



# Clover Chronicle

## December 2025- January 2026

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**It's Paper Clover Time!**

**Nov. 28 - Dec. 14, 2025**

Funds support scholarships to 4-H camp and leadership activities.

## 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.

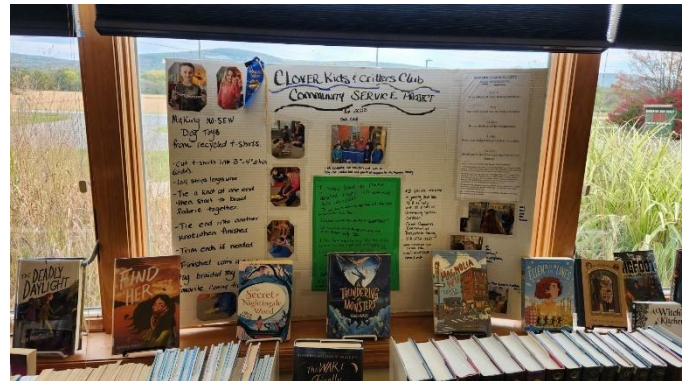
The Secretary's Monthly Report is also available on the Rensselaer County 4-H website. You can find it on the 4-H Forms page. Secretaries, please email reports to [kmf83@cornell.edu](mailto:kmf83@cornell.edu).

### Clover Kids and Critters- Sophia Olsen, Pittstown

In October we kicked off the year with celebration of National 4-H Week by setting up a display at the Brunswick Library, election of officers and planning for the year. President- Sam Bailey, Vice President- Ava Olsen, Secretary- Sophia Olsen, Treasurer- Nate LaMora, Club Reporter- Thomas Foucher, Recreation Leader- Lilly Eillis, Snack Leader- Silas Ellis.

Activities the club voted on scheduling include making a bird house, hiking with animal tracking, baking, and canning.

Our club is also hosting the Winter Fair- we will be making snowman clothes pins, cookie decorating, and making holiday cards for the Veterans Hospital with stocking stuffer donations. We hope to see you on December 5<sup>th</sup> at Brunswick CSD Elementary School Café at 6:30pm!



### Growing Clovers 4-H Club, East Greenbush

In October we met two times, our first meeting of the month was our business meeting where we elected our new officers. At our second meeting we made healthy shakes and completed a community service project.

### Stablemates- Mya Bull, Melrose

The Stablemates met in October and kicked off the year with election of officers. Lili – president, Rylynn - vice president, Evyn – treasurer, Mya – secretary, Emmalyn and Audrey - attendance secretaries, Maya and Ariana - recreational leaders, Olivia and Eva – snacks, Colton and Audrey – photographers. We also made centerpieces for the Horse Banquet and put together our silent auction basket for the banquet.

## Holiday Mitten Tree

CCE Rensselaer County is again collecting cold weather items to help keep our neighbors warm during the winter. Suggested items include mittens, scarves, hats, socks, long underwear, and hand warmers for our annual Mitten Tree. New, unused items may be dropped off at the CCE office in East Greenbush Monday- Friday from 8am - 4pm. Additionally, items will be available from the Mitten Tree beginning December 8<sup>th</sup>. To drop off items, or to assist you with picking up some winter clothing items, please call the CCE office at 518.272.4210.



## 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

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[cl2752@cornell.edu](mailto: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**  
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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 [rensseleer@cornell.edu](mailto:rensseleer@cornell.edu)

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## 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.

## 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](mailto: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-H Online; *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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:cce-rensselaer-volunteer@cornell.edu).



## CCE Annual Meeting and Election Results

Cornell Cooperative Extension held their Annual Meeting on November 3<sup>rd</sup> to celebrate the past year and announce the new committee and board members. Thank you to our volunteers and members, you are a valued and essential part of Cornell Cooperative Extension! Thank you to the outgoing volunteers and to those of you that agreed to run in support of CCE.

Congratulations to the following who were recently elected to CCE Positions and a huge thank you to all that ran, we had extremely strong candidates.

