clothing, face paint— anything green goes. Let's paint the nation GREEN, on Monday, October 6! Share your 'Go Green' moment on social and tag National 4-H, NYS 4-H, and use: #4HBeyondReady #National4HWeek

4-H Displays can be set up in a store window, in a bank, a library, a restaurant, a school, or anywhere else the public can see it — you could recycle your 4-H Club exhibit from the fair.

4-H Posters and Banners can be hung in many of the locations listed above— make sure to tell Eileen where!!

Write a News Article explaining what your club does all year long, relating your fair experience, or explaining about the 4-H "Learn by Doing" philosophy.

Make a video and post it on YouTube. (There are several great videos already up — to get ideas just go to www.youtube.com and type 4-H in the search box.)

Send a success story to Eileen to be posted

This is a requirement for Honor Club! Once you have decided what you are going to do, be sure to contact the 4-H office so that you and your club will get credit for participation in the National 4-H Week!

October 9th – 4-H for Good - On Thursday of National 4-H Week, help us shine a light on all the good that 4-H does! A day to recognize all the 4-H'ers who are doing good and making positive impact by helping their communities and beyond. Share your own story or celebrate someone who is making a difference - another 4-H'er, volunteer or educator We want to know, Thursday, October 9! Share your '4-H For Good' story on social, tag others in your 4-H community, tag National 4-H & NYS 4-H and use: #4HBeyondReady #National4HWeek

Tractor Supply Paper Clover

November 28 - December 14, 2025



Ambassador Council Teens

Any 4-H teens that may be interested in becoming an Ambassador Council Teen for the new 4-H year are encouraged to reach out to Eileen. Ambassador/ Council Teens “ACT” will be asked periodically to step up in leadership positions. ACT plans and coordinates fundraisers that benefit the county 4-H program. They fund and do service projects, sponsor Teen Scholarships, and support the 4-H Expansion Budget that covers the cost of many educational trips and experiences for our 4-Hers. Events include the Annual 4-H Auction, Pre-Teen Fun Day, the 4-H Snack Bar, plus socializing, fun, and community service projects!

Teen Exchange

Well, we are back at our fundraising efforts. In this issue, please find our order form for wreaths and swags. Orders will be ready after Thanksgiving. We will take orders through November 19th. We had a display at the fair, heard many positive comments and received a blue ribbon. Thank you to Luke and Jackie Hoag for pulling this display together. With our members back to school, we will get back to meeting regularly to navigate our funding efforts, expand our teamwork and look forward to creating our new two-year club. Our next meeting will be October 5th at 7 PM at the CCE building at the fairgrounds. It is not too late to join in the tow year fun. This is open to any youth between 7th and 11th grade. A huge thank you to all of you who supported our Teen Exchange Chicken BBQ in September.

National Conference

April 10-15th Arlington, VA

Registration information to come Interested NYS 4-H teens please reach out to Kandis

Applications are due on December 15th to the state but locally we need to know who is interested by December 1st. Applicants must be 15-19 years old and not previously have attended the National 4-H Conference. The NYS 4-H staff will select 6-8 youth delegates and 1-2 Adult Advisors to represent NYS. Most of the expenses will be covered due to generous support from the NYS 4-H Foundation.

For Additional Information: <https://www.nys4-h.org/nationalevents>



Congratulations to our Junior Hippology Members

The New York State Fair is home to the New York State 4-H Hippology Contest. Rensselaer County had five junior 4-H members qualify and compete in the contest. Our delegation to the contest was comprised of Bridget Rowland, Heidi Beraldi, Emmeline Heer, Audrey Kondak and Ariana Severance. Our members were coached by Alicia Hayashi. Our county team comprised of Bridget, Heidi, Emmeline and Ariana placed 2nd overall and placed 1st for the judging component of the contest. Individually for judging, Bridget placed 4th, Emmeline 5th and Heidi 8th. Overall, for the contest individually, Heidi placed 7th and Emmeline 8th. Audrey played on a combined regional team which placed 3rd overall and 4th for the judging component. Thank you to our coach Alicia Hayashi and the many volunteers and parents that helped assure our members had such a great experience.



