



# Clover Chronicle

## April- May 2026

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Save the Date

Clover Fun Run October 24<sup>th</sup>

at Schodack Island State Park

Please help pass the word. We are accepting sponsors and lining up our volunteers for that half day of fun! If you are interested in becoming more involved in the planning please let Bernie know – [bw27@cornell.edu](mailto:bw27@cornell.edu). We are hoping to have club displays and a few family friendly activities to round out the fun run with even more 4-H FUN.



## 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).

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### Northern Livestock- Pittstown, Blake McCormick

During our February meeting we welcomed 3 new members and came up with ideas for club projects. We decided to make granola bars from scratch. The things we had to put in the bowl were brown sugar, 2 eggs, 2.5 cups of oats, and melted butter. When you are mixing the batter, you could add raisins, nuts, or chocolate chips. We mixed the batter and put it into mini muffin trays. Then you preheat the oven and bake them. While they were baking, we had the option to make flowers out of pipe cleaners, bracelets with yarn, or paper flowers.

### Rensselaer County Trailblazers- West Sand Lake, Sophie Townsend & Annabel Reynolds

Our club met in January to discuss our goals for the upcoming year. We came up with many great ideas for volunteering, crafts, activities, and ways to both spend and earn money. In February, we met again to discuss horse show dates, brainstorm additional activities, and use some of our funds to purchase flowers for the family of one of our club members who recently experienced a tragic house fire. We are also excited to be adding cows to our 4-H group! Several of our members are very active within the 4-H program.

Sophie Townsend has been especially involved this year. She attended CCE Day at the Capitol with the Teen Ambassadors group. While participating with

the Teen Ambassadors, Sophie also helped prepare baked ziti for Joseph's House. She is currently participating in online Dairy Bowl practices with New York State and will be competing in the Regional Dairy Bowl. Sophie attended the County Presentations Workshop to strengthen her horse communications skills and assisted as a Teen Evaluator at the county event. She is also involved in the Livestock Summit, Horse Career Series, and Horse Education Series. Recently, Sophie was accepted to serve on the planning committee for Capital Days. In March, she presented in Horse Communications and competed in Horse Bowl, placing 10th individually, while the senior team placed 2nd overall. Sophie will also be presenting at the regional level for Communications.

The Kircher sisters—Thea, Fiona, and Eleanor—participated in a Junior Chef class where they made chicken stir-fry and a dessert fruit salad. They also attended Winter Roundup, where they learned important life skills involving horses and spoke with professionals in the field. All three participated in Horse Bowl, with Thea placing 4th individually, Fiona placing 3rd, and Eleanor placing 7th. Their novice team placed 1st overall.

## Fundraising



### Flower Power Fundraiser

Support Rensselaer County 4-H and beautify your world! Go to <http://rensselaercounty4-h.fpfundraising.com/> and check out all of the wonderful spring bulbs and other options for planting! Rensselaer County 4-H receives 50% of the sale. Please order today, the fundraiser will end on May 15<sup>th</sup>.



## 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!

## 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.*

### STAFF

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**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.**

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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 [rensselaer@cornell.edu](mailto:rensselaer@cornell.edu)

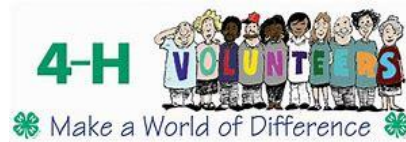
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discrimination is implied or expressed by Cornell  
Cooperative Extension.



## Leader's Digest

Volunteers are the life's blood of our organization.

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



## Reenrollment Update

Reenrollments were due back to the 4-H office by November 1<sup>st</sup>. If you have not re-enrolled at this time, please know that you are not covered under our insurance. If you plan to participate in any 4-H activities, please send in your enrollment forms. Youth do need to be enrolled by May 15<sup>th</sup> in order to participate in the fair. If you have questions, or need copies of the reenrollment forms, please contact Eileen at [emd32@cornell.edu](mailto:emd32@cornell.edu).

## 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 <https://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).

## 4-H Answers the Call to Building a Ready Generation

At 4-H, we've always believed in the boundless potential of young people. We know that when young people are given the tools, opportunities, and guidance they need, they are unstoppable. But today, as our nation's youth face increasing challenges in mental health, education, and workforce readiness, it's clear the stakes have never been higher. This is why 4-H, led by the work and leadership of 4-H Extension programs, is launching Beyond Ready—a bold, nationwide initiative designed to empower 10 million young people with the skills, resilience, and confidence they need to thrive in an ever-changing world.