**Board of Director At Large** – Patricia Heer

**4-H Youth Development Program Development Committee** – Laura Holmes, Erin Broderick and Kimberly Brownell

**Horticulture Program Development Committee** – Kim Tucci and Lisa Fox

**Agriculture Program Development Committee**- Anthony Grab, Keith Wagner and Kenneth Anatriello

**Family and Consumer Science Program Development Committee** – Michelle Martin, Emily Purtell and Mindy Fowler

## Golden Shovel Recipient for 2025 – Jeanie Scott

Congratulations to Jeanie Scott for receiving the CCE Golden Shovel for 4-H. Jeanie has contributed a great deal in a variety of ways to CCE and 4-H efforts. You will see her in a number of roles from chairing our 4-H Horse Show at the Schaghticoke Fair to organizing and Co-leading the Growing Clover Club. She has served on our Board of Directors and recently played a vital role in planning and coordinating our first Clover Fun Run and Walk. She puts her “all” in everything she does, and it does not go unnoticed. We appreciate Jeanie and all our volunteers for the contributions they make which helps CCE better meet the needs of our county.



## Ambassador Council Teens

The Ambassadors Council Teens (ACT) had their first meeting of the new 4-H year. They made plans for the upcoming year and learned about opportunities for 4-H teens. In December they will shop for a holiday family, and in January the ACT group will prepare a meal for Joseph's House shelter. They are also planning other community service projects and will help with county-wide events. The ACT group discussed the annual mitten tree and decided to expand on the items to donate to include hats, mittens, scarves, long underwear, socks, and hand warmers. The next ACT meeting will be on Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at the CCE office. Any 4-H teen is more than welcome to join in!

## Teen Exchange

We are hitting the ground running with one chicken BBQ under our belt and our wreath and swag fundraiser underway as this is being written. Next on the schedule will be a Pancake Breakfast early in 2026 and then our Smith Orchard Pies. The fundraising is essential to help our members meet their goals of traveling or hosting this summer. Thank you in advance for supporting our fundraisers. It is not too late to get involved with the next 2-year Teen Exchange. Members who are between 7<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome. Reach out to Bernie at [bw27@cornell.edu](mailto:bw27@cornell.edu) or call the CCE office 518-272-4210 to learn more. Deadline to join for the next two years is January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

## Teens Promote Local Farms and Healthy Living with Hannaford Grant

Through the National 4-H Youth Summit, Ignite by 4-H, a program designed to spark within each young person the desire to lead and create change—three local 4-H teens are launching an innovative project funded by a Hannaford grant. The initiative combines support for local agriculture with personal wellness, creating a unique experience for youth and their families.

As part of the project, teens will design farm-to-family kits featuring products from local farms and easy-to-follow recipes. These kits will be sent home to families to inspire cooking with fresh, local ingredients and to promote buying local. Each kit highlights the quality and variety of foods grown right in our community, making healthy eating both accessible and enjoyable.

But the project doesn't stop there. To encourage physical activity, youth participants will receive a smartwatch to track their steps and daily movement. The goal of the project is to increase youths' physical activity, while learning about the importance of a balanced lifestyle that includes both nutritious food and regular exercise.

This hands-on initiative empowers teens to develop leadership and organizational skills while supporting local farmers and promoting community health. Thanks to the Hannaford grant, these efforts will help build stronger connections between farms, families, and the next generation of community leaders.

Stay tuned for updates, and ways to participate, as the teens roll out their kits and help youth track their steps toward a healthier, more connected community!

# Tractor Supply Paper Clover

November 28 - December 14, 2025



## 4-H Shooting Sports

The annual New York State 4-H Shooting Sports Winter Instructor Training is scheduled for February 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup> at the 4-H Training Center in Ballston Spa. This three-day training is open to 4-H approved and enrolled volunteers. Disciplines offered at this training are Archery, Rifle, Air Pistol, Hunting/Outdoor Skills, Muzzleloader, and Shotgun. Registration will be very limited, if you are interested in attending, please contact Eileen at [emd32@cornell.edu](mailto:emd32@cornell.edu) as soon as possible, as you do need to be an approved 4-H volunteer to attend the training.

## 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 and you do not need to own an animal to participate. 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 bowl this year, please contact Mamnenge at [mbq242@cornell.edu](mailto:mbq242@cornell.edu), for horse bowl please RSVP to Bernie at [bw27@cornell.edu](mailto:bw27@cornell.edu) or call 518-272-4210 and leave a message.