Mane Team Event

Congratulations to all our members that participated in the Mane Event. It was a wonderful weekend full of team building, growing equine skills and knowledge. Members converged at the fairgrounds where some participated as part of a team or individually. Members and their horses (live and model) were put through their paces in performance classes, and our members tested their equine knowledge through a written test and team problem. Our top four teams were:

1st place – Emmeline Heer, Heidi Beraldi and Audrey Kondak

2nd place – Lili Ruepp, Evyn and Ellie Patenaude

3rd place – Maya Herring, Mya and Madyson Bull

4th place – Eva Higgins, Ariana and Ava Severance

Our top individual Novice Rider was Korabeth Tompson. Individually the top three riders for the single Lope/Canter Division were 1st – Audrey Kondak, 2nd – Eva Higgins, 3rd – Madyson Bull. The top three Junior Riders were 1st – Ariana Severance, 2nd – Emmeline Heer, 3rd – Evyn Patenaude. The top three senior riders were 1st – Lili Ruepp, 2nd – Ellie Patenaude, and 3rd Alice Bourdeau. We had three Cloverbuds participate: Emmalyn Fowler, Shyann and Daisy Hayashi. If you are interested in learning more feel free to reach out to Bernie and start thinking about your team for 2026! A huge thank you to our outstanding volunteers, parents and members that made this such a great event and super experience!



General Interest & Livestock Recognition Banquet

(General Interest, Small Animal, Livestock, Independents, and any who would like to attend)

Friday, October 17th at 6:00pm

Brunswick Community Center- 18 Keyes Ln, Troy

Please contact Eileen with your newly elected club officers, as well as any special club awards that you would like to present by October 14th to ensure a place on the schedule. This is a Potluck Style banquet - please bring: a dish to share, your own table setting (plate & flatware), and your own beverages. Clubs are asked to bring a table centerpiece that will be used for decoration that night and then donated as a door prize. Please rsvp to Eileen at emd32@cornell.edu by October 14th if you will be attending.

Cattle Year End Banquet

Where: North Hoosick Fire House - 22106 Route 22

When: Saturday, November 15th, 2025

Time: 7pm

This is a Potluck Style banquet — please bring: A dish to share. Your own table setting (plate and flatware). Your own beverages. Please RSVP by October 25th to Mamnenge

Horse Banquet

November 1st at the Poestenkill Firehouse at 6 PM.

Please reach out to your leader for sign up details and food assignments.

Bowl Season is Coming

For those members that are non-Cloverbud who are interested in learning more about horses and cattle – bowling may be right up your alley. Horse and Dairy Bowl are two formats of testing members knowledge of cattle and horses in a “game show – team” event. Members will start meeting as early as November with bowl coaches to learn in-depth information in a fun and interactive way while members rekindle friendships as well as make new ones and learn a whole lot about cattle and/or horses. If you are interested in being part of dairy or horse bowl this year, please contact the CCE office by November 1st so you can be placed on a contact list for coaches and be informed of practices in the upcoming months.

4-H Shooting Sports Volunteer Meeting

Monday, November 10th at 6:00pm at the CCE Office

This meeting is for both current 4-H Shooting Sports Instructors as well as anyone who is interested in becoming a certified 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor. In this meeting, we will discuss creating a shared direction for our program, plans for training and activities, recruitment of instructors as well as participants, and general information for new and perspective instructors.

We have a high demand for 4-H Shooting Sports in our county, and we really depend on our volunteer instructors to meet this demand. For more information, or to register for this meeting, please contact Eileen at emd32@cornell.edu.

Junior Chefs

Monday, October 20th

6:00pm @ the CCE Office

\$10.00 participation fee

Spooky Treats Workshop

The 4-H Junior Chefs will meet on Monday, October 20th at 6:00pm at the CCE Office in East Greenbush. At this workshop youth will be making Halloween treats. There is a \$10.00 participation fee per youth. To register a youth, or for more information, please contact Eileen at emd32@cornell.edu.



Monday, November 17th

6:00pm @ the CCE Office

\$10.00 participation fee

Holiday Foods Workshop

The 4-H Junior Chefs will meet on Monday, November 17th at 6:00pm at the CCE Office in East Greenbush. At this workshop youth will be making food items with a holiday theme in preparation for the upcoming holiday season. There is a \$10.00 participation fee per youth. To register a youth, or for more information, please contact Eileen at emd32@cornell.edu.

NYCAMH's Annual Farm Safety Art Contest

The 2025 Farm Safety Art Contest is officially open! 🎨

NYCAMH's annual art contest is open to students in grades 7 through 12. Participants can submit physical or digital art focused on our theme:

Be Farm Smart: Stay Away from Moving Parts

Entries can be submitted through November 14, 2025. Winners will be announced in December 2025! Visit [nycamh.org/Art Contest](https://nycamh.org/Art-Contest) to learn more and enter your art!

Clover Trail Fun Run/Walk

We hope to see you on October 25th at the Schodack Island State Park. Step off is at 10 AM. This is a 4K course perfect for a nice run at your own pace or even walk to simply enjoy the surroundings. In this issue is a flyer to register in advance- page 25. This is open to All Runners and Walkers. It is a fundraiser to benefit the 4-H Equine Program. We are still looking for helpers for the morning to help with:

Course Marshals

Photographer

Cleanup

Finish Line

If you are a teen or older and would be able to help, please reach out to Bernie via email at

bw27@cornell.edu or 518-272-4210. This will be the first annual Clover Trail Fun Run/Walk, you won't want to miss it.

