

4-H Steubenite



A Publication of Cornell Cooperative Extension – Steuben County
www.putknowledgetowork.com

January/February/March 2014

4-H Robotics!!



On Saturday, November 16, Samantha Towner and Madeleine Gurecki competed as part of a Regional 4-H Robotics Team. They competed at the FLL Qualifying Challenge at Corning Community College and earned a Second Place Finish! This year, the regional team was made up of 4-H'ers from 6 counties: Steuben, Schuyler, Chemung, Tioga, Tompkins and Yates Counties. The four teams are the Servo Slammers, The Servo Hackers, The Servo Rovers and the Servo Knights. This year's FLL Challenge theme was "Nature's Fury." The challenges had to do with natural disasters and solutions for preparedness, response, and staying safe. To qualify, teams had to score well not only in the robot challenge, but also excelled in a presentation of an "innovative solution" to a problem that developed as a result of a natural disaster, a demonstration of "core values" with a team creative thinking exercise, and an explanation of their programming process and development of their robot.

The girls qualified to compete at the FLL Regional Challenge at the University of Rochester on Sunday, December 8th. Team #3177, the Servo Slammers, brought home a trophy honoring their programming skills. Their use of advanced programming techniques and multiple sensors, including dual color sensors to help their robot line itself up and perform the challenges, impressed the judges and thus they earned special recognition.

Upcoming Events

January

TBA – Dairy Quiz Bowl Practices

TBA – Horse Bowl/Hippology Practices

January 1 – CCE Office Closed for New Years

January 1 – Ownership deadline for Market Beef Steers & Dairy Steers

January 6 – Members must be reenrolled to exhibit at the 2014 Steuben County Fair

January 6 – Deadline to sign up for Tractor & Machinery Operation Course due to CCE Office

January 6 – Market Beef Steers & Dairy Steers ID Forms Due

January 7 – Small Animal Committee Meeting – 6:30PM – Open to all

January 9 – Horse Leaders Meeting – 6:00PM – Open to all

January 13 – 4-H Tractor and Machinery Operation Certification Program, 7:30-9:30 p.m. County Office Building, South Conference.

January 18 – Sewing with Grace 1-3 p.m. 3rd year

January 20 - CCE Office Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 20 - 4-H Tractor and Machinery Operation Certification Program, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m., County Office Building, South Conference

January 25 – Sewing with Grace 1-3 p.m. 3rd year

January 26 – 4-H Tractor and Machinery Operation Certification Program, 1-4 p.m. Location TBA

January 27 - 4-H Tractor and Machinery Operation Certification Program, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m., County Office Building, South Conference

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

4-H Program Committee

Sharon Bartoo.....Bath
Dave Dockstader.....Bath
Rachel Draper.....Hammondsport
Melissa Holden.....Addison
Angela Leach.....Woodhull
Tracey McCaig.....Jasper
Donna Walker.....Piffard
Legislative Representatives:
Hilda Lando.....Corning
Bill Peoples.....Addison
4-H Program Staff
Kimberly S. Randall, 4-H Community Educator
Jenny Groen, 4-H Program Educator
Loree Symonds, 4-H Program Educator

February

February 1 – Sewing with Grace 1-3 p.m. 2nd year sewers

February 1 – National Swine Registry Picture Judging Contest Entries must be postmarked or entered online <http://www.nationalswine.com/>

February 1 Dairy Judging Practice, Cow College at FIDE Farms, Demuns, Troupsburg 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

February 3 - 4-H Tractor and Machinery Operation Certification Program, County Office Building, South Conference, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

February 8 – Sewing with Grace 1-3 p.m. 2nd year sewers

February 9 – 4-H Tractor and Machinery Operation Certification Program, Driving Session, Location TBA

February 10 – Public Presentation registration due for February 22

February 10 - 4-H Tractor and Machinery Operation Certification Program, County Office Building, South Conference, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

February 14-17 The Great Backyard Bird Count www.birdsource.org/gbbc

February 15 – Sewing with Grace 1-3 p.m. 1st year sewers

February 15 – NYS 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Deadline –

www.nys4hfoundation.org/programs/foundation-programs/opportunity-scholarship-program

February 17 - President's Day, CCE Office Closed

February 17 - 4-H Tractor and Machinery Operation Certification Program, County Office Building, South Conference , 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

**February 22 - General Public Presentations, County Office Building, Bath 9-noon & 1:00-4:00,
Horse Public Presentations, County Office Building, Bath 1:00-4:00**

February 22 – Sewing with Grace 1 -3 p.m. 1st year sewers

February 24 - 4-H Tractor and Machinery Operation Certification Program, County Office Bldg, South Conference , 7:30 –9:30 p.m.

March

March 1 – Region II Horse Extravaganza (Horse Quiz Bowl & Hippology), Midlakes School

March 1 – District Dairy Bowl, Midlakes School

March 1 New York State Guernsey Calf Award Application due <http://nyguernsey.com/Awards.html>

March 1 NY Holstein Association, Inc, Calf Scholarship Application due www.nyholsteins.com

March 1 NY Ayrshire Association Calf Scholarship Application due <http://www.nyayrshire.com/applications.html>

March 2-4 - NYS 4-H Capital Days Award Trip, Albany

March 3 – 4-H Tractor and Machinery Operation Certification Program, County Office Bldg, South Conference, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

March 9 – 4-H Tractor and Machinery Operation Certification Program, Driving Test, Location TBA

March 10 – Registration due for Spring Garden Meeting on March 18

March 10 - Pheasant Chick Order Due to CCE Office

March 10 - 4-H Tractor and Machinery Operation Certification Program, Written Test, County Office Bldg, South Conference, 7:30 -9:30 pm

<http://www.agday.org/>

March 15 – March Dog Madness, Cornell University

March 16 (snow date) 4-H Tractor and Machinery Operation Certification Program, (driving test) location TBA, 1- 4 p.m.

March 17 - 4-H Tractor and Machinery Operation Certification Program, Written Test if one of the scheduled sessions are cancelled due to weather, County Office Bldg, South Conference, 7:30 -9:30 pm

March 17-21 - National Ag Week and New York Ag Literacy Week

March 18 – 4-H Spring Garden Meeting, Steuben County Fairgrounds, Central Steuben Masonic Community Center, Bath, 6:30 p.m.

March 20 – Hoard’s Dairyman Judging Contest Deadline to Hoard’s Dairyman and a copy to CCE Office

March 22-23 Maple Weekend 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. www.mapleweekend.com

March 28 Market Rabbit and Rabbit/Cavy Interest Forms Due to CCE Office

March 28 & 29 – Dairy Discovery, Cornell University

March 29 – District Public Presentations and Region II Horse Communications at Midlakes School

March 29-30 Maple Weekend 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. www.mapleweekend.com

March 31 – Market Chicken Orders due to CCE Office

April

April 7 – Registration and the \$5 registration fee per 4-H member and adult for Animal Crackers (Dairy Cattle and Dog), on May 3rd at Cornell University

April 9– Clothing Evaluations @ North Cohocton Methodist Church, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

April 11 NYS Association of Agricultural Fairs (NYSAAF) and the NYS Show People’s Association Scholarship (NYSSSA) <http://nyfairs.org/scholarship.htm>

April 11-13 - STARR Retreat, NYS Fairgrounds

April 22 – Earth Day

April 23– Clothing Evaluations @ 4-H Office, County Office Building, Bath, 3:00-5:00p.m.

April 16 – NYS 4-H Dairy Bowl Contest, Cornell University

May

May 1 – First day to get Animal Health Certificates for all NYS Fairs including Steuben County DO NOT WAIT!

May 1 – **New Members** must be enrolled to participate in 2014 County Fair

May 2 - 4-H Clothing Revue, Avoca Central School, 7:30 pm

May 3– NYS Animal Crackers (Dairy and Poultry), Cornell University

Office News

2014 4-H Award Trips Selections

Congratulations to the following 4-H members who were selected by the 4-H Awards Committee to attend the following 4-H Award Trips based on their completion of their Senior Summary Report by the September 9, 2013 deadline. The following member's will be receiving more information closer to the event.