## 2026 Agricultural Literacy Week Call for Volunteers

We are seeking volunteers for our Agricultural Literacy Week Program. Volunteers will be visiting local elementary schools in the week of March 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026 and select dates from March through May to read a fun and engaging book in addition to completing a related activity with kids. If you would like to participate in this exciting educational event, please contact Mamnenge: [mbq242@cornell.edu](mailto:mbq242@cornell.edu)

## Junior Chefs

January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026

6:00pm via Zoom

### **Breakfast For Dinner**

The 4-H Junior Chefs will meet on Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup> via Zoom at 6:00pm. This workshop is for young people of all ages and they will be making breakfast items for dinner. Pre-registration is required no later than Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup> and can be found at <https://cornell.zoom.us/meeting/register/Vtg3DbX5QBejlaJck3EBLw> After registering, participants will receive the recipes and a supply list. For more information, please contact Eileen at [emd32@cornell.edu](mailto:emd32@cornell.edu).



## Youth Coding Workshop

Designed to introduce young learners (ages 5-11) to the world of technology through coding. This hands-on experience will help participants develop problem-solving skills, creativity, and confidence in using digital tools.

- No prior experience necessary

Wednesdays, January 7<sup>th</sup>- January 28<sup>th</sup> 5- 6:30pm.

RSVP to Kandis Freer- kmf83@cornell.edu or 518-272-4210

Space is limited.

The cost is \$10 per youth. If financial, or other accommodations are needed, please let us know at the time of registration.

## Intro to Robotics using XRP

Youth ages 12+ (no experience necessary)

February 25<sup>th</sup>- March 18<sup>th</sup>,

5:30pm-7pm

Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development

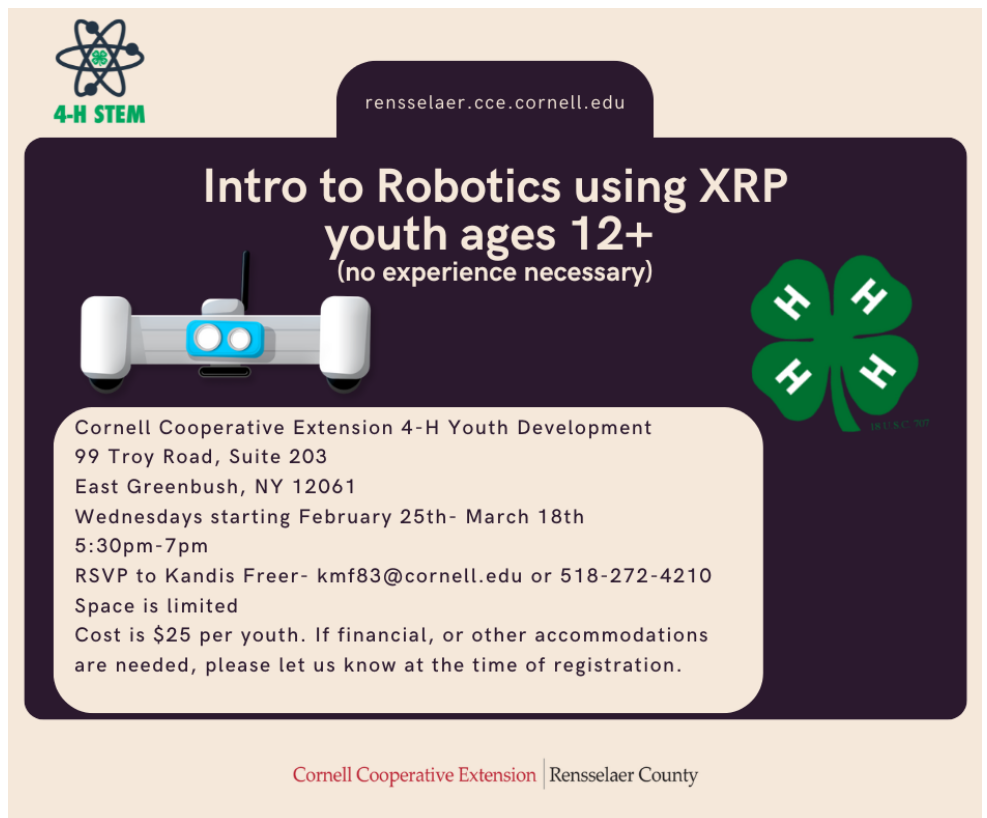
99 Troy Road, Suite 203

East Greenbush, NY 12061

RSVP to Kandis Freer-  
kmf83@cornell.edu or 518-272-4210

Space is limited

The cost is \$25 per youth. If financial, or other accommodations are needed, please let us know at the time of registration.