NYS Livestock Ambassador Program (LAP)

Modeled after the Junior Dairy Leaders program, this exciting new opportunity is designed for teens with a strong interest in the livestock industry. Over the coming years, this program will continue to grow and evolve as part of our ongoing commitment to career awareness in animal science, aligned with the 4-H Beyond Ready initiatives.

Key Details:

Open to youth in grades 11–12 from across New York State

Participants do not need to be current 4-H members but must demonstrate a genuine interest in the livestock industry

A reference from a non-family member is required and must be submitted with the application

Space is limited to just 10 participants

The program is tentatively scheduled to kick off the first weekend of December

Application Link-

https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dou6QgV8Z7li4AK

Deadline: October 15, 2025

For more information contact Brian Aukema at bja14@cornell.edu or 607-254-1208!

4-H Winter Fair

*Friday, December 5th 6:00pm-8:00pm
Tamarac Elementary School Cafeteria
Hosted by the Clover Kids & Critters 4-H Club*

Winter Fair has transitioned to an Open House format and is open to the public. 4-H'ers feel free to bring a friend who is not in 4-H. There will be a community service project, a place to drop off canned goods to donate to a food pantry, and a project that can be made on location and entered in the Winter Fair!

It is extremely important that members sign up to attend so that if we must cancel due to the weather that we can contact potential participants easily.

As usual, Teen Evaluators are needed to help. If you are interested in being a Teen Evaluator, contact Eileen at the CCE office. An Evaluator Workshops will be held 1/2 hour prior to the start of the Winter Fair.

Winter Fair Entry Guidelines:

1. Entries must be 80% natural material (other than 3D Printed), excluding the container or holder. Artificial material should only supplement or accent natural materials when applicable.
2. Exhibits must be functional: a corsage must be wearable, a wall plaque must be ready to hang, a centerpiece must be attractive from every angle, a mantel piece or door decoration must be one-sided, and entries should be sized to fit the space where they will be used.
3. The use of local native and/or natural materials gathered by members is encouraged (endangered or protected plant species excluded, of course).
4. Bring any unusual or special materials, techniques, or effects to the evaluator's attention. Different materials have different characteristics; select the most appropriate material for the desired effect. Careful selection of materials enhances the finished project.
5. If a candle is part of the entry, think SAFETY. Place the candle so that it will not touch or ignite flammable materials, then burn the wick for a minute and extinguish before bringing it to the evaluation.

Ideas on what to enter:

- **Wreath or Door Swag:** Must be ready to hang natural materials such as pinecones, vines, straw, spices, corn husks, evergreens, etc.
- **Mantel Decoration or Table Centerpiece:** From natural greens, fruit, or other natural materials, dried or fresh.
- **Wall Plaque:** Plaque embellished with dried natural materials, ready for hanging.
- **Holiday Corsage:** Made of either dried or fresh materials.
- **Garland or Rope:** Of natural dried or fresh materials, suitable for use on a banister, tree, etc.
- **Natural Ornament:** Made of natural materials such as milkweed pods, wool, nuts, berries, acorns, wheat, dried flowers, corn husks and/or tassels. Must be ready to hang.
- **Terrarium:** Winter or woodland theme. Must be at least 6" square (or in diameter).
- **Miniature Landscape Garden:** Miniature landscape scene at least 6" square, featuring a fall or winter theme.
- **Doll:** Cornhusk, crinkled paper, wool, apple head, or other natural components.
- **Topiary (Trees, Wreaths, Centerpieces):** Greater than 80% natural materials, excluding the stand, pot, frame, or base.
- **Holiday Recycle Craft:** Ornament, decoration, or accessory of at least 80% recycled materials. Items must demonstrate practical and useful ways to REDUCE trash through REUSE.
- **Thanksgiving or Autumn/Harvest:** centerpieces or decorations that meet criteria guidelines for natural materials.
- **Needlework or Sewn Article:** Sewn, embroidered, cross-stitched, crocheted, knitted, or needlepoint decorative item; ready for hanging if appropriate.
- **Decorated Holiday Foods:** Judging emphasis will be on creativity and appearance rather than taste; however, judges may do taste tests. All items need to be presented with instructions and a recipe on a 3 x 5 card. The following items are acceptable: holiday breads (1 decorated loaf, any size); decorated holiday cookies (3 on a plate); gingerbread houses; other decorated holiday foods (cakes, pies, muffins).
- **Preserved Foods-** Any processed food, including dried foods and maple syrup will be evaluated based on appearance and process used.
- **Baskets:** A basket constructed of natural material such as wood, moss, pinecones, twigs, etc.
- **Scarecrow:** Full or tabletop size, incorporating natural stuffing, accents and clothing made from natural fibers. If meant for decorative purposes, it must be made to stand or sit without falling over. If intended for use in a garden, it must have a pointed end to hold the scarecrow upright in the ground.
- **Wood Science Project-** Any holiday decoration made in a Wood Science Project that was cut out, assembled, and finished.
- **3D printing-** A 3D printed holiday ornament using plastic or other materials to build a 3-dimensional object from a digital design.