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

Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) Washington, D.C., - July 6-12,2014 -Joel Rosko and Karli Mulford.
1st Alternate - Flynn Scheib, 2nd Alternate - Katie McAllister, 3rd Alternate- Rachel VonHagn

Capital Days, Albany (Sunday evening, March 2 – Tuesday, March 4, 2014) - Karli Mulford and Flynn Scheib. 1st Alternate - Rachel VonHagn, 2nd Alternate - Katie McAllister, 3rd Alternate-Bradley Sick

State Teen Action Rep Retreat (STARR) (Friday evening April 11-13, 2014) NYS Fairgrounds
Rachel VonHagn, Katie McAllister, Karli Mulford, Flynn Scheib

1st Alternate - Bradley Sick, 2nd Alternate-Megan Bressler, 3rd Alternate-Paige Demun, 4th Alternate-Megan Cratsley

Agri-Business Career Trip, SUNY Cobleskill (Oct. 2014) - Robert Murphy, Michael Feinman, Charlie Coley, Rachel VonHagn, Anna VonHagn, Kameryn Comstock, Kacey Scheib, and Madeleine Gurecki,
1st Alternate-Gabriel Barone, 2nd Alternate-Jessica Lawson, 3rd Alternate-Timothy Myers, 4th Alternate-Alyssa Ross, 5th Alternate- Heather Jones

Career Exploration Trip, Cornell University (Tuesday, July 1 – Thursday, July 3, 2014) –

University U 8th or 9th grade as of fall of 2014

Hayden Barry, Katlin Bidlack, Megan Cratsley, Priscilla Helgerson, Rachel Hoffer, Nathan Lawson, Steven Leach, Jenna Mochol, Kassie Mochol, Michelle Parsels, Megan Ross, Taylor Scott, Matthew Stewart, Ashley Woedy, Abigail Wright, and Ashlee Zschoche

Focus for Teens 9th grade as of fall of 2014 if attended University U in 2013 and 10th and above as of fall of 2014

4-H members who are attending 2014 Capital Days or Citizenship Washington Focus will be able to attend with the reduced rate if they are selected as a Focus Assistant (priority to those entering at least 11th grade as of fall 2014 but must be at least 16 years old) or pay for the entire cost of the trip unless they apply and are awarded a scholarship.

Gabriel Barone , Ashlynn Bennett, Justin Bennett, Megan Bressler, Megan Bruce, Charlie Coley, Kameryn Comstock, Jessica Currie, Bethany Draper, Paige Dumun, Michael Feinman, Raven Foote, Greg Fox, Madeleine Gurecki, Heather Jones, Peter Kelly, Jessica Lawson, Katie McAllister, Karli Mulford, Michael Murphy, Robert Murphy, Timothy Myers, Margaret Rogers, Joel Rosko, Alyssa Ross, Darren Ross, Brandon Sahrle, Flynn Scheib, Kacey Scheib, Bradley Sick, Samantha Towner, Tylor Trumbul, Anna VonHagn, Rachel VonHagn, and Sarah Wise

NOTE: Any Steuben County 4-H member can attend Career Exploration as long as he/she pay the registration fee (or applies for and received a scholarship through the NYS 4-H Office) and registers to the CCE Office by the early April deadline.

All Steuben County Fair Premiums will be withheld for the following reasons;

- 1. Removing exhibits, including animals, from fairgrounds before release time or without written consent.**
 - 2. Adults preparing 4-H exhibits for that the youth will be exhibiting. This includes any preparation of animal exhibits. Please note previous 4-H policy, (Preparation of all 4-H exhibits is expected to be done by the 4-H member. “Parents or supervising adults may assist only to the extent necessary to insure the safety of the exhibitor or the exhibit.”**
 - 3. Not adhering to the “Code of Conduct” and “Overnight Policy” which includes sleeping in 4-H appropriate, Adult supervised areas only.**
-

Please Note 4-H Office Policy!!!!

Any items, Achievement Night items, Banquet items, Fair items, etc., left in the 4-H Office over 60 days from the date you are notified will be disposed of as the 4-H Staff deems reasonable. You will receive one phone call or email notification. It will be noted on each item the date that you were notified. Please make sure items are picked up, for you or your club, in a timely manner.

Checking The Web!

It is very important that everyone is checking the web site, www.putknowledgetowork.org and then click on 4-H Youth Development on a weekly basis as new items are appearing on the web site daily. We will keep you informed of upcoming events and changes by posting them on the web site as soon as we get them.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Summer Camps

The 2014 NYSDEC Summer Camp is for youth 11-17 and registration begins January 22 and is completed online. DEC camps combine environmental education, sportsman education and outdoor fun.

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

The cost is \$350 per camper per week. The Steuben County Sportsman Federation has some sponsorships available. If you are interested in applying for a sponsorship contact Kim Randall at ksb3@cornell.edu or 607-664-2306 so she can get you the information when it comes available. For the camp application and more information visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/29.html> .

NYS 4-H Forestry Weekend

Join youth from across the state for a weekend of forestry activities, games, and competition during the 2014 4-H Forestry Weekend in May at Camp Owahta, Cortland County. This three-day event is for youth aged 10 and up (and staff and volunteers) interested in learning more about forests, and to select the NYS team that will go to the 2014 National 4-H Forestry Invitational (must be 14-19 for the national event).

The Forestry weekend activities have included in previous years:

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

This is a fun and educational weekend. Youth do not need to have extensive forestry knowledge to come. On Saturday is a chance to learn more and on Sunday is the competition. Estimated cost is \$40 per person: includes food, materials, and cabin lodging. (A \$95 value!). Space is limited. For more information visit <http://ccechenango99.squarespace.com/4-h-forestry/>.

If you are interested in receiving more information when it comes available please contact Kim at CCE-Steuben at ksb3@cornell.edu or 607-664-2306. The 4-H van may be available to use if there is enough interest and a volunteer chaperone who has been approved to drive.

4-H Tractor and Machinery Operation Certification Program To Be Offered in 2014

Youth who will be 14 and over as of March 1, 2014 can take the course for certification. Participants who want to earn their certification must pass both the written exam and the driving test. The cost for this course is \$15.00 for 4-H members to cover the cost of materials and is payable to CCE by Monday, January 6th with the registration form, the Tractor Acknowledgement of Risk Form, the CCE Permission Slip/Medical Release which can be found on the website at www.putknowledgetowork.org and click on 4-H Youth Development and then click on other programs or by contacting Kim at Cornell Cooperative Extension at 607-664-2306.

Non 4-H members are eligible to take this course but in addition they will need to complete a 4-H enrollment form as an independent member by Monday, January 6 which is found on the above website and pay the \$5.00 4-H enrollment fee

The schedule for the course is as follows:

Mondays, January 13, 20, 27 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m., Steuben County Office Building, South Conference
Sunday, January 26 1-4 p.m. Location to be announced hands on learning session
Mondays, February 3, 10, 17, 24 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m., Steuben County Office Building, South Conference
Sunday, February 9 1-4 p.m. Location to be announced hands on learning session
Monday, March 3 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m., Steuben County Office Building, South Conference
Sunday, March 9 (driving test) or March 16 (driving test date if previous date canceled due to weather) Location to be announced 1- 4 p.m.
March 10 (written test) or March 17 (written test date if one of the above sessions end up being cancelled due to weather)

4-H Dairy Judging

What is Cow College? Cow College is another name for Dairy Judging.

Who can attend cow college? Any 4-H member and their parent, grandparent, leader, etc. who is interested in learning how to dairy judge. Please NOTE: **Cloverbud members 5-7 years old** (as of January 1, 2014) who are interested in learning how to dairy judge may participate **only if they are accompanied at all times by a responsible adult who is at least 21 years old who will be accompanying them the entire time.**

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

When is cow college? Cow college is held on Saturdays during February - May. Each session runs from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. See schedule below.

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

What happens after the cow colleges? There is a county dairy judging tour in May (Tentatively May 17). 4-H families (4-H members including cloverbuds and adults) are encouraged to judge. There will be several judging trips throughout the summer that selected 4-H members will be invited to attend. 4-H members can participate in the Dairy Judging Contest at the Steuben County Fair. There is the State Dairy Judging Contest at the NYS Fair where 4-H members (8-18 years old) will be selected as members of the possible Steuben County Teams:

New for 2014 – Each county can send 2 teams of 4 members in each division

Senior Team – 14-18 years old as of January 1, 2014 4-H members will need to give oral reasons as part of the contest.

Junior Team – 9-13 years old as of January 1, 2014. 4-H members will not give oral reasons as part of the contest.

Novice Team – 8-10 years old as of January 1, 2014 or any youth 11-13 years old as of January 1, 2014 who have not previously competed in the dairy judging contest at the State Fair. 4-H members will not give oral reasons as part of the contest.

Dairy Judging Schedule

February 1 - Cow College, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. at FIDE Farms, Demuns, Troupsburg

February 15 Cow College, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Location TBA

March 15 - Cow College, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Location TBA

Tentative March 29 - Cow College, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Location TBA

April 5 - Cow College, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Location TBA

April 19 - Cow College, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Location TBA

Tentative May 17 – County Dairy Judging Tour Location TBA

If you are interested in participating in dairy judging and have not done so already please contact Kim at 607-664-2306 or at ksb3@cornell.edu .

Many 4-H members have enjoyed dairy judging so plan to be a part of the 2014 dairy judging program.

Hoard's Dairyman Dairy Judging Contest



The 2014 Hoard's Dairyman Dairy Judging Contest booklets will be mailed from Hoard's Dairyman to those clubs who participated in 2013. If your club participated last year and you do not receive a booklet with the classes and you wish to participate in the 2014 contest, please contact the CCE Office. If you need more booklets or anyone else would like to participate in the contest and needs the booklet with the classes and the entries, contact the CCE Office. The deadline for entries is **Thursday, March 20, 2014**. **Participants need to send the original to Hoard's Dairyman for the National Contest and a copy of their entry to the CCE Office or email to Kim at ksb3@cornell.edu for the County Contest by March 20.**

4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl

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

Age of contestants is as of January 1, 2014.