The poster features a dark purple background with a white robot car in the center. At the top left is the 4-H STEM logo, and at the top right is the URL rensselaer.cce.cornell.edu. A green four-leaf clover with white 'H's is on the right. The main text reads 'Intro to Robotics using XRP youth ages 12+ (no experience necessary)'. Below this, a white box contains the following text: 'Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development', '99 Troy Road, Suite 203', 'East Greenbush, NY 12061', 'Wednesdays starting February 25th- March 18th', '5:30pm-7pm', 'RSVP to Kandis Freer- kmf83@cornell.edu or 518-272-4210', 'Space is limited', and 'Cost is \$25 per youth. If financial, or other accommodations are needed, please let us know at the time of registration.' At the bottom, it says 'Cornell Cooperative Extension | Rensselaer County'.



# County Presentations Workshop

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*Workshop- Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00pm the CCE Office*

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Will 2026 be your first year doing a 4-H Presentation or Horse Communication Presentation? Have you done a Presentation before, and want to take it to the next level? There is always something to learn! Join us for a Presentations Workshop on Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00PM at the CCE office. We will be covering everything you need to know about creating and delivering a great 4-H Presentation.

## The County 4-H Public Presentations

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*Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00am – 1:00ppm at Tamarac High School.*

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The registration form can be found at [County Presentations Registration 2026 docx.pdf](#)

### Public Presentations Guidelines

#### *Time Expectancy:*

Cloverbud: 1-3 minutes

1st year: 3-5 minutes

2nd– 4th year: 3-8 minutes

5th year and up: 10-15 minutes

- ✓ Pick a topic you like
- ✓ Keep it simple– you can do a lot of detail with a simple idea
- ✓ Prepare your presentation
- ✓ Gather your information
- ✓ Prepare your posters/slides
- ✓ Develop an outline

- ❖ You should have an introduction (a question, quotation, or statistic that arouses interest in your topic– something that draws the audience into your presentation.
- ❖ Your presentation should explain a topic
- ❖ And a conclusion should sum up what you explained. You should also ask if anyone has any questions.
- ❖ Practice what you are going to say.
- ❖ Practice what you are going to do. This is very important. Make sure you handle your equipment, ingredients, diagrams, models, or posters comfortably.

This should be a positive and meaningful experience.

Listen to the comments from your evaluators.

Ask questions so you understand.

Review the written evaluation.

Presentations are all about personal growth, building confidence.

Good Luck!



## 2025 ABC Trip

The 48th Annual New York State 4-H Agribusiness Career Conference was held at SUNY Cobleskill from October 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>. Bridget Gutierrez, MacKenzie Diamond, Grady Diamond, Sophie Townsend, Lydia Hall, and Luke Giglio represented Rensselaer County at the event. The conference is co-sponsored by NYS 4-H, the State University of New York (SUNY) at Cobleskill and the NYS Farm Bureau Foundation for Education. This career exploration conference is open to all youth ages 14 and over who wish to become more aware of opportunities with agriculture and the academic requirements for professional positions available in the various Agri-businesses. It features mini tours to farms and businesses in the Cobleskill area as well as seminars, guest speakers and guided tours of the SUNY Cobleskill agriculture facilities. The conference started on the Thursday morning with a Welcome, orientation and college panel on "Secrets to successfully transitioning to college".

The delegates toured local farms and Agribusinesses such as Stone House Farm, Fairbanks Stable, Cobleskill Dairy Processing Center amongst many others. They also developed teamwork skills through interactive presentations and campus activities. Day 2 featured campus tours and detailed study sessions on various academic programs, namely Animal Science, Plant science, Agribusiness, and Agricultural engineering among others. The teen participants had a memorable experience.



## General Interest & Livestock Recognition Banquet

The General Interest Banquet was held at the Brunswick Community Center. At the event, 4-H volunteers and members were recognized for their leadership, dedication and outstanding achievements. New club officers for the 2025 – 2026 4-H year were installed.

4-H members recognized for their participation at the 2025 Schaghticoke Fair included:

Sheep Shepherdship: Luke Giglio; Senior Star Shepherd: Luke Giglio; Novice Star Shepherd: Reed Hoag; Goat Herdsmanship: Ava Helou; MacKenzie Diamond, Grady Diamond, Makenzie Danish, Hannah Nichols, Jacob Nichols, Lily Nichols, and Pyper Bliss-Rafferty.