Ideas on what to enter:

- **Wreath or Door Swag:** Must be ready to hang natural materials such as pinecones, vines, straw, spices, corn husks, evergreens, etc.
- **Mantel Decoration or Table Centerpiece:** From natural greens, fruit, or other natural materials, dried or fresh.
- **Wall Plaque:** Plaque embellished with dried natural materials, ready for hanging.
- **Holiday Corsage:** Made of either dried or fresh materials.
- **Garland or Rope:** Of natural dried or fresh materials, suitable for use on a banister, tree, etc.
- **Natural Ornament:** Made of natural materials such as milkweed pods, wool, nuts, berries, acorns, wheat, dried flowers, corn husks and/or tassels. Must be ready to hang.
- **Terrarium:** Winter or woodland theme. Must be at least 6" square (or in diameter).
- **Miniature Landscape Garden:** Miniature landscape scene at least 6" square, featuring a fall or winter theme.
- **Doll:** Cornhusk, crinkled paper, wool, apple head, or other natural components.
- **Topiary (Trees, Wreaths, Centerpieces):** Greater than 80% natural materials, excluding the stand, pot, frame, or base.
- **Holiday Recycle Craft:** Ornament, decoration, or accessory of at least 80% recycled materials. Items must demonstrate practical and useful ways to REDUCE trash through REUSE.
- **Thanksgiving or Autumn/Harvest:** centerpieces or decorations that meet criteria guidelines for natural materials.
- **Needlework or Sewn Article:** Sewn, embroidered, cross-stitched, crocheted, knitted, or needlepoint decorative item; ready for hanging if appropriate.
- **Decorated Holiday Foods:** Judging emphasis will be on creativity and appearance rather than taste; however, judges may do taste tests. All items need to be presented with instructions and a recipe on a 3 x 5 card. The following items are acceptable: holiday breads (1 decorated loaf, any size); decorated holiday cookies (3 on a plate); gingerbread houses; other decorated holiday foods (cakes, pies, muffins).
- **Preserved Foods-** Any processed food, including dried foods and maple syrup will be evaluated based on appearance and process used.
- **Baskets:** A basket constructed of natural material such as wood, moss, pinecones, twigs, etc.
- **Scarecrow:** Full or tabletop size, incorporating natural stuffing, accents and clothing made from natural fibers. If meant for decorative purposes, it must be made to stand or sit without falling over. If intended for use in a garden, it must have a pointed end to hold the scarecrow upright in the ground.
- **Wood Science Project-** Any holiday decoration made in a Wood Science Project that was cut out, assembled, and finished.
- **3D printing-** A 3D printed holiday ornament using plastic or other materials to build a 3-dimensional object from a digital design.

Schaghticoke Fair Wrap Up

Wow, can you believe a month has already passed and the Schaghticoke Fair has quickly shifted to being a memory for us all. Please know Cornell Cooperative Extension truly appreciates all the work that you do as a member, leader or volunteer to help us create opportunities and run the many events for our members at the great Schaghticoke Fair. It literally takes hundreds of helping hands to make the Schaghticoke Fair 4-H Department what it is. Thank you! If you have any thoughts on the fair that you would like to share with us, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Pictures were posted on our Facebook page throughout the fair, we hope you will follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/RensselaerCounty4H/>.

It was terrific seeing so many of our 4-H members, families, and volunteers at the fair! Thank you to all of our wonderful General Interest evaluators for all of their support and encouragement for our 4-Hers on judging day! Thank you to the following volunteers: Deb Barton, Rick Fitzpatrick, Jessie Zweig, Norah Bewsher, Ray Martin, Emmalee Davis, Mark Samu, Jenn Hurd, John O'Donnell, Tara Cottrell, Sharon Close, Linda Tripp, Michelle Martin, Lorraine Ferguson, Betsy Kaufman, Wendy Troeger, Martha Reed, Meaghan Yellin, Mary Wallace, Maddie Hurd, and MacKenzie Diamond. Thank you also to Kate Tubbs for helping on evaluation days.