Novice Contest

Team members may be 8 - 10 years old with some experience or 11 - 13 years old with no previous district contests experience.

Junior Contest

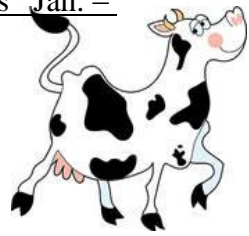
9 years to 13 years old

Senior Contest

14 years to 18 years old.

Dairy Quiz Bowl practices and locations will be arranged based on the participants and the coaches Jan. – February

Saturday, March 1 Finger Lakes District Dairy Quiz Bowl Contest, Midlakes School,
New for 2014 - Steuben County can send 2 teams of 4 per each division



The Finger Lakes District will send a junior and a senior team to the state competition at Cornell University on April 26th. The Finger Lakes District junior and senior teams will be composed of the top four individuals with the 5th place as the alternate in each division.

The NYS 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl team to compete at Nationals in KY will be selected from the top individuals in the Sr. Division at the state contest. **New for 2014: 4-H members will need to be 15-18 years old as of January 1, 2014 to be eligible to be selected for the NYS 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl Team.**

If you are interested in participating in Dairy Quiz Bowl and or are interested in volunteering as a coach and have not already contacted Kim please contact her at 607-664-2306 or at ksb3@cornell.edu.

Many 4-H dairy members have enjoyed Dairy Quiz Bowl so plan to be a part of the 2014 Dairy Quiz Bowl.

NYS 4-H Youth Development Animal Crackers Program

Saturday, May 3, 2014 with the focus for 2014 on Dairy Cattle and Poultry

The annual Animal Crackers program provides New York youth with fun hands-on science-oriented learning experiences on Animal Science topics which feature the unique facilities and staff of Cornell University.

When/Where: This Saturday workshop is held every May on campus (Morrison Hall) for 4-H members interested in learning more about their favorite livestock, companion or pet animal species; emphasis on different species groupings and activities varies annually. The program is geared to 4-H members involved in animal science projects.

Who: 4-H project members (suggested age range 9-12) are strongly encouraged to attend (with their parents or chaperones). However, all youth 9 and up are welcome. Participants will get to meet Cornell faculty and students, learn about different aspects of animal care, interact and exchange information with professional producers, industry experts, and more! Hands-on workshops are planned for each species group.

Why? Animal Crackers participants have the unique opportunity to experience hands-on activities in a university setting, explore career options in animal science, and expand their knowledge through scientific inquiry.

How? Please contact Jenny at the CCE Office at jmg422@cornell.edu or 607-664-2312 if you are interested in attending. **Registration is due by Monday, April 7th to the CCE Office.**

Cost? The cost of \$7.00 per person is due to CCE-Steuben to cover basic handout and occasional presenter expenses.

Participants must bring their own lunch and drinks. The closest place to purchase food is a 5 minute drive from campus.

Each year an opening presentation kicks off the event with a welcoming statement or remarks related to the annual theme. Livestock production themes are usually offered in even years and Horse programs are rotated in odd years. A noon-time demonstration and closing program is also typically featured.

Workshop presenters and topics are selected by a planning committee that looks at trends and current issues. Youth input on topics is also solicited through statewide advisory committees and educator feedback.

More information will be found at <http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/4H/crackers/index.html>

Examples of some of the fun things participants have experienced in the past... The Cornell Raptor Program, ultrasound technology, Herding dogs at work, Disc dogs in action, barrel racing, driving, poop soup, and more...

Maple Weekend

The New York State Maple Producers Association invites families from across the Empire State and neighboring areas to learn all about the production of maple syrup and other related products. For a perfect family outing plan to attend one of the days of Maple Weekend on **Sat. March 22 and Sun., March 23, 2014 and on Sat., March 29 and Sun., March 30 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.** Admission is free. For specific locations and information go to www.mapleweekend.com NYS Maple Producers Association's goal during Maple Weekend is to share the taste of real mouth-watering maple syrup with you. Maple producers will demonstrate how to make syrup -- whether it's simply boiling the sap over an open fire or running it through highly scientific equipment -- the results always taste great! New York State maple syrup has established a reputation as one of the highest quality maple syrups in the world. Maple Weekend allows New York Maple producers to demonstrate the superiority of their product, and invites the public to sugarhouses to try for themselves. From the first Maple Sunday in Wyoming County in the mid 1990s to today's state-wide Maple Weekend event, the goal remains the same -- to give the public a first-hand opportunity to see how maple products are produced, from tree to table, along with the chance to taste and purchase maple products. Check out the locations page on www.mapleweekend.com for a producer near you and to see the dates and times that they're open. Weather plays a large part in the making of maple syrup. Maple Weekend will take place regardless of the weather. Please dress accordingly; it will be muddy at many of the sugar houses; come and enjoy the day.

STARR (State Teen Action Rep Retreat)

The **State Teen Action Rep Retreat** is a three-day fun-filled event where 4-H teens, ages 13 – 19, participate in a variety of workshops and activities meant to challenge, excite and further develop life skills. STARR Program is open to all NYS 4-H Teens and their adult chaperones. The event is planned by teens and adults serving on the youth/adult STARR planning committee. **Steuben County 4-H volunteers and member serving on the 2014 STARR Planning Committee are Phil Zschoche, Rachael Draper, and Bethany Draper.** STARR will be held **April 11-13, 2014 at the New York State Fair/4-H Youth Building, Syracuse, NY.**

Congratulations to the following teens who were selected by the 4-H Awards Committee to attend STARR based on their completion of their Senior Summary Report and whose registration fee will be paid for by the 4-H Activity Fund if they sold at least \$50 worth of Cuba Cheese Products/Hennings Maple Farm Products or paid the \$50 family 4-H enrollment and register for STARR by the deadline. **Those selected were Rachel VonHagn, Katie McAllister, Karli Mulford, Flynn Scheib, 1st Alternate – Bradley Sick, 2nd Alternate – Megan Bressler, 3rd Alternate – Paige Demun and 4th Alternate – Megan Cratsley.** These members will be receiving more information including registration information when it becomes available. **A chaperone at least 21 years old is needed for the trip.** If you are interested in chaperoning contact Kim at the CCE Office at ksb3@cornell.edu or 607-664-2306.

Any Steuben County 4-H member ages 13 -19 may participate in STARR even if they were not selected by the Awards Committee provided that they pay the registration fee and there is a chaperone. The cost is \$75* per person registration fee covers lodging, meals, and workshop supplies and will need to be paid to CCE-Steuben with your workshop choices. * Additional fees may be charged if you register late, cancel, or don't show up. **If you are interested in participating contact Kim at ksb3@cornell.edu or at 607-664-2306 (messages can be left after hours)** so that when more information is available she can get it to you. Kim will need to complete your online registration including your workshop choices and online registrations. The earlier your registration is received the better chance you will have of getting your workshop choices. It is encouraged to have delegates spread out so that each county has teens/adults in a variety of workshops, rather than having everyone from one county sign up for all the same workshops. If you think about it, taking part in a variety of workshops provides a powerhouse of teens and adults prepared to return to the county to share skills and knowledge gained at STARR. **If Steuben County 4-H members attend Steuben County must also provide adult chaperone(s).**

Expectations for Youth and Adults:

- Every county planning to send teens will be expected to provide Adult chaperone(s)
- Everyone (youth and adults) is expected to participate in all activities.
- There will be some adult/teen specific workshops.
- Adults will be expected to assist with activities and events throughout the weekend.
- Individual county groups are asked to provide nutritious snacks and bottled water for distribution throughout the event. (e.g. fruit, carrots, celery, peppers, chips and salsa, cheese & crackers)
- Individual counties are asked to create a Banner or Poster to present during County Roll Call as part of Opening Assembly. Banner or Poster will be displayed through the STARR event.

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

2014 Spring Tree Sale

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

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

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

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

DOG OBEDIENCE CLASSES FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS BEGIN

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County's 4-H Program is offering dog obedience classes for youth and adults will be held on Thursday evenings to be determined from 6-8:00 p.m., at Hillside Children's Center, Snell Farm, 7320 Snell Hill Road, Bath. Classes will be held in the brown Morton Building. Classes are tentatively going to be offered in Howard and Arkport to be announced. Youth participants age 5-18 years old as of January 1, 2014 must be enrolled in the Steuben County 4-H Program. Youth ages 5-7 years old must have an experienced adult on the lead at all times. Non-4-H members may take the course by enrolling as an independent 4-H member. You can enroll as a 4-H member by paying the \$5.00 enrollment fee and completing the 4-H enrollment form and acknowledgement of risk form which can be found at

www.putknowledgegetowork.com. **New 4-H members must be an enrolled**

4-H members by May 1, 2014 to be eligible to enter your dog or other projects in the 4-H division of the 2014 Steuben County Fair. The classes are also open to adults at \$5 each session. Participants should be prepared to clean up after their dog as necessary.