Honor Club awards were presented to the: Stablemates, Clover Kids & Critters, Equine Explorers and Blue Ribbon Bandits 4-H clubs. Honor clubs are 4-H clubs that go above and beyond, have demonstrated consistent leadership, and their members have been active in their clubs and communities.

Additionally, the Clover Kids & Critters, Stablemates and Rensselaer County 4-H Trailblazers 4-H clubs were recognized for their National 4-H Week displays. National 4-H Week is an annual celebration that reveals to the public the incredible impact the 4-H offers young people around the country. We ask our clubs to showcase how 4-H has impacted them, or what they have learned this past year. This year's theme, "Beyond Ready," puts the spotlight on how 4-H is creating a ready generation in a world of change, equipping youth with skills for the future while meeting them where they are today.

Congratulations to all our award winners and to all the new club officers for the upcoming 4-H year! It was a fun evening celebrating the past 4-H year and we had a great way to kick off the new one!





# Cattle Banquet Award Results

## Dairy Club Herd

1st Stateline Livestock

2nd Stateline Livestock

Dairy Judging

Senior Champion: Connor MacNeil

Junior Champion: Dominick Bushner

## Dairy Challenge

Senior Champion: William Cottrell

Junior Champion: Jameson Roberts



## Beef Judging

Senior Champion:

Allison Michel

Junior Champion:

Ella-Mae Guile

## Herdsmanship

1st Anastasia Bertram

2nd Country

Bumpkins

3rd Southern

Livestock



**Calvin Herrington Memorial Award-** This award goes to the youth who placed highest in the Bred by Exhibitor class. This year, the award goes to Connor MacNeil

**Murray Moore Memorial Award-** Donated by the Moore Family. This is awarded to the individual who places highest in Beef Judging and receives a blue in showmanship. This year's Murray Moore Memorial Award goes to Ella-Mae Guile.

## 2025 Rosekrans Award

The Rosekrans Award, presented in memory of Helen Rosekrans—a devoted and long-time cattle leader—honors an outstanding high school graduating senior. Selected by the Cattle Club Leaders, this award recognizes a 4-H member who demonstrates exceptional involvement in the 4-H Cattle Program, serves as a positive role model, and collaborates effectively with peers and adult partners.

This year's recipient, Luke Hoag, son of Michael and Jaclyn Hoag of Hoosick Falls, has been an active Rensselaer County 4-H member for 13 years. He began his journey with the Stateline Livestock 4-H Club and, in recent years, participated in the 4-H Teen Exchange Program. A graduate of Hoosick Falls Central School, Luke is now attending SUNY Cobleskill, pursuing a double major in Animal Science and Agricultural Business.

Throughout his time in 4-H, Luke played a pivotal role—whether showing cattle, stepping up as a leader, or contributing and leading community service projects. His dedication and hard work have also earned him recognition as the recipient of both the Teen Council and Beryl Moul Scholarships.

Please join us in congratulating Luke on this well-deserved honor and wishing him continued success in his future endeavors!





## Congratulations Thomas and Kira – Eastern National 4-H Round Up

Thomas and Kira Colarossi recently participated in the Eastern National 4-H Round Up in Louisville, Kentucky as members of our New York State Horse Bowl and Communications Teams. Both had an amazing experience with the pre-contest visits to different significant equine facilities. The New York State teams did great at the National Contest. The Horse Bowl Team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> with one member placing 1<sup>st</sup> individually and another placing in the top 10. The Horse Communications Team placed 4<sup>th</sup> overall and Kira placed 4<sup>th</sup> individually with her presentation. Congratulations to both Thomas and Kira!



## Lohnes Awarded to Ava Severance – Congratulations!

A huge congratulations to Ava Severance on receiving the prestigious Lohnes Award! Ava, the daughter of Chris and Corinne Severance of Melrose, is a Junior at Mechanicville High School and has been an active member of 4-H for an incredible 12 years.

Ava's dedication shines through her involvement with the Stablemates 4-H Club, where she has held numerous leadership roles. Beyond the club level, she has immersed herself in nearly every equine opportunity available, participating in Youth Shows, Mane Shows, Horse Communications, and Teen Evaluating. Her passion for horses and 4-H is evident in everything she does.