4-H Auction Donors

A huge thank you to our clubs for creating or soliciting donations for the Auction, it was an enormous success because of you all!!

Thank you for Snack Bar Donors

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the following donors for their incredible support:

Anatriello Family Farm (Johnsonville) – Farm fresh ground beef

Carlo Construction & Company (Schaghticoke) – Produce

Denison Farm (Schaghticoke) – Locally grown produce

Fahey Family Honey Farm (Pownal, VT) – Raw honey

Honest Weight Co-Op (Albany) – Fresh hummus

LaPosta Brothers Market (Speigletown) – Coleslaw

Quality Retail Systems (Schaghticoke) – Cash register

Remington Harvest (Melrose) – Fresh tomatoes

Running Brook Sugar Shack (Hoosick Falls) – Maple syrup

Thomas' Poultry Farm (Schuylerville) – Local eggs

Wertman Farm (Melrose) – Peppers

And a huge thank you to all our clubs and families that donated items off the Snack Bar Wish List and volunteered their time to help things run smoothly!

Best of Fair

Congratulations to the following youth whose projects were selected for Best of Fair: William Townsend, Model Farm; Brooke Ames, Tye Dye Shirt; Wesley Brownell, Bat House; Carson Luke, Recycled Egg Carton Art; Emily Weeden, My Me Board; Maddie Goyer, Dried Flowers; Serena Foy, Loaf Bread; and the Critters 4-H Club, Club Exhibit.

2026 New York State Fair Selections

The following Rensselaer County 4-H members had projects selected at Schaghticoke Fair for 2025 New York State Fair. Congratulations everyone!



Melody Bailey (Wynantskill) sourdough bread; Evelyn Brownell (Buskirk) pottery; Juliette Brownell (Hoosick Falls) photography, sourdough pumpkin muffins; Carlo Colarossi (Melrose) pastry cutter, bouquet; Kira Colarossi (Melrose) gladiola, bouquet; Thomas Colarossi (Melrose) cherry ornaments; Owen Campenella (Johnsonville) graphic print, level, checkerboard; Lucas Corrow (Buskirk) crocheted hair scrunchies; Mackenzie Danish (Wynantskill) brownies; Maggie Etman (Cropseyville) sculpture; Lily Bell Ellis (Troy) cowboy toothpicks; Jace Freer (Troy) rocker, bootjack; Bret Giglio (Petersburgh) paintings; Olivia Goyer (Poestenkill) painting; Blake McCormick (Valley Falls) photography; Jameson Roberts (Melrose) photography; Benjamin Stratton (Hoosick Falls) sculpture; Carter Stratton (Hoosick Falls) plate, wood inlay, napkin holder, clipboard, oak table; Sophia Uccellini (Troy) what's for dinner game; Wade Wilcox (Troy) photography, recycled flower, banana bread; and Whelan Wilcox (Troy) oatmeal cookies, recycled flower.

State Fair Junior Supers

Thank you to MacKenzie Diamond for taking on the Junior Superintendent role at the State Fair!

Cow Chip Bingo

A huge THANK YOU to all the 4-H members and volunteers who helped with Cow Chip Bingo this year! This is Cattle PDC's biggest fundraiser of the year, and it takes a lot of help from selling the squares, setting up the grid and carrying out the event.



Animal Show Results

Beef

Grand Champion Showman	Reed Hoag
Reserve Grand Champion Showman	Carter Stratton
Senior Champion Showman	Reed Hoag
Reserve Senior Champion Showman	Carter Stratton
Junior Champion Showman	Ella-Mae Guile
Novice Champion Showman	Anastasia Bertram
Reserve Novice Champion Showman	Natalie Quackenbush
Champion Sr. Hereford Female	Reed Hoag
Champion Jr. Hereford Female	Carter Stratton
Reserve Champion Jr. Hereford Female	Carter Stratton
Grand Champion Female Hereford	Carter Stratton
Reserve Grand Champion Female Hereford	Reed Hoag

Grand Champion Market Steer	William Cottrell
Junior Champion Grade	Anastasia Bertram
Junior Reserve champion Grade	Ella-Mae Guile
Grand Champion Grade	Anastasia Bertram
Reserve Grand Champion Grade	Anastasia Bertram
Junior Calf Champion	Anastasia Bertram
Reserve Junior Calf Champion	Natalie Quackenbush
Senior Champion Written Exam	Merritt Cropsey
Senior Reserve Champion Written Exam	William Cottrell

Sheep

Grand Champion Showman	Luke Giglio
Res. Grand Champion Showman	Reed Hoag
Senior Champion Showman	Luke Giglio
Reserve Senior Champion Showman	Bret Giglio
Novice Champion Showman	Reed Hoag
Best Romney Ewe	Bret Giglio
Best Romney Ram	Luke Giglio
Best Ewe Other Breeds	Bret Giglio
Champion Senior Written Test	Luke Giglio
Champion Novice Written Test	Reed Hoag