[4-H Answers the Call to Building a Ready Generation - National 4-H Council](#)

## May 15th is the enrollment cut off to participate in fairs.

If you have questions, or need copies of the reenrollment forms, please contact Eileen at [emd32@cornell.edu](mailto:emd32@cornell.edu)

## Ambassador Council Teens

Ambassador Council Teens meet every other month to carry out a community service. In March, teens met at the Van Rensselaer Manor to decorate East Eggs and make a Spring Door Hanging with our seniors. If you are interested in joining, email Kandis or Eileen!



## Teen Exchange

Many thanks to so many who supported our Pancake Breakfast and ordered pies through our Smith Orchard Pie Fundraiser. Up next is our May Calendar Fundraiser. Keep an eye out for our email blast and FB posts on details on how to donate to our May Calendar. We will also be trying to schedule a Chicken BBQ in the coming months.

## 4-H International Exchange Program

Open your home. Open your world.

New York State 4-H is looking for caring families to host Japanese exchange youth (ages 13–18) this summer through the 4-H International Exchange Program!

July 23 – August 16 (4 weeks)

This is a truly special cultural experience — your family shares everyday American life while learning about Japanese traditions, food, and culture. Many host families participate year after year because of the lifelong friendships formed.

You do NOT need to be a 4-H member to participate!

Families must:

- ✓ Live in New York State
- ✓ Have a child of the same age & gender as the delegate

All it takes is a warm heart and an open home to create a summer your family will never forget ❤️

Learn more: <https://www.nys4-h.org/international-exchange>

Apply: <https://www.states4hexchange.org/host-family/application>

## 2026 Agricultural Literacy Week

The week of March 16-20th celebrated agricultural literacy week in New York State. Agricultural Literacy Week is a yearly statewide effort organized by New York Agriculture in the Classroom to educate students about the importance of agriculture. This year's Agricultural Literacy Week book, "Seasons on the Farm" by Chelsea Tornetto, features a look at what spring, summer, fall, and winter look like on a family farm, from adorable baby animals to rumbling tractors and pumpkins to pies. The book was read to kids at the Hoosac Valley & Donald P. Sutherland Elementary schools. They were also engaged in a paired hands-on activity related to the book. Thank you to our volunteers during the week- Lili Ruepp and Sophie Townsend.



Special thanks to the Rensselaer County Farm Bureau for purchasing the books that will be donated to the library of every school we will be visiting throughout the duration of this program.

They were also engaged in a hands-on activity related to the book.

## Scholarships

[Hilldale Farm Foundation](#)- Now accepting applications.

Qualified recipients should be high school graduates in Rensselaer County, NY who wish to study agriculture or a related discipline. We seek applicants who share our values of hard work, discipline, education, and commitment to family and community. Upon receipt, this award will be distributed directly to the recipient.

**2025 Scholarship Application Deadline is April 30.**

[Rensselaer County 4-H Teen Scholarship](#)- due April 1st

Presented annually to three high school seniors who exemplify the Essential Elements of 4-H. Applications due April 1st. [Instructions](#) & [Application](#). All graduating enrolled Rensselaer County 4-H seniors can apply.

[The Beryl H. Moul Memorial Grange Scholarship](#)- due May 1<sup>st</sup>

Established in 1958 by West Sand Lake Grange #949 in memory of prominent Grange member Beryl H. Moul. Applicants must be pursuing a career in • Agriculture • Home Economics (Human Ecology) • Forestry • Veterinary Medicine • Education. Applications due May 1st. [Application Instructions](#) & [Application](#)

[NYS Association of Agricultural Fairs Scholarship](#) – Due Friday, April 8th

To be Eligible: you must be a NYS Resident., a HS Senior or Currently Attending an Accredited Institution pursuing a Degree.