What truly sets Ava apart is her willingness to help others. She is often found behind the scenes, assisting younger members as they prepare for the ring, offering encouragement, and calming nerves. Her leadership style combines confidence with compassion, making her a role model for peers and younger participants alike.

Ava is known for her big personality, her readiness to share ideas, and her commitment to standing up for fellow members. These qualities embody the spirit of 4-H—leadership, service, and community.

Congratulations again, Ava! Rensselaer County 4-H is lucky to have you, and we can't wait to see what you accomplish next.



## Year End Equine High Lights

### ***Congratulations to our County Horse Exceptional Project Record Recipients!***

Alice Bourdeau  
Mya Bull  
Kira Colarossi  
Thomas Colarossi  
Olivia Doroski  
Eva Higgins  
Allia Manchester  
MaryAnn Murray  
Vincent Reiter  
Annabel Reynolds  
Abby Reynolds  
Lili Ruepp  
Ariana Severance  
Rylynn Starks  
Wyatt Thomlinson  
Heidi Beraldi  
Madyson Bull  
Emmeline Heer  
Fiona Kircher  
Audrey Kondak  
Bridget Rowland  
Korabeth Thompson  
Jacob Blair  
Eleanor Kircher  
Thea Kircher  
Sophie Townsend  
And Honorable Mention – Emmalynne Fowler –  
Cloverbud

### ***Congratulations to our clubs for Fair Herdsmanship Awards:***

1<sup>st</sup> Blue – Playful Ponies  
Blue – Canterng Cowpokes, Equine Explorers,  
Jogging Juniors, Stablemates and Rensselaer  
County Trail Blazers



### ***Congratulations to our Horseshoe Recipients:***

Bronze –  
Heidi Beraldi,  
Alice Bourdeau  
Annabel and Abby Reynolds  
Mya Bull  
Vincent Reiter  
Lili Ruepp  
Sophie Townsend  
Audrey Kondak  
Thea, Eleanor and Fiona Kircher  
Olivia Doroski  
Korabeth Thompson  
Thomas, Carlo and Niccolo Colarossi  
Silver Junior – Madyson Bull  
Silver Intermediate – Emmeline Heer  
Silver Senior – Ava Severance  
Gold Junior – Ariana Severance  
Gold Intermediate – Bridget Rowland  
Gold Senior – Kira Colarossi



**Congratulations to our Year End High Point**

**Members:**

- Senior Champion High Point – Lili Ruepp
- Senior Res. Champion High Point – Mya Bull
- Junior Champion High Point – Ariana Severance
- Junior Res Champion High Point – Allison Gansowski

Ind Canter/Lope Champion High Point – Madyson Bull

Ind Canter/Lope Res Champion High Point – Audrey Kondak

Novice Champion High Point – Korabeth Thompson

Novice Res Champion High Point – Jacob Blair





## Clover Fun Run / Walk – Success

Many thanks to our Clover Fun Run/Walk committee for coordinating and implementing our first ever event. Additionally, thank you to all of you who helped in some way from participant, recruiting participants, donating, volunteering and helping spread the word about this opportunity. For our first effort we had a good number of runners and the perfect weather! It is safe to say it was fun for all involved and we cannot wait until next year!





## 4-H Winter Fair

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*Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:30pm  
Tamarac Elementary School Cafeteria  
Hosted by the Clover Kids & Critters 4-H Club*

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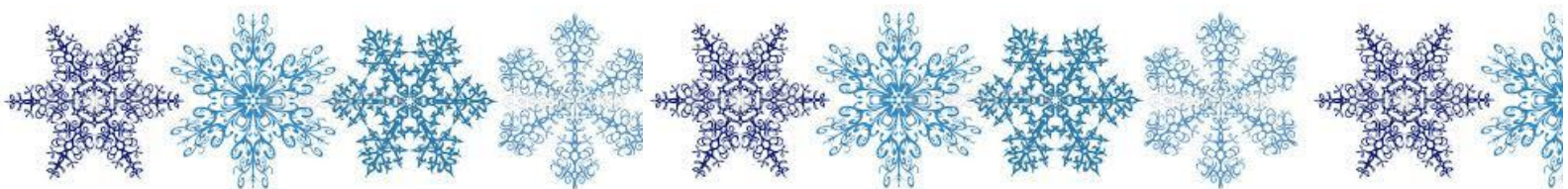
Winter Fair has transitioned to an Open House format and is open to the public. 4-H'ers feel free to bring a friend who is not in 4-H. There will be a community service project, a place to drop off canned goods to donate to a food pantry, and a project that can be made on location and entered in the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

## 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](mailto:emd32@cornell.edu).



### 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.

### Shop Council's Holiday Gift Guide:

Celebrate the Season of Giving by shopping for gifts that give back to 4-H! The 2025 4-H Holiday Gift Guide is here, showcasing our Cause Marketing partners who are supporting 4-H youth nationwide!