Goat

Grand Champion Showman	Ava Helou
Reserve Grand Champion Showman	Blake McCormick
Champion Sr. Showman	Ava Helou
Res. Champion Sr. Showman	Lily Nichols
Champion Jr. Showman	Adlee Chapko
Reserve Champion Jr. Showman	Calleigh Donlon
Novice Champion Showman	Blake McCormick
Res. Novice Champion Showman	Camden Fisher
Jr. Champion Nigerian Dwarf	Lochlen Ferris
Sr. Champion Nigerian Dwarf	Blake McCormick

Sr. Res. Champion Nigerian Dwarf	Melody Bailey
Grand Champion Nigerian Dwarf	Blake McCormick
Res. Grand Champion Nigerian Dwarf	Melody Bailey
Jr. Champion Nubian	Olivia Goyer
Jr. Res. Champion Nubian	Brooke Ames
Sr. Champion Nubian	Melody Bailey
Sr. Reserve Champion Nubian	Olivia Goyer
Grand Champion Nubian	Melody Bailey
Res. Grand Champion Nubian	Olivia Goyer
Jr. Champion Grade	Ava Helou
Jr. Res. Champion Grade	Hannah Nichols
Sr. Champion Grade	Hannah Nichols
Sr. Res. Champion grade	Mackenzie Danish
Grand Champion Grade	Hannah Nichols
Res. Grand Champion Grade	Mackenzie Danish
Junior Champion Oberhasli	Franchesca Milianta
Grand Champion Oberhasli	Franchesca Milianta
Best Doe of Show	Blake McCormick
Res. Best of Show Doe	Nora Lavigne
Novice Written Test Champion	Camden Fisher
Novice Written Test Res. Champion	Brooke Ames
Jr. Written Test Champion	Pyper Bliss-Rafferty
Jr. Written Test Res. Champion	Calleigh Donlon
Sr. Written Test Champion	Ava Helou
Sr. Written Test Res. Champion	Lily Nichols

Cloverbuds: Chelsea Ames, James Colaneri, Owen Lavigne, Henry Santosuosso

Cavy

Grand Champion Showman	Makenzie Danish
Res. Grand Champion Showman	Jacob Nichols
Champion Jr. Showman	Makenzie Danish
Res. Champion Jr. Showman	Jacob Nichols

Best of Show Sow

Jacob Nichols

Best Pet

Makenzie Danish

Rabbit

Grand Champion Showman

Joseph Taurone

Reserve Grand Champion Showman

Lilly Bell Ellis

Champion Junior Showmanship

Joseph Taurone

Res. Champion Junior Showman

Lilly Bell Ellis

Champion Senior Showmanship

Ava Olsen

Best of Show Doe

Bridget Rowland

Res. Best of Show Doe

Pyper Bliss-Rafferty

Best of Show Buck

Thomas Foucher

Res. Best of Show Buck

Maddie Gallese

Best of Show Pet

Pyper Bliss-Rafferty

Res. Best of Show Pet

Thomas Foucher

Best of Breed Holland Lop

Bridget Rowland

Reserve Best of Breed Holland Lop

Mallory Rowland

Best of Breed Mini Lop

Ava Olsen

Best of Breed Mini Holland Lop

Bridget Rowland

Best of Breed Mini Rex

Emalee Foucher

Reserve Best of Breed Mini Rex

Jace Freer

Best of Breed Satin

Emalee Foucher

Best of Breed Silver Fox

Maddie Gallese

Reserve Best of Breed Silver Fox

Maddie Gallese

Best of Breed Velveteen Lop

Mallory Rowland

Poultry

Grand Champion Showman

Mia Brownell

Reserve Grand Champion Showman

Ava Olsen

Champion Senior Showman

Ava Olsen

Res. Champion Senior Showman

Emalee Foucher

Champion Junior Showman
 Res. Champion Junior Showman
 Champion Novice Showman
 Res. Novice Champion Showman

 Best of Show Hen/Pullet
 Res. Best of Show Hen/ Pullet
 Best of Show Cockerel/Cock
 Res. Best of Show Cockerel/Cock
 Best of Show Waterfowl
 Res. Best of Show Waterfowl
 Best of Show Trio
Cloverbuds: Silas Ellis, Bailey Peterson

Mia Brownell
 Blake McCormick
 Sophia Olsen
 Pyper Bliss-Rafferty &
 Hannah Nichols
 Blake McCormick
 Blake McCormick
 Emalee Foucher
 Hannah Nichols
 Blake McCormick
 Blake McCormick
 Makenzie Danish