Any 4-H member who is taking dog obedience classes privately must participate in the Steuben County 4-H Dog Obedience Graduation to be eligible to exhibit at the 2014 Steuben County Fair. Any 4-H member who is interested in trying to qualify for State Fair must attend graduation. Graduation will be held in July 2014 at the Steuben County Fairgrounds

Dogs can be any breed. All dogs must conform to the rules and regulations of the Livestock Health requirements as determined by the Department of Agriculture and Markets. Dogs must have current vaccinations for rabies, distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus and leptospirosis (as appropriate for their age). It is highly recommended to also have your dog vaccinated for Bordetella and parainfluenza virus. Participants should consult their veterinarian for further information about these vaccines as well as internal and external parasite control programs. **Participating members need to provide a COPY of current vaccinations at the first class or they can be faxed to 607-664-2303.** Acceptable proof of Rabies vaccination is a rabies certificate or a copy of the dog license that contains the rabies vaccination information. An animal is currently vaccinated for Rabies beginning 14 days following (initial) vaccination continuing for the period stated in the manufacturer's instructions. Acceptable proof of Rabies vaccination must include the signature of the veterinarian, the name of the product used, the date of administration and the duration of immunity if longer than a year. **Dogs must be at least six months old to be exhibited at the Steuben County Fair or the NYS Fair.**

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

If you are interested in more information about dog obedience when it comes available contact Kim at Cornell Cooperative Extension at 607-664-2306 or email her at ksb3@cornell.edu.

March Dog Madness Adult and Teen Leader Training



All interested adult and teen leaders are invited to attend this one day information packed program on **March 15, 2014 at Cornell University from 9 am – 3 pm**. Registrations will be taken on a **first-come-first served basis** with the registration fee due to Cornell University. To cover the cost of lunch and program materials, there is a charge of **\$20.00** per person. There is a **limit of 20 people per concurrent workshop. Registrations and payment are due by March 8. Space is limited to the first 100 people whose PAYMENT is received by March 8.** Online registrations will require payment by credit/debit card. Paper registrations must be accompanied by a check.

If you are interested in attending contact Kim at ksb3@cornell.edu or at 607-664-2306 (leave a message even after hours) and when the information becomes available she will let you know. Information and registration forms will be on the NYS 4-H Dog program website at <http://www.ansi.cornell.edu/4H/dogs/MarchDogMadness/>

The Great Backyard Bird Count

The Great Backyard Birds Count is **February 14-17, 2014**. This annual four-day event engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one or more of the count days, anywhere they like. It's free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds. Then they enter their counts on the Great Backyard Bird Count web site www.birdsource.org/gbbc The Great Backyard Bird Count is lead by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, with Canadian partner Bird Studies Canada and is sponsored by Wild Birds Unlimited, Cornell Information Technologies, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and National Science Foundation. As tallies pour in from around the United States and Canada, everyone can watch the results in real time.

4-H Spring Garden Meeting



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

Date: **Tuesday, March 18th**

Time: **6:30 p.m. Seed Distribution, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Program**

Location: Steuben County Fairgrounds, Central Steuben Masonic Community Center, Bath

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

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

To register for the 4-H Spring Garden Meeting return the enclosed registration form or email Kim at ksb3@cornell.edu or call 607-664-2306 by **Monday, March 10.**

Mark your calendars for an informative and fun filled evening on Tuesday, March 18th.

Animal Careers Resource

The [Animal Careers website \(http://animalcareers.cornell.edu/\)](http://animalcareers.cornell.edu/)

is a resource for students, teachers, parents and others who have an interest in learning about career opportunities related to **animals**.

- By visiting the **careers tab** on the home page, guests will see an alphabetical list of careers that real people hold across the country and throughout the world.
- By searching key words such as "horse", "cattle" or "wildlife" students will see a short list of **job titles** along with skills or degrees required to enter each position.

Many more search options exist and often students are most curious about which positions have the highest paying salaries. *Remember, job satisfaction is not always tied to a paycheck.*

- For a glimpse of what real people have to say about their own jobs, visit the **people tab**.
- For secondary students, the **experience tab** offers students tips about how to gain experience.
- The **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)** link includes responses to student questions such as, where do I need to go to learn about advanced learning opportunities? Is college the right choice for me?

We welcome feedback from educators and students and have built in a "feedback" link at the bottom of the home page for just that purpose. We hope you will visit often and share your career exploration experiences with us.

4-H Expo

The 4-H Educators of the Finger Lakes met recently and have made the joint decision to not hold 4-H Expo in March 2014. While we all know that this program was popular with many 4-H clubs in our Finger Lakes, it has become harder each year to come up with workshops that fit the mandates of our New York State 4-H Youth Development program. We regret any inconvenience this has made in club plans for this year. However, the educators will be meeting early in 2014 to develop some alternate 4-H opportunities for leaders and members to learn about projects to use in 4-H clubs.

Public Presentations

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

ALL 4-H members ages 8 and up as of January 1, 2014 are required to participate in the public presentation program to receive their project completion sticker on their certificate. Cloverbuds are strongly encouraged to do a presentation but it is not mandatory. In addition to the County presentations there is another option, that of presenting at a Club Meeting and being "judged" by one of the leaders of the club or if you are an independent member to give your presentation to family and friends and have a parent complete the club level evaluation form. The Club Presentation is meant to be just a stepping stone for a year or two, then the member needs to attend at the county level. A club level presentation does not qualify the 4-H member to attend the public presentation award trip and does not make a 4-H member eligible to be selected to participate in district public presentations.

If members 8 and over as of January 1, 2014 do not give a public presentation at the club or county level then you do not receive a project completion sticker on your year-end certificate AND the club does not receive 100% completion.

Information on preparing for presentations was given to leaders in the registration packet for the 4-H year and is also on the web. **If an individual or a club would like help with any part of the public presentation process, please contact the 4-H office. Arrangements can be made to give you or your club the help that is needed.**

General and Horse Public Presentation Day -

The next opportunity to do public presentations is on **Saturday, February 22, 2014 at the Steuben County Office Building. General presentations and horse will be done on the same day. Check below for more information.**

**General Presentations: All topics except horse. Time: 9:00 a.m. to Noon and 1:00 pm-4:00 pm.
Horse Presentations: All presentations with a horse topic. Time 1:00-4:00 only.**

If you are a new club or new to public presentations, you are welcome to come to come and watch the presenters and give your presentation on August 15 at the county fair.

Summer General Public Presentation Day -

The summer General public presentation event will be in the **Youth Building at the Steuben County Fair on Wednesday, August 13, 2014.** This will also include "Produced in New York" presentations. **4-H members who give their presentation at the fair are ineligible to attend the public presentation award trip and are ineligible to be selected to participate in district public presentations.**

To register your club, please complete the form for the General Presentations and/or the one for the Horse Presentations. **The registration forms are in this issue or on the website at www.putknowledgetowork.org and mail, email or fax (607-664-2303) it to the CCE office by Monday, February 10, 2014.**

“Before a group you speak with ease, you can put ideas across, it’s a breeze. Because you have learned to organize what to do and say, planned ahead and practiced before the big day. With poise and self-confidence you smile at the evaluator. It’s a public presentation you have done, and it’s a life skill you have won!” – Source Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County.

Remember the four “P” of presenting:

P#1 – Plan – Select a topic about something you are interested in telling people about or learning more about. Think about your topic and plan what you want to say, how you will show the audience “how-to” if it is a demonstration .

P#2 – Prepare – After you have selected a topic, think about how you will present the topic. Prepare a poster (unless it is a public speaking), various steps of the finished product or other visuals that will help you explain your topic to give an effective presentation.

P#3 – Practice - Practice, practice, practice! The more you “run through” your presentation, the easier it will be on the actual presentation day.

P#4 – Present – Present your 4-H Presentation at the club level or at the County Level on February 22 or August 13 in Bath

District Public Presentations



Finger Lakes District Public Presentations will be held on **Saturday, March 29** at Midlakes School (Phelps-Clifton Springs). 4-H members will be selected to represent Steuben County by the judges from the November and February Public Presentation Days. 4-H members that are selected will be receiving detailed information about District Presentations after County Presentations.

County-Wide Sewing Class Being Offered for 4-Hers and Leaders/Parents



Do you want to learn to sew? Grace Brown is offering free classes to any 4-Her(8 and older) or leader/parent in the county that wants to learn the basics of using a pattern to make a garment and operating a sewing machine/serger. She is offering a Beginners Class for those who have never sewn, a Second year class for those who have one year of experience, and an advanced class for those who have had at least two years of experience.

All classes will be held at Grace’s home- 7258 St. Rt. 415, just west of Bath towards Kanona.

Class sizes will be small so pre-registration is required. **Register for these classes by January 10, 2014.**

The dates and times are:

Saturday, January 18th & 25th from 1:00-3:00pm 3rd year sewers will choose a project
Saturday, February 1st & 8th from 1:00-3:00pm 2nd year sewers will make pj pants
Saturday, February 15th & 22nd from 1:00-3:00pm 1st year sewers will make sweatshirts.

Grace is volunteering her time for this project so asks that you commit to attending the two sessions planned for the level sewer that you are. If you don't get done in the two sessions, she will plan another time to work with you so you can finish. This will count as a sewing project for the year and you will be eligible to attend a 4-H Clothing Evaluation in April and the 4-H Clothing Revue on May 2nd at the Avoca Central School.