Spread the word and celebrate the season of giving with purpose today: [LINK HERE](#)



# Career Explorations 2026

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*Career Explorations Trip: June 30<sup>th</sup> – July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 @ Cornell University  
Application Due: Friday, JANUARY 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026*

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For Youth currently in grades 7-11

This annual state-wide event brings teens from across New York State to Cornell University for 3 days. Youth will participate directly with Cornell University faculty and students to explore a variety of program areas. Additionally, youth can create lasting friendships with other 4-H'ers from across the state. This is an overnight trip. Youth stay in university housing and receive meals in a university dining hall. The county 4-H program provides partial scholarships to 4-H members based on application materials.

Requirements:

*The Cover Sheet, Activity Log, and Resume Guidelines can be found on the forms section of our website at <https://rensselaer.cce.cornell.edu/4-h-youth/4-h-forms>*

1. Cover Sheet
2. Activity Log– should reflect activities from most current completed year.
3. Resume:

General Guidelines

Resume should be one page in length (one-sided).

It should be printed in a size 10 or 12 Arial or Times New Roman font. (Utilize your margins) sleek and simple is best, keep it consistent and stick with basic colors.

Spell-check and proof-read.

*See example and use the “Directions and Mock Resume” packet as guidance, found on the forms section of our website.*

Your Resume must include -

Professional Summary -

- 4-H Project Work including 3-5 life skills that were obtained within each project area
- 4-H Leadership and Participation
- School Summary
- Community Activities

How to Write Your Résumé -

Professional Summary

This is a statement explaining why you should be chosen to attend the Award Trip, and what you are hoping to get out of the trip. This statement will give the Trip Committee an idea of why you want to attend the Award Trip. Future employers will read this to understand why you want to apply for a job with their company. We look forward to reading everyone's summary.

Make a list of all your 4-H projects then select 3 to 5 projects that you feel best represent you.

- Your resume is a great way to show your accomplishments and qualifications.



- You want to present a strong statement in a concise manner.
- Remember— quality is more important than quantity.

Think about those 3-5 projects

- Written in a bulleted format show the depth and scope of the project area (how long you have worked in that project area and how you have progressed). What you did.
- Then highlight 3 to 5 life skills you have learned or sharpened for each project area. These should be in bullet format.

Example -

*Sewing and Textiles (2022– present)*

*Completed multiple sewing projects, including a blanket, dress, and various smaller items, while developing key skills such as operating a sewing machine, matching, and pressing seams, applying elastic waistbands, and using pinking shears for fabric finishing.*

- *Self-motivation has improved through this project*
- *Many decisions and planning had to take place while working on these sewing and textiles projects and this has helped in other areas outside the project area as well*
- *Self-confidence was obtained when others complimented the finished projects.*

Make a list of all of your leadership roles and participation.

- Be brief - organize and consolidate your leadership roles
- Combine roles, when possible, i.e., ACT (President, Vice President, Secretary) or State Fair Teen Assistant (County Booth, Poultry Exhibit, Press Corps)
- Be brief - organize and consolidate where possible i.e., Demonstrations (Exceptional Demonstrator, County Presentations, State Presentations)

School Summary (This should be smaller in comparison to 4-H project work and participation because this is a 4-H resume, think of whom your audience is when writing)

- Course of study and special interest courses
- Extracurricular activities
- Awards and honors
- Extra-curricular activities

Community Activities:

- Select the most important

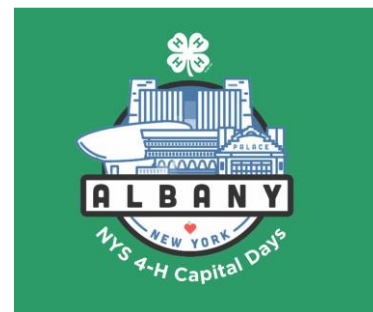
Remember “quality vs. quantity.” If you must shorten your list, include activities that you have participated in the longest. A wide variety of activities is not always a good idea, especially if you have tried things and moved on. Colleges and employers are looking for commitment.