Dairy

Grand Champion Showman
 Res. Grand Champion Showman
 Senior Champion Showman
 Senior Res. Champion Showman
 Intermediate Champion Showman
 Intermediate Res. Champion Showman
 Junior Champion Showman
 Junior Res. Champion Showman
 Sr. Champion Ayrshire
 Jr. Champion Jersey
 Res. Jr. Champion Jersey
 Jr. Champion Brown Swiss
 Jr. Champion Holstein
 Res. Jr. Champion Holstein
 Senior Champion Holstein
 Res. Senior Champion Holstein
 Grand Champion Holstein
 Res. Grand Champion Holstein

Connor MacNeil
 Devin DeLaMater
 Connor MacNeil
 Devin DeLaMater
 Alexandra Gardner
 Dominick Bushner
 Jameson Roberts
 Elijah Wilwol
 Reed Hoag
 Elijah Wilwol
 Evan Atherton
 William Cottrell
 Devin DeLaMater
 Dominick Bushner
 Aaron Cipperly
 Alexandra Gardner
 Aaron Cipperly
 Alexandra Gardner

Senior Champion Brown Swiss
Grand Champion Brown Swiss
Grand Champion Ayrshire
Champion Young Breeder's Herd
Champion Senior Written Test
Tractor Driving
Grand Champion
Reserve Grand Champion

William Cottrell
William Cottrell
Reed Hoag
Connor MacNeil
Allison Michel

Luke Giglio
Bret Giglio

Equine

Champion Showmanship – Michael Gagliardi Memorial
Reserve Champion Showmanship
Champion English Rider
Reserve Champion English Rider
Champion Western Rider – William Rowe Memorial
Reserve Champion Rider
Champion Individual Canter/Lope – Cathy Kilby Memorial
Reserve Champion Individual Canter/Lope
Novice Champion – Kimberwicke Memorial
Reserve Novice Champion
Champion Trail
Reserve Champion Trail

Allie Manchester
Emmeline Heer
Emmeline Heer
Ariana Severance
Emmeline Heer
Allie Gansowski
Madyson Bull
Audrey Kondak
Jacob Blair
Thea Kircher
Emmeline Heer
Allie Gansowski

The Magical Fall Foliage of Rensselaer County

Watching the fall foliage transform from beautiful bright green to hues of orange, red, yellow and purple is one of the most magical experiences Rensselaer County has to offer in the fall. Have you ever wondered how this captivating color change comes to be?

Where the Magic Begins

Colors of leaves are caused by "pigments." The pigment chlorophyll is what gives leaves their green hue. Other pigments give leaves their orange, purple, yellow, and red hues. The orange and yellow pigments are constantly present in leaves, we are unable to see them until the fall, when the leaves cease producing green chlorophyll.

Leaf Pigments

Chlorophyll: Provides a basic green hue to foliage. It is responsible for the chemical process known as photosynthesis, which allows plants to use sunlight to produce nutritional carbohydrates.

Carotenoids: Produces the colors yellow, orange, and brown in things like corn, carrots, and daffodils.

Anthocyanin: Gives well-known fruits and vegetables including cranberries, red apples, blueberries, cherries, strawberries, plums, and concord grapes their color.

Weathers Role in Fall Foliage

Temperature and moisture are the two main factors that determine how intense the fall foliage color is. Warm, bright days and cool, but not freezing, nights encourage beautiful colors, whereas drought, heavy rain, early frosts, and high winds can stress trees and cause dull hues or early leaf loss. The color of fall foliage depends on moisture. Trees that develop in the rainy season are healthier and have more vibrant colors. Trees that are stressed by dryness may show hues that are muted, delayed, or fade too soon.

Peak Foliage Viewing in Rensselaer County

There is an abundance of stunning natural settings in Rensselaer County for the ideal autumn leaf viewing. Fall foliage is usually at its peak throughout Rensselaer County around the second and third weeks of October. I Love New York's Fall Foliage Report provides weekly updates on foliage conditions. Bring binoculars, a sweatshirt, and take in the beauty of the seasonal stunning fall colors in Rensselaer County.

Catherine LaPorta

Fundraising

Bloomin' Socks Fundraiser

Rensselaer County 4-H is holding a Bloomin' Socks fundraiser. The socks will come in a variety of patterns including the 4-H Clover, several animal fun patterns (cows, goats, horses, chickens, rabbits, and sheep) and tractors. They would make great gifts, or a treat for yourself! The socks are 100% American made and will sell for \$13.00 a pair. Each purchase supports Rensselaer County 4-H. To purchase socks, contact Eileen at emd32@cornell.edu.