Beginners Sewing Class:

This class will be held Saturday, February 15th and 22th from 1:00-3:00 pm. Remember to register.

Grace will provide the patterns and the machines. Each person will need to supply sweatshirt fabric (**do not** get fleece) and ribbing. Grace has a supply of ribbing in many colors which you may not find in fabric shops. You can purchase this from her @.22 cents per inch. She also has sweatshirt fabric available or you can purchase elsewhere. She will provide the thread and sewing supplies.

Sweatshirt fabric: 1 ½ yards sweatshirt fabric for size youth –adult medium
1 ¾ Yards sweatshirt fabric for Adult L-XL
Ribbing: 12”

Second Year Sewing Project:

This class will be held on Saturday, February 1st and 8th from 1:00-3:00 pm. Remember to register.

The project will be pajama pants with an elastic waist. **You will need to furnish your own pattern, fabric and elastic.** Grace will furnish the machines and thread. If you have questions about what to purchase, contact Grace.

Third Year Sewing Project:

This class will be held on Saturday, January 18th and 25th from 1:00-3:00pm. Remember to register.

You will be choosing a project of your choice but you must meet with Grace before you shop for your pattern, fabric and notions. She will help you with your pattern size, how to “read” the pattern envelope to get the right amount of fabric, what fabrics would be best, and the notions or supplies that you will need (thread, buttons, zipper etc.)

All of these garments will count as a sewing project for the 2014 4-H year. You will complete your project record sheet during the class and you will receive a certificate for completing the class. As part of this project you will also be encouraged to attend a county clothing evaluation in April and the clothing revue that will be held on Friday, May 2, 2014 at the Avoca Central School.

Pre-registration is required. A sign-up form is on the CCE website <http://www.putknowledgetowork.org> or email las65@cornell.edu or call Loree at the 4-H office (607)-664-2310. If there are questions contact Loree Symonds 607-664-2310 or Grace Brown 607-776-4931.

We Need You and Your Ideas for the 4-H Clothing Revue



The **2014 4-H Clothing Revue** has been scheduled for **Friday, May 2nd at Avoca Central School**. If you have an idea for a theme for this year's revue or suggestions about the Revue or **if you are an adult or teen and would like to serve on the planning committee**, please contact Loree at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Office! The planning committee meets only two times, once the last of March to get the night planned and in April just before the revue to get everything finalized.

2014 Clothing Evaluations and Revue

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

Clothing evaluation locations and dates are:

Wednesday, April 9th, North Cohocton Methodist Church, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 23rd, 4-H Office, County Office Building, Bath, 3:00-5:00p.m.

Friday, May 2nd, Clothing Revue at the Avoca Central School in Avoca, NY

Times for arrival: Seniors: 6:30-6:45 p.m. to get reevaluated and registered.

Juniors: 7:00 p.m. to get registered.

Clothing Revue begins at 7:30.

Family and friends are welcome to attend.

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

Clothing Project Idea: Make It With Wool Contest

Each year there is a New York State "Make it Yourself with Wool Contest". It will be held at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds in Rhinebeck, NY on October 18th and 19th 2014. As you are choosing your clothing project for this year, you may want to choose something that will fit this contest.

There are five divisions: Age as of Dec. 31, 2013

Pre-teens, age 12 and under

Juniors, ages 13-16

Senior, ages 17-24

Adult are 25 years and older

Made for others (any age)

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

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

National Agricultural Day, March 25, 2014

National Agricultural Day is March 25, 2014. Join us as we honor agriculture for providing safe, abundant and affordable products, a strong economy, a source of renewable energy, and a world of job opportunities. For more information about celebrating National Ag Day, go to <http://www.agday.org/>. The site includes fun facts, links to other sites, resources, and planning guide.

What Is Ag Day All About?

Ag Day is about recognizing - and celebrating - the contribution of agriculture in our everyday lives. The National Ag Day program encourages every American to:

The National Ag Day program encourages every American to:

- Understand how food and fiber products are produced.
- Appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products.
- Value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy.
- Acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food and fiber industry.

The 2014 Ag Day Theme is "Agriculture: 365 Sunrises and 7 Billion Mouths to Feed"

Why Celebrate Agriculture?

Agriculture provides almost everything we eat, use and wear on a daily basis. But too few people truly understand this contribution. This is particularly the case in our schools, where students may only be exposed to agriculture if they enroll in related vocational training. By building awareness, the Agriculture Council of America is encouraging young people to consider career opportunities in agriculture. Each American farmer feeds more than 144 people ... a dramatic increase from 25 people in the 1960s. Quite simply, American agriculture is doing more - and doing it better. As the world population soars, there is an even greater demand for the food and fiber produced in the United States.

Join us in 2014 as we honor agriculture for providing safe, abundant and affordable products, a strong economy, a source of renewable energy, and a world of job opportunities. For more information about celebrating National Ag Day, go to <http://www.agday.org/>. The site includes fun facts, links to other sites, resources, and planning guide.

NY Ag Literacy Week –Volunteers, Donors and Classroom Requests Needed

New York Agriculture in the Classroom is pleased to announce Ag Literacy week **March 17 – 21, 2014** in support of its mission of fostering awareness, understanding, and appreciation of agriculture and the food and fiber system. **March 17 – 21, 2014** volunteers through the state will go into 1st – 3rd grade classrooms to read a book with an agricultural theme and talk to students about agriculture. **The signature book for 2014 is Who Grew My Soup?** written by Tom Darbyshire and illustrated by C.F. Payne. In this delightful book, Phineas Quinn questions the vegetable soup his mom serves for lunch. He refuses to slurp a single spoonful until he knows who grew each of the vegetables. Much to his surprise, a man in a flying tomato balloon shows up to answer his questions. Phineas joins the magical Mr. Mattoo as they fly from farm to farm, learning about the amazing vegetables, and meeting the farmers who grow them.

Who Grew My Soup? as the Agricultural Literacy Week book for 2014 will allow students an opportunity to meet and connect students to the farmers in their backyard. As the nation's conversation is focused on healthy living and eating nutritious foods, it is the perfect time to help our students build the knowledge that nutrition starts on the farm. After listening to the story, the students will participate in an activity featuring MyPlate, eating at least 5 servings of vegetables, and introducing actual farmers that grow their favorite vegetables. All lessons, activities, and extensions are aligned to New York State and Common Core Learning Standards.

The book will be donated to the school library with a special bookplate recognizing the donor and NY Ag Literacy Day. Volunteers are needed to be readers for this event and donors are needed as sponsors at \$8 a book. If you are interested in being a volunteer, a donor, or having a volunteer come to read to your classroom contact Kim at ksb3@cornell.edu or at 607-664-2306. For more information about NY Ag Literacy week visit <http://www.agclassroom.org/ny/programs/literacy.htm>

For more information about the New York Agriculture in the Classroom Program, Ag Literacy Resources, and Lessons visit <http://www.agclassroom.org/ny/index.htm>

National Ag Day Essay Contest Announces January 31 Deadline

The Agriculture Council of America (ACA) calls on **ninth- to 12th-grade students to submit an original, 450-word essay or a two-minute video essay about the importance of agriculture. This year's theme is "Agriculture: 365 Sunrises and 7 Billion Mouths to Feed" and the deadline is January 31, 2014.** The ACA asks teachers and parents to encourage student participation. The theme, "Agriculture: 365 Sunrises and 7 Billion Mouths to Feed," presents an opportunity for students to address how the agriculture industry is an endless source of opportunity for growth and development. Entrants may choose to either write an essay and/or create a video focusing on how today's growers are overcoming challenges to provide a safe, stable food supply and sustain the significant role agriculture plays in everyday life.

The national written essay winner receives a \$1,000 prize and round-trip ticket to Washington, D.C., for recognition during the Celebration of Ag Dinner held March 25 at Whitten Patio at the USDA. During dinner, the winner will have the opportunity to read the winning essay as well as join with industry representatives, members of Congress, federal agency representatives, media and other friends in a festive ag celebration. The video essay winner wins a \$1,000 prize, and the winning video will play during the Celebration of Ag Dinner.

This is the 41st anniversary of National Ag Day. The goal of the ACA is to provide a spotlight on agriculture and the food and fiber industry. The ACA not only helps consumers understand how food and fiber products are produced, but also brings people together to celebrate accomplishments in providing safe, abundant and affordable products.

The Ag Day Essay Contest is sponsored by CHS Inc., *High Plains/Midwest Ag Journal*, National Association of Farm Broadcasting, National Agri-Marketing Association, Country Living Association, Farm Progress Companies and McCormick Company.

All written entries should be sent to: 2014 Ag Day Essay Contest, Agriculture Council of America, 11020 King Street, Suite 205, Overland Park, KS 66210, or submitted by e-mail to essay@agday.org. Students may upload video essays at <http://agday.leapfile.net> and follow the directions on the page, or students may choose to mail video entries on a compact disc to the address above. Visit <http://www.agday.org/media/pr5.php> or www.hpj.com/agdayessay to read official contest rules and for more details regarding entry applications.