To Apply: You Must Download the application from the NYSAAF

Website, <https://www.nyfairs.org/scholarships.htm> Completed Applications Must Be Received in the Schaghticoke Fair Office no later than Friday, April 8th. Please mail to our office at 69 Stillwater Bridge Rd, Schaghticoke, NY 12154

\*\*Please note, each application must include a written endorsement from a fair official and be signed by a fair official. \*\*

[VAN RENSSELAER GARDEN CLUB \(VRGC\)](#) – due May 31st

*The Van Rensselaer Garden Club (VRGC) announcing the 3rd annual Nina Pattison Memorial Scholarship. Two scholarships will be awarded, each up to \$1,000, to Rensselaer County residents. The purpose of the scholarships is to facilitate and advance horticulture and related studies for county residents.*

- *Maximum of \$1,000 scholarship for educational expenses will be awarded to a graduating Rensselaer County High School student who intends to study horticulture, environmental science or a related field at an institution of higher learning*
- *Maximum of \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a Rensselaer County resident seeking to start or continue education in the field of horticulture (i.e. Certification programs or courses in landscape design, turf management, plant science, sustainable cultivation and other related fields)*

*Applications are available by emailing [Scholar.VRGC@gmail.com](mailto:Scholar.VRGC@gmail.com). The deadline for submission is May 31, 2026. Award recipients will be notified by June 30, 2026.*

*The Van Rensselaer Garden Club is incorporated as a tax-exempt 501 (c)(3) organization. For further information, please email [Scholar.vrgc@gmail.com](mailto:Scholar.vrgc@gmail.com) or follow them on Facebook or Instagram.*



## 4-H Shooting Sports

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*Archery Session*  
*Thursdays July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and August 6<sup>th</sup>*  
*Castleton Fish & Game Club*  
*6:00pm*

The Rensselaer County 4-H Shooting Sports program will be offering an outdoor archery program for youth 8 years (as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025) and older at the Castleton Fish & Game Club. The archery session will meet on Thursdays, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and August 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. There is a \$20.00 registration fee for 4-H members and \$30.00 for non-members. Pre-registration is required no later than Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>. To register a youth or for more information, contact Eileen at [emd32@cornell.edu](mailto:emd32@cornell.edu).



## Rensselaer County 4-H Shooting Sports Archery League

Through funding made available from Rensselaer County Department for Youth and the Office of Family and Children's Services; Rensselaer County 4-H has partnered with the Dyken Pond Environmental Education Center, Pleasantdale Rod and Gun Club, Castleton Fish and Game Club, and Bailey Mountain Fish & Game Club to offer an Archery League again this year for youth ages 8 (as of 1/1/2026) -19 that reside in Rensselaer County. Youth will have multiple opportunities to practice and then attend the final competitive team skills and range contest with a chance to win individual and team prizes.

The cost is \$10 per youth- including all practices and the team contest. The orientation event, Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, at the Dyken Pond Environmental Education Center is required. The orientation event will also include outdoor survival skills, including map and compass skills needed for the final team contest. In addition to the orientation event on April 19<sup>th</sup>, youth must attend at least 1 other practice to participate in the team contest on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

Pre-registration is required, space is limited, schedule is subject to change, to register a youth go to

[https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_aqa10HzqlK7fRKC](https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aqa10HzqlK7fRKC)

The dates for the archery league are:

**Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> 9:00am - 12:00pm Orientation Event at the Dyken Pond Environmental**

**Education Center;** 475 Dyken Pond Road Cropseyville, NY 12052

**Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> 9:00am – 12:00pm at Bailey Mountain Fish & Game Club**

431 Snyders Lake Rd., Wynantskill, NY 12198

**Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> 1:00pm – 4:00pm at Castleton Fish & Game Club**

Fish & Game Club Road, Castleton On Hudson, NY 12033

**Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> 9:00am –12:00pm at the Pleasantdale Rod & Gun Club**

205 Haughney Rd, Troy, NY 12182

**Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> 9:00am - Team Contest at the Dyken Pond Environmental Education Center**

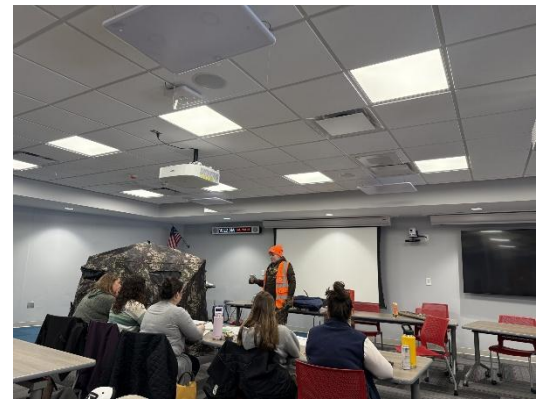
475 Dyken Pond Road Cropseyville, NY 12052