FunPasta Fundraiser

Rensselaer County 4-H is again having a virtual Fun Pasta Fundraiser

The fundraiser begins on October 6th

All sellers MUST REGISTER to sell the full selection of products online. They can register at <https://funpastafundraising.com/signup/LMQB>

Follow the instructions on the website and you will be all set to sell the pasta!

The fundraiser will end on November 10th.



Save-Around Books Fundraiser

This year we will again have a virtual Save-Around book sale, and we will also have a limited number of books for sale at the CCE office. We have books on order and when they are available, we let everyone know in the email blast. For the virtual sale there is a \$.99 credit card processing fee for each book purchased online. This processing fee is charged to the purchaser, NOT the fundraiser. The books will ship automatically to the address provided by the purchaser. There is no shipping fee. Watch upcoming email blasts for more information about the virtual sale. There will be several options of books to choose from.



All members are encouraged to sell at least one Save-Around book. Money from the Save-Around sales go back to our members in the form of resources, 4-H educational trip scholarships, and direct 4-H programming. The Save Around sale will end on December 31st.

Teen Exchange Wreath Order

Orders due to the office by November 19th via email bw27@cornell.edu; fax 518-272-1648 or mail – 99 Troy Road, Suite 203, East Greenbush, NY 12061

Teen Exchanged will be constructing 12-inch pine wreaths, 10-inch boxwood, pine/boxwood mix wreaths, and pine door swags. You have the option of buying the wreaths plain or with a simple bow.

All will be delivered during the first week of December. All proceeds go towards the Teen Interstate Exchange.



Name	Boxwood \$32	Pine x Boxwood \$32	Pine \$15	Swag \$10	Bow \$3	Total

Name/email/phone of person submitting order.

Name of Teen Exchange Member for Credit (optional)



Member Birthdays

October

Adrianna Nichols
Carson Luke
Evan Atherton
Shyann Hayashi
Ava Helou
Miranda Hollister
Kira Colarossi
Merrit Cropsey
Evan Wilwol
Maya Herring
Audrey Knodak
Lily Nichols
Tristen Boleski
Eleanor Kircher
Fiona Kircher

November

Emily Milanese
Liam Masker
William Townsend

Joseph Nichols
Nora Luskin
Emily Weeden
Aliyah Ludemann
Iona Muthersbaugh
Bridget Rowland
Wade Wilcox
Whelan Wilcox
Sophia Neet
Calleigh Donlon
Grady Diamond
Declan Cottrell
Thomas Foucher



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY



Come join us for the

CLOVER RUN

FUN TRAIL

4K RUN/WALK

to benefit Rensselaer County 4-H

October 25, 2025



Schodack Island State Park

Start time: 10:00am

Register now at

<https://rensselaer-county-4-h-clover-run.cheddarup.com>

\$20 Youth (under 18)

\$25 Adult (18+)

OR



For more information, call Cornell Cooperative Extension
at 518-272-4210

Calendar of Events

October

- 1st Honor Club Applications Due
- 5th Teen Exchange Meeting 7 PM – CCE Building at the Fairgrounds
- 6th FunPasta Fundraiser begins.
- 7th 4-H PDC @ the CCE Office; 6:00pm
- 8th Cattle PDC fairgrounds 7pm
- 9th Rabbit/ Cavy & Poultry PDC 6:30 via zoom
- 13th Columbus Day: office closed.
- 14th Horse Project Records are due.
- 14th Horse Program Development Committee Meeting 6 PM at the CCE Office
- 16-17 ABC trip; SUNY Cobleskill
- 17th General Interest Banquet, Brunswick Community Center; 6:00pm
- 20th Junior Chefs @ the CCE Office; 6:00pm
- 25th Clover Fun Trail Run/Walk – step off 10 AM – Schodack Island State Park

November

- 1st Horse Year End Banquet – Poestenkill Fire House 6 PM
- 3rd CCE Annual Meeting
- 4th Election Day: office closed.
- 8th Cattle PDC by 7pm in the CCE Building at the Fairgrounds
- 9th Rabbit/Cavy/Poultry PDC Meeting via Zoom 6:30pm
- 10th Shooting Sports Volunteer Meeting @ the CCE Office; 6:00pm
- 10th FunPasta fundraiser ends.
- 11th Veterans Day: office closed.

- 15th Cattle Banquet by 7pm at the North Hoosick Firehouse
- 16th – 17th ABC Trip to SUNY Cobleskill
- 17th Junior Chefs @ the CCE Office; 6:00pm
- 18th Horse PDC meeting – zoom at 7 PM
- 19th Wreath and Swag orders are due.
- 27th – 28th Thanksgiving; office closed.

December

- 5th Winter Fair @ Tamarac Elementary School; 6:00pm – 8:00pm