Scholarships

New York State 4-H Opportunity Scholarship

The NYS 4-H Foundation and generous sponsors are pleased to provide scholarships to members for their accomplishments as a result of 4-H experiences, and to support future educational goals.

Scholarship Application procedures. Download the application and follow the instructions carefully.

<http://www.nys4hfoundation.org/programs/foundation-programs/opportunity-scholarship-program/>

Applications can be sent electronically as an attached file to esearle@nys4hfoundation.org or mailed to NYS 4-H Foundation, 248 Grant Ave., Suite II-A, Auburn, NY 13021. The application and all required materials are to be postmarked or date-stamped **NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 15, 2014**. Notification of scholarship awards will be made in June.

*Please note that a Steuben County 4-H staff person must complete and sign the 4-H Educator's Recommendation form for all scholarships applications that are submitted from Steuben County youth. **If you are applying please contact Kim at ksb3@cornell.edu or 607-664-2306 so she can complete the recommendation.** If you applied last year or this is your first time, we encourage you to take the time to fill out the application forms.*

Selection Criteria

- Demonstrated personal growth and development through 4-H projects and activities
- Held leadership roles in 4-H and other organizations
- Active in community or public service activities
- Sense of direction in future educational goals
- Academic record

- Applicant must be eligible for 4-H enrollment. Youth who have reached their nineteenth birthday before January 1, 2014 are not eligible to apply for scholarships.
- Applicant must have been a 4-H member in New York State, or participated in a Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development Program for at least one year.
- Applicant must be enrolled or planning to enroll in an accredited university, college or technical school.
- Applicant must have a current grade point average of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale unless otherwise stated for specific scholarships.

Distribution procedures.

Awards will be distributed upon completion of the first semester of enrollment at the university, college or technical school. Prior to receiving the scholarship award, recipients will need to provide the NYS 4-H Foundation office:

- A collegiate or technical school academic transcript for the completed academic term showing a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale or academic good standing on another scale.
- A copy of current term fee slip or other document that confirms continued enrollment at the university, college or technical school.

Announcement of Scholarship recipients will be at the NYS 4-H Career Explorations Program July 1-3, 2014.

New York Ayrshire Club Calf Award Application

The purpose of the Calf Scholarship Award Program is to select a youth who is worthy of the award and to provide money that can be used to help purchase a Registered Ayrshire Calf at a public auction. The program offers the opportunity to a youth who has demonstrated the interest and ability to develop the calf to her fullest potential and who will also grow through this project. Applicants for this award must meet the following specifications 8-15 years of age as of January 1st of the current year. The youth member cannot own more than 2 Registered Ayrshire or 2 registered animals of another breed. Youth must have adequate facilities and supervision to raise a calf in New York State. Applicants must be or must be willing to join the New York and National Junior Ayrshire Club. Applicant must be a resident of New York State. Youth must welcome periodic farm visits. Winner must be willing to show the calf at appropriate shows. Winner will provide yearly progress reports to the NY Ayrshire Club. Applications will be available at <http://www.nyayrshire.com/applications.html> or email us at nyayrshire@gmail.com, **Applications must be postmarked by the deadline of March 1, 2014**, prior to Registered Ayrshire sales in the northeast. Assistance will be available in selecting the calf if needed.

New York State Guernsey Calf Award Application

The Calf Scholarship Award Program is sponsored by the New York State Guernsey Breeders Association for the purpose of encouraging those who do not presently own Guernseys to become involved with the Guernsey Breed. A purebred Guernsey Calf will be awarded to the applicant who shows interest in the Guernsey breed and who has demonstrated the capabilities of developing the animal to its fullest potential. Applicant must be age 9-15 as of January 1st of application year. You do not have to belong to 4-H, FFA, or a breed club to participate. Award will be presented to the winner at the New York State Guernsey Breeders' Annual Meeting in March or April. There are questions that need to be answered in the form of an essay. **All applications are due on March 1st**. Please EMAIL your application to: Christel Axtell -- Axtell7@juno.com or you may mail it to the New York State Guernsey Breeders. If you win this calf, you will be required to exhibit it in at least one local fair, and also at the New York State Fair for TWO consecutive years. If you do not exhibit the animal at the required fairs, the New York State Guernsey Breeders will make a determination as to the placement of the calf. Our purpose is to promote the Guernsey Calf Scholarship Program; therefore, exhibition at the fairs is our prime opportunity to fulfill this mission. Each winner will be also required to fill out a County Achievement Form each spring. For complete rules and regulations and an application visit <http://nyguernsey.com/Awards.html> the 2014 application will be there shortly or contact Kim at the CCE Office at ksb3@cornell.edu or 607-664-2306.

2014 NY Holstein Association, Inc, Calf Scholarship

The purpose of the Calf Scholarship Award Program is to select a youth who is worthy of the award – a Registered Holstein calf with the potential to develop into a future brood cow. The program offers such a calf to a youth who has demonstrated the interest and ability to develop the calf to her fullest potential and who will grow through this project. Youth must be between 12-15 years old as of January 1, 2014. Applications and the specific requirements can be found at www.nyholsteins.com or by contacting Kim at the CCE Office at 607-664-2306 or ksb3@cornell.edu or by calling the NY Holstein office at 607-273-7591. The entry deadline is **postmarked or emailed to ssherman@nyholsteins.com by March 1, 2014.** There needs to be one reference written from an adult (such as Jr. Holstein Advisor, 4-H leader, 4-H staff, adult mentor). The calf will be awarded to the winner during the NY Holstein Spring Carousel, NYS Fairgrounds, Syracuse, during the NYS Junior Show in April.

NYS Association of Agricultural Fairs (NYSAAF) and the NYS Show People's Association Scholarship (NYSSSA)

Deadline: April 11, 2014

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

Applications, 2 letters of reference, and transcript must be submitted by a member Fair of the New York State Association of Agricultural Fairs. **The deadline for submitting your application to a Member Fair is Friday, April 11.** Steuben County applications are to be sent to **Bob Whitney, 8000 Mt Washington Road, Bath, NY 14810.** Applications are expected to be available the end of January at <http://nyfairs.org/scholarship.htm> or contact the CCE Office.

Small Animal

2014 4-H Market Chicken Projects

Steuben County 4-H members (ages 8-18 as of January 1, 2014) will have an opportunity to raise market chickens to be consigned to the Steuben County 4-H & FFA Livestock Sale to be held on Friday, August 15 at the Steuben County Fairgrounds. There will be a class in the Steuben County Fair 4-H Poultry Division for Market Chickens Consigned. 4-H members will be allowed to enter 2 chickens in the market chicken consigned class and sell 2 market chickens through the sale. An additional 2 market chickens may be entered in the Fryer class. It is recommended that 4-H members purchase more than 2 market chickens incase of fatality before the fair. Animals cannot be entered in both market classes and breeding classes. 4-H members interested in exhibiting and consigning market chickens **can place their order through Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County by Monday, March 31.** Members can purchase their own Market Chickens, but they **MUST be hatched June 1 or later!** Only birds receiving a Blue/Excellent Ribbon will be sold through the sale on Friday, August 15. 4-H Cloverbud members can place an order for the market chickens but Cloverbuds will be ineligible to show and sell their chicken in the 4-H and FFA Livestock Sale.

Showmanship - If the market chicken(s) are the only chickens that a 4-H member are exhibiting at the Steuben County Fair then the 4-H member must participate in the non-owner showmanship class borrowing another chicken or their county fair poultry premiums will be withheld. The birds for non-owner showmanship will be designated on Tuesday, August 12 in the poultry barn and those 4-H members who want to practice with that bird before the showmanship contest on Wednesday, August 13 at 9 a.m. will have the opportunity to do so. The questions for non-owner showmanship will not be breed specific. We encourage 4-H members who are ordering market chickens to come to the Poultry Clinic to practice showmanship with another member's bird. **You will receive a certificate from the hatchery indicating that these birds have come from a Pullorum-Typhoid Free Flock so you will not need to bring your market chickens to the clinic.**

Market Chicken Orders - Due Monday, March 31

The Jumbo White Cornish Cross x Rock Cockerel Market Chickens will be ordered at \$1.00 each from Moyer's Chicks in Quakertown, Pa. through Herman Weber of HLW Poultry Processing in Attica. Moyer's Broiler/Roaster chicks sometimes nicknames Cornish Giants can be grown to a live weight of over 4 lbs by 6 weeks of age! Or, they can be managed to a roaster weight of 8-10 lbs. Live weights of 4-5 lbs. can be achieved on close to 2 lbs. of feed per pound of meat. They have excellent conformation, plump, tender breast meat and good skin texture. **4-H members must place their orders by Monday, March 31 to the CCE-Steuben Office including payment.** You will need to make arrangements to pick up the market chickens at Grace Brown's on 415 N in Bath on the day they arrive or the market chickens will be given to someone else. Pick up date will be confirmed closer to delivery. Refer to the Market Chicken Help Sheet and the order form on the web at www.putknowledgetowork.org.