## Capital Days

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*Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.*

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4-H Capital Days gives youth an opportunity to meet and interact with legislators and share their 4-H story, create an awareness of career opportunities in New York State government, better understand state government, and network with delegates from other counties.

Two teens will be selected to represent Rensselaer County at 4-H Capital Days! This event fits especially well with the 11th grade social studies curriculum; some teens have even gotten “extra credit” for attending Capital Days!

While in Albany, the teens and their chaperone will:

- Tour of the New York State Capitol building.
- Explore the Empire State Plaza.
- Visit the New York State Museum
- Visit with State Senators and Assemblymembers.
- Enjoy the accommodations of a local hotel.
- Network with 4-H'ers from across New York State.

To apply for Capital Days, youth need to complete the application and write an essay of 200-300 words answering the question: “If you had 5 minutes to talk to your State Senator or Assemblyman, what would you tell them about 4-H in Rensselaer County?”

Selection is made by an unbiased committee and is based on essay content.

Submit your essay **UNSIGNED** no later than March 6th, 2026, to [emd32@cornell.edu](mailto:emd32@cornell.edu). The application can be found at <https://rensselaer.cce.cornell.edu/4-h-youth/4-h-forms>

## Capital Days Teen Planning Committee

4-H Capital Days is a NYSACCE4-HE-sponsored event that gives youth an opportunity to meet and interact with legislators and tell their 4-H story. 4-H Capital Days creates awareness of career opportunities in the New York State government, a better understanding of state government, and networking with delegates from other counties. Delegates are chosen by their county 4-H program and chaperoned by their 4-H Educator or adult volunteer.

The Teen Planning Committee is responsible for planning the ice breakers, the evening activities, designing the t-shirt, and introducing speakers. Applications are due January 16, 2026.

Information is available on the website: <https://www.nys4-h.org/capital-days>

## Member Birthdays

### December

Elijah Wilwol  
Timothy Etman  
Niccolo Colarossi  
Bodie Church  
Alexander Ruepp  
Anastasia Bertram  
Willow Oszust  
Jana Kondak  
Natalie Quackenbush  
Atreyu Walraed  
Axel Chamberlain

### January

Hannah Nichols  
Michael Poland  
Orion Crowe  
Ingrid Smith

Jacon Nichols  
Allie Manchester  
Emilee Roadcap  
Addie Leonard  
Cora Cropsey  
Blake McCormick  
Connor MacNeil  
Abby Reynolds  
Lucas Corrow  
Wesley Brownell  
Jameson Roberts  
Silas Ellis  
Thomas Colarossi  
Aiden Tromblee  
Colton Mavica  
Thea Kircher  
Christina Lynch

HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY

# Calendar of Events

## December

- 2<sup>nd</sup> 4-H PDC Meeting- 6pm at CCE Office
- 3<sup>rd</sup> CCE Board of Directors Meeting at 7 PM at the CCE office
- 5<sup>th</sup> Winter Fair @ Tamarac Elementary School; 6:00pm – 8:00pm
- 6<sup>th</sup> HEAC meeting at Cornell University all day – preregistration required
- 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas; office closed

## January

- 1<sup>st</sup> New Year's Day; office closed
- 9<sup>th</sup> Career Ex applications due to 4-H office
- 7<sup>th</sup> Youth Coding Workshop 5-6:30pm CCE Office
- 12<sup>th</sup> Junior Chefs via Zoom; 6:00pm
- 13<sup>th</sup> ACT meeting at the CCE Office; 6:00pm
- 14<sup>th</sup> Youth Coding Workshop 5-6:30pm CCE Office
- 16<sup>th</sup> Capital Days Teen Planning Committee applications due
- 19<sup>th</sup> Martin Luther King Day; office closed
- 20<sup>th</sup> Horse PDC via zoom 6 PM
- 28<sup>th</sup> CCE Board of Director meeting 7 PM at the CCE office
- 28<sup>th</sup> Youth Coding Workshop 5-6:30pm CCE Office

## February

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Presentations Workshop at the CCE Office; 6:00pm
- 25<sup>th</sup> Intro to XRP Robots 5:30-7pm