## 4-H Spring Plant Offering

This spring, we will once again be ordering patio variety tomato plants from Becker's Farm as a part of our container gardening program. If you would like to participate in this program please mail (99 Troy Rd, Suite 203, East Greenbush, NY 12061) or fax (518-272-1648) in your order form by April 15th. The pick-up will be on Tuesday, May 5th from 2:30-4:30pm at the CCE Office. \*Please know that the cost is free & our office has educational materials to support this program. If you have any questions, please call Mamnenge at 518-272-4210

## County Presentations

County Presentations were held in March at the Tamarac High School. Our 4-H members shared some very interesting, informative and creative presentations! Congratulations to Jace Freer who was selected to go on to District Presentations with his presentation on Hunting. Thank you to our wonderful evaluators Jenn Hurd, Meaghan Yellin, and CharlieAnne Huffam, as well as our teen helpers, MacKenzie Diamond and Sophie Townsend.



## Horse Project Paperwork due

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*June 1<sup>st</sup>*

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Members who plan to show their horse at 4-H Horse Shows this year need to be sure their information is up to date in the office. All members will need to have a current rabies (dated 2025), either a 2024 or 2025 negative Coggins test as well as Project horse certificate by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Additionally, you will need to be sure you have a current riding evaluation on file in the office for the proper level you will be riding this year. If you are using the same horse/s as the 2024 season, all you will need to do is send in your rabies and negative Coggins. If you are riding the same horse/s and level as 2024 you will be set for this year. If this is not the case, you will need to submit an updated riding evaluation before our first county wide riding event. If you are participating in the 3 Day Clinic, you will need to bring updated proof of vaccination and Coggins test. Contact Bernie if you have any questions – [bw27@cornell.edu](mailto:bw27@cornell.edu).

## Hippology

All members who are on Cloverbud aged are welcome to join us Friday nights at the CCE office at 6 PM to learn more about horse science and the equine industry. Please rsvp to Bernie at [bw27@cornell.edu](mailto:bw27@cornell.edu) and our coach Alicia Hayashi at 307-640-5724. The Regional Hippology contest is the afternoon of April 25<sup>th</sup> at the Saratoga 4-H Training Center.

## Thursday Night Clinics

Open to all. Tentatively to start late in May – email Bernie at [bw27@cornell.edu](mailto:bw27@cornell.edu) if you would like to receive details about these night clinics. Members need to have a current riding evaluation, and horses must have either a 2025 or 2026 negative Coggins and a 2026 rabies certificate.

## 3 Day Clinic

June 19th-21<sup>st</sup>, open to all who have a current riding evaluation on file, negative Coggins test dated 2025 or 2026 and a 2026 rabies certificate. Please know there are non-horse tracks for the 3 Day Clinic. If you are not in a horse club, please email Bernie – [bw27@cornell.edu](mailto:bw27@cornell.edu) if you would like to receive registration materials.

## Mane Event

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*July 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>*

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This event, although it is being coordinated by 4-H, is open to all non-cloverbud aged youth, (including non 4-Hers). Youth can participate in part or all of the Mane Event which will include a variety of live horse and non-live-horse components. Upcoming 4-H Horse Opportunities – All to culminate in the Mane Event Team Competition July 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> at the Fairgrounds. The Mane Event is largely supported by Rensselaer County through the Department of Youth Competitive Sports Program. Hippology practices, Thursday Night Clinics, 3 Day Clinic and all other equine events with and without horses will help prepare youth and all are welcome to join in any or all of them to prepare for the Mane Event. For more information contact Bernie at [bw27@cornell.edu](mailto:bw27@cornell.edu).