4-H Rabbit Projects

4-H members planning on exhibiting rabbits in the 2014 Steuben County Fair please complete the interest form by Monday, March 31st. All rabbits must be owned by the exhibitor by June 15 to be eligible to show at the Steuben County Fair.

4-H Meat Rabbit Project

Steuben County 4-H members (8-18 years old as of January 1, 2014) will have an opportunity to raise meat rabbits to be consigned to the Steuben County 4-H & FFA Livestock Sale to be held on Friday, August 15 at the Steuben County Fairgrounds. **4-H Cloverbud members are ineligible to show and sell their meat rabbit in the 4-H and FFA Livestock Sale.**

4-H members who are interested in raising a Market Rabbit please **complete the interest form by Monday, March 31st.** Meat Rabbits can be purebred New Zealand, Californian, Harlequin, Giant Chinchilla, Flemish Giant, Florida White or a cross of one of these breeds. Meat rabbits are entered in the Roaster Class must be 5-8 pounds and under 6 months of age consigned to the 4-H & FFA Livestock Sale (2 entries per class allowed). If the Roaster rabbits are under 5 lbs or over 8 lbs they can not be sold through the sale but could be entered in the Pet Class if you do not already have 4 entries in Sections I-III. Rabbits' ages are computed as of the opening day of the fair, Tuesday, August 12, 2014.

4-H Cavy (Guinea Pig) Classes at the 2014 Steuben County Fair

The Steuben County 4-H Program will again offer 4-H members the opportunity to exhibit their Cavy (Guinea Pig) at the 2014 Steuben County Fair. **If you are interested in showing a cavy at the 2014 Steuben County Fair please complete the interest form by Monday, March 31st. Please note this does not enter your cavy in the Fair. County Fair Entries are due to the CCE Office by July 7th.** 4-H members are allowed to exhibit a maximum of 2 cavies. Cavies can be purebred, pet, crossbreeds or grades like the NYS Fair 4-H Classes and can be boars or sows. 4-H members who exhibit a cavy in the 2014 Steuben County Fair will be required to complete a cavy project record by September 8, 2014 to be eligible to exhibit a cavy at the 2015 Steuben County Fair. For more information about cavies visit <http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/4H/cavies/index.html>

Pheasant Chick Project

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is once again distributing day-old pheasant chicks for rearing and release projects to qualified 4-H Youth. All state pheasants are hatched and delivered from the DEC Reynolds Game Farm, Ithaca. Parents, leaders, or other volunteers who are willing to oversee and assist youth with this project would be expected to first become familiar with the DEC's **Pheasant Rearing Guide and video, How to Raise Ring-necked Pheasants**. The video can be loaned from the CCE Office and the CCE office can provide you with a copy of the guide.

The rearing and release of pheasant requires a great deal of responsibility by 4-H members and a substantial time commitment.

Why raise pheasants?

- Rearing pheasants is enjoyable, challenging and teaches youth responsible behavior
- Released pheasants offer fall hunting opportunity
- People enjoy seeing and hearing pheasants

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

In addition to the actual rearing project, leaders may choose to integrate other wildlife management strategies. Pheasants could be banded and released at different ages and on different sites to monitor mortality and survival. With landowner permission, habitat at the release site could be improved to benefit pheasants and other wildlife. Assistance from organizations such as Pheasants Forever is available to improve habitat. There are many opportunities to expand the rearing and release program to include additional wildlife conservation activities. Including these activities is left to the discretion of the project leaders. Cooperative ventures between local sportsman's clubs and 4-H youth are encouraged and at times may help reduce program costs.

If you are interested in this program you need to contact Kim at the CCE Office at 607-664-2306 and leave a message anytime of day or by email at ksb3@cornell.edu by Monday, March 10 to request the quantity of chicks you would like. The chicks will be delivered to Bath. Kim will contact those who ordered

chicks with a delivery time and date, in the past it has been early afternoon on a weekday towards the end of May. DEC Reynolds Game Farm is maintaining a database of people who receive birds in case a voluntary avian influenza testing program is initiated. At the time of delivery you will be asked to fill out a form listing your name, address, phone number and number of chicks you received.

Dairy & Livestock

New Age for Dairy Goats and Meat Goats being Exhibited by Cloverbud members

Dairy goats and Meat goats being exhibited at the 2014 Steuben County Fair by cloverbud 4-H members must be born on January 1, 2014 – June 15, 2014. Dairy goats and Meat goats must be Does. Dairy goats must be either purebred or recorded grades. Meat goats can be either registered or crossbred.

Market Steer/ Market Dairy Steers/Market Beef Heifers Ownership and ID's deadline

In 2014 there will be classes for both beef and beef/dairy cross steers and classes for beef and beef/dairy cross heifers to show in market beef classes. Heifers shown in market beef classes are not eligible for beef breeding classes. **4-H members exhibiting Market Beef Steers, Market Dairy Steers, and Market Beef Heifers at the 2014 Steuben County Fair must own their animals by January 1, 2014 and the identification forms are due to the CCE-Steuben Office by Monday, January 6, 2014.**

2014 4-H MARKET ANIMALS Rules and Regulations can be found at http://www.putknowledgetowork.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/2014_market_rules_regs.pdf

2014 Market Beef Steer & Market Beef Heifer Identification/Ownership Certificate can be found at http://www.putknowledgetowork.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/market_beef_id_14.pdf

2014 Dairy Steer Identification/Ownership Certificate can be found at http://www.putknowledgetowork.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/dairy_steer_id_14.pdf

Please note that the Identification forms do not enter your animal in the Steuben County Fair but is one of the steps in order to be eligible to enter them. Steuben County Fair 4-H Entries are due Monday, July 7.

New for 2014: There will be a class for a pair of market steers, a class for a pair of market heifers, and a class for a pair of dairy steers.

What is Livestock Judging?

Livestock judging is the process of ranking four animals of one class top to bottom based on criteria such as bone structure, muscle, body capacity, body composition, performance.

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

While all of this sounds intimidating Livestock Judging is a really fun way to learn about beef cattle, sheep, and swine. Livestock Judging allows 4-Hers to get involved, compete, and make new friends. Newcomers, no matter what age, are always welcome. So, if you are interested in giving Livestock Judging a try, please call Kim Randall at (607)664-2306 or e-mail her at ksb3@cornell.edu. We look forward to hearing from you. A schedule of practices and competition dates will be available later.

2014 National Swine Picture Judging Contest

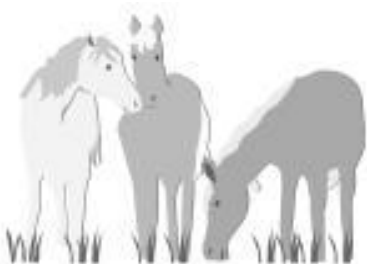
The NJSA Swine Picture Judging Contest is available now. Entries must be postmarked by February 1, 2014 or you can enter the contest online at www.nationalswine.com. Remember to save a copy of your placings to send to the CCE Office postmarked by February 1 to be eligible for the County Contest. For more information go to www.nationalswine.com or contact Kim at 607-664-2306 or ksb3@cornell.edu.



Horse

Attention 4-H Members With Horses

All **re-enrolling** 4-H members who wish to show their horses at any Steuben County 4-H Horse Show, including the Steuben County Fair or the New York State Fair Horse Show, **must be enrolled in Steuben County 4-H by January 6, 2014 and participate in at least one 4-H Horse Educational Event (i.e. Public Presentations, Horse Quiz Bowl, Hippology or Horse Judging) at the county level or beyond or write an educational essay.** **New 4-H members must be enrolled by May 1, 2014** in order to participate. 4-H members age 8 - 18 as of January 1, 2014 are eligible to participate in the Steuben County 4-H Horse Shows after meeting the Steuben County 4-H Horse Show Rules. 4-H club members who are age 5-8 as of January 1, 2014 have the option of participating in the Cloverbud Leadline and Walk/Trot classes offered at our qualifying shows. 4-H families with members 5 and older enrolled in a horse project will be receiving a post card informing them of the updated show information available on the web/from their leader. The 2014 Show Packet will be sent to each Organizational Leader and will include the 4-H Horse Certificates, horse eligibility requirements, a calendar of dates, Steuben County 4-H Horse Show rules, class listings for the Steuben County qualifying shows, entry forms for the Steuben County qualifying shows, point system and information on protective helmets. If you have any questions or would like to be added to the mailing list to receive a packet, please contact the CCE Office or email Jenny Guarino at jmg422@cornell.edu.



2014 Horse Record Question Insert for 4-H Members 12 and Older

4-H members who are 12 and older are required to answer a question along with completing their horse project record. Your horse project record can be entered in the County Fair. If you wish to do so, the deadline for ALL county fair ENTRIES is July 7th, 2014; this includes records (please do NOT turn in records at the time of Entries, you should keep them until fair time if you've entered them, or until the end of the year when all records are due). **DEADLINES WILL NOT BE EXTENDED!!!** A Horse Project Record must be turned into the CCE Office by 4:30 p.m. on September 8, 2014 to receive project credit and/or to be eligible to show your horse at the 2015 County Fair if you showed your horse at the 2014 County Fair. The record question for 2014 will be included in the record in your horse show packet

4-H Horse Quiz Bowl & Hippology

If you are interested in participating in either or both programs please contact Jenny Guarino at jmg422@cornell.edu or at 607-664-2312.

Past



NYS ABC Trip

The 37th Annual New York State 4-H Agribusiness Career Conference will be held on October 10-11, 2013 at SUNY Cobleskill and local agri-businesses. The conference is co-sponsored by NYS 4-H, the NYS Farm Bureau, and the State University at Cobleskill. This career exploration conference is open to all youth ages 14 and over who wish to become more aware of opportunities with agriculture and also academic requirements for professional positions available in the various agri-business. It featured mini-tours to farms and operations in the Cobleskill area as well as seminars, guest speakers and guided tours of the SUNY Cobleskill agriculture facilities.

Steuben County 4-H members were selected for this trip based on their Senior Summary Report. The Steuben County 4-H members who attended were Bethany Draper, Paige Demun, Brandon Sahrle, and Jon Palmer. Thank you to Rachael Draper for chaperoning this trip. Bethany, Jon and Rachael attended the Sharon Springs Farm Equipment and Bio-Energy Center mini tours. Sharon Springs Farm Equipment is a White-Agco /Kubota dealership which also features a farm hardware store and sells lawn and garden equipment. They keep a large inventory of new and used machinery of all kinds. SUNY Cobleskill's bioenergy project is a research and

development effort using a prototypic rotary kiln gasification system (RKGS) to convert animal and cafeteria waste into renewable energy. The RKGS will produce a fuel gas (syngas) capable of substituting for fossil fuel (i.e. diesel fuel) and producing energy to power an electrical generator. Tour participants viewed the RKGS and heard an explanation of how it functions.

Paige attended the SUNY Cobleskill Milk Quality Lab and Guernsey Nursery mini tours. Quality Milk Production Services (QMPS) serves dairy producers in New York State and across the nation from four laboratories located in Canton, Cobleskill, Geneseo and Ithaca. QMPS has developed over the years from being primarily a diagnostic program to one with a comprehensive education focus designed to offer assistance to dairy producers for mastitis monitoring, prevention and surveillance. Guernsey Nursery is a 100-acre family oriented nursery has an amazing variety of ornamental trees available for homeowners and landscapers. Located right in the town of Schoharie, the nursery also does a large mail order business. Participants learned about the many opportunities in landscape design and management, as well as the labor and equipment needed to conduct a successful nursery operation. Paige states that “One of the things that appeared to be the most stressed was teamwork. We needed to be able to get along with the group that we went on the tours with. If we hadn’t gotten along, we wouldn’t have been able to work well enough together to accomplish the goals set forth for us by the people in charge. The aspect of teamwork transfers over to the rest of your life because we need to get along with classmates, as well as co-workers in the future, otherwise we will fail to accomplish our goals.” Brandon attended the Sweet Tree Farm and Fairbanks Stable Tour. Sweet Tree Farm produces grass fed beef, natural pork, eggs and pure maple syrup. Hogs and laying hens are raised on pastures use we need to be a NOFA-certified grains. Fairbanks Stable is a boarding, training and lesson barn located on a 156 acre family farm in the town of Richmondville in Schoharie County. It is owned by Faye Benedict, a certified riding instructor, (by the American Riding Instructors Association) level II in Stable Management, Hunt Seat and Eventing. They are active competitively in eventing, hunters and hunter paces. Fairbanks Stable is home to 40-50 horses at any given time.

Fall Cheese Fund Raiser

The 2013 Fall Fundraiser featured Cuba Cheese. The fundraisers help to support the 4-H Activity Fund, which provides the funds for the many trips and awards that benefit 4-H members. Individual 4-H club treasuries also benefit from all the hard work and dedication of 4-H club members.

Each 4-H member who participated in the fundraisers helped the 4-H Activity Fund and their club treasuries.

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

Top Sellers Cheese Sale

Top Sales Person: Olivia Lewis – Willing Workers – \$1,314.00

2nd Top Sales Person: Caleb O’dell-Oriend – Blue Ribbon Roundup - \$1,215.75

3rd Top Sales Person: Grace Towner – Avoca Kountry Kritters - \$920.50

4th Top Sales Person: Nathan Randall – Blue Ribbon Roundup & Country Bunch - \$751.25

5th Top Sales Person: Paul Holden – Canisteo Valley 4-H Stars - \$654.25

TOP CLOVERBUD: Aubrey Hink – Kickin’ Kountry Kids

TOP JR MEMBER (8-13): Olivia Lewis

TOP SR MEMBER (14-18): Paul Holden

* These top sellers were calculated based on seller sheets returned by 4-H leaders by the deadline.

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

STARR

The **State Teen Action Rep Retreat (STARR)** is a three-day fun-filled event where 4-H teens, ages 13 – 19, participate in a variety of workshops and activities meant to challenge, excite and further develop life skills. The event is planned by teens and adults serving on the youth/adult STARR Planning Committee. Rachael Draper, Lindsey Draper and Bethany Draper from Steuben County served on the 2013 STARR Planning Committee. STARR was held April 12-14, 2013 at the New York State Fair/4-H Youth Building. Ashlynn Bennett attended based on her selection from her Senior Summary Report Form. Additional Steuben County 4-H members who attended were Jonathan Cook and Samantha Towner. Thank you to Steuben County volunteers, Tom Cortright and John Schanbacher, for being instructors for STARR. Ashlynn reported that during STARR she learned about acting, writing and photography. “I learned about starting a ripple effect, which means when one person starts to change something, like feeding the hungry or providing for the poor and needy problems, others will start to help, and eventually, the whole world will help solve these problems. These new experiences helped me grow as an individual teaching me new things that I can use in the future. They also helped me grow as an individual by showing me that I can start a ripple effect by doing something little to help someone, and by telling people about my plans to help.”



NYS 4-H and FFA Tractor and Machinery Operator’s Contest

4-H Youth Development provides Tractor and Machinery Operation Certification Program for youth 14 years and older. This certification allows 14 and 15 year olds to legally operate tractors and machinery while off the family farm. Farm safety awareness is a major focus. The curriculum used is the National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program from the Hazardous Occupations Safety training and Agriculture.

During the 2013 NYS 4-H and FFA Tractor Operator’s Contest held at Empire Farm Days in Seneca Falls, NY, Andrew Sullivan, a Steuben County 4-H member of the M&M 4-H club placed 1st and was one of the recipients of a \$250 scholarship to SUNY Cobleskill. Andrew successfully completed the 2010 Steuben County 4-H Tractor and Machinery Operation Course. Andrew notes “*The tractor safety course has taught me that with any piece of equipment on a farm always needs full respect or it can hurt you. Safety comes first once one gets into the driver’s seat. I think the tractor safety course and the tractor competition in my eyes are from the head section of the life skills wheel under goal setting. This is because every year I was in the competition I went out there with one goal. In tractor safety it made me give myself goals for when I’m working in the fields and on the farm.*” Ian Stewart, an Independent Steuben County 4-H member, successfully completed the 2013 Steuben

County 4-H Tractor and Machinery Certification Program and placed 6th in the 2013 NYS 4-H and FFA Tractor Operator's Contest. Ian states that *"The Steuben County 4-H Tractor and Machinery Operation Certification Program made me more aware of safety issues and I learned to drive different types of equipment."* Participants in the NYS 4-H and FFA Tractor Operator's Contest complete a parts identification test, written exam and the 2 wheel and 4 wheel tractor-operating courses.

Thank you to John Lyons and Dave Dockstader, the Steuben County volunteer instructors, for the Steuben County Tractor and Machinery Operator's Certification Program.

Youth Corner

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

Farm City Days

Farm City Days was held on September 30, 2013 at Randy and Gary Palmer's farm in Hornell, NY.

Several members, including myself, from the Howard Hillbillies 4-H Club were there to help with the kids' games. There was a potato toss, milk jugs knock down, corn sack toss - where you tossed large sacks of corn into a tractor tire, there was also a bean bag toss where your target was a wooden cow with holes in it. The other activities included a hay ride, a petting zoo - sponsored by another 4-H group which had calves, chickens, bunnies and pigs, and a little train pulled by a four wheeler - sponsored by the JT FFA. There was also honey from a local farmer who had lots of information about the bees that he had brought to display. You could also watch a cow get milked, milk a cow yourself, see what cows eat, get lost in the corn maze, and pick your own pumpkin! If you were hungry there was a snack shed with free yogurt, chocolate milk, white milk and cheese sticks all being handed out by their sponsor. Switzer Processing had dog bones to take home, there were chips and dip being handed out. Maple cotton candy was available to buy from Stilson's. There was a place to buy food like hot dogs, hamburgers, roast beef sundaes, chicken dinner and right next to all of that was a place you could get ice cream - sponsored by The Scoop from Hornell. You could get apples from Lanes Cider Mill, some were really big, and some were small with all different kinds to choose from. You could also see all the windmills from where you parked.

Submitted by Faith Loucks and Jessie Miller
Club Reporters, Howard Hillbillies