## Horse Bowl Regional Results

A huge congratulations and thank you to our team members and our coaches and parents for helping prepare our youth for the regional contest. As a result, our Junior and Novice teams placed 1<sup>st</sup> and our Senior Team placed 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our senior team was led by Captain Heidi Beraldi and members Bridget Rowland, Alice Bourdeau and Sophie Townsend. Individually, Heidi placed 2<sup>nd</sup>, Bridget 3<sup>rd</sup>, Alice 5<sup>th</sup> and Sophie 10<sup>th</sup>. The Junior team was led by Captain Wyatt Tomlinson who placed 1<sup>st</sup> individually and team members Olivia Doroski 2<sup>nd</sup>, Ariana Severance 7<sup>th</sup> and Vincent Reiter 10<sup>th</sup> individually. Our Novice team was led by Captain Thea Kircher who placed 4<sup>th</sup> individually and members Cora Cropsey who placed 2<sup>nd</sup>, Fiona Kircher who placed 3<sup>rd</sup>, Elenor Kircher 7<sup>th</sup> and Korabeth Thompson who placed 10<sup>th</sup> individually. It was a fun day, all our junior team members qualified to go to the State Contest and Heidi, Bridget and Alice qualified to compete in the state contest for seniors. Good luck to everyone at the NYS 4-H Horse Bowl Contest. A huge thank you again to our coaches for the season and the coaches for the day, parents and volunteers that made this opportunity possible.



## County Horse Communications

What a wonderful evening of great topics and presentations last month. Congratulations to all our presenters and thank you to our volunteers that served as evaluators and helpers that night. Our Exceptional Presenters were Olivia Doroski, Audrey Kondak and Eva Higgins. Those that have qualified to go on to represent our county were seniors – Lili Ruepp, Kira Colarossi, Mya Bull and Sophie Townsend. The juniors that qualified to move on to the regional contest were Audrey Kondack, Olivia Doroski and Eva Higgins. Good luck to them as they move on to the next level of evaluation. Many thanks to our adult evaluators – Glenn Van Oort, Jeanie Scott, Penny Hill, Val Lavigne, Brandon DeShane, Kelli Grab and Brigham Logue and our helper Karen Piper. Thank you to our Teen Evaluators – Ali Gansowski, Emmeline Heer, Ava Severance, Evyn Patenaude, Olivia Doroski, Mya Bull, Lili Ruepp and Sophie Townsend.



## Animal Lease/Ownership

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*Due June 15th*

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For members who have animal projects

All other animals (non-horse) must be owned or leased, and Grade and Lease papers filed with the CCE Office by June 15th of the current year to be eligible to be exhibited in the 4-H Shows at the Schaghticoke and New York State Fair.

If you have any questions about these policies, please contact Mammene at the CCE Office.

## District Dairy Bowl

The Capital district dairy bowl was held on February 28th at the Gordon Creek Elementary School in Ballston Spa. Eight Rensselaer County 4-H members represented the county. Our junior team placed fifth and had Ella-Mae Guile (5<sup>th</sup> place individual), Declan Cottrell (10<sup>th</sup> place individual), Will Townsend, and Sophia Marchaland.

Our senior team placed fifth and had William Cottrell, Jacob Moore, Brennen Michel (9<sup>th</sup> place individual), Alex Ruepp and Sophie Townsend. Congratulations to all the participants! Also, a huge thank you to our coaches:

Tara Cottrell, Scott & Kelly Michel, as well as all the parents and volunteers- none of this would be possible without all of you.



## 2026 NYS 4-H Animal Crackers

The NYS 4-H State 4-H Animal Science staff, is excited to announce the 2026 Animal Crackers Program! This year's event will take place on Saturday, May 2nd, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The cost of the workshop is \$30 for youth and chaperones, which includes lunch, shirts and materials.

This year's program will feature engaging topics focused on horses, sheep, swine, and dogs. Participants can look forward to a variety of interesting, educational, and hands-on activities designed to create a fun and memorable learning experience. Attendees will have the opportunity to explore these animal species while participating in interactive sessions alongside fellow 4-H members from across New York State. Youth ages 8–12, or those with beginner to intermediate knowledge of these species, are encouraged to participate. For more details, visit <https://cals.cornell.edu/nys-4-h-animal-science-programs/state-events/programs/animal-crackers>

All participants must register through their local 4-H Youth Development Educator at their county's Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Office. Please contact Mamnenge at [mbg242@cornell.edu](mailto:mbg242@cornell.edu) or call 518-272-4210 to register. Registrations are due by **Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026, or earlier if program reaches capacity.**

# 4-H Veterinary Science Program

Grades 6-12 • Open to 4-H and Non-4-H Youth

The 4-H Veterinary Science Program offers an exciting opportunity to explore careers in animal health and medicine through hands-on experiences at three professional veterinary facilities.

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Cost: \$40 per participant

Eligibility: Youth in grades 6-12 (4-H and non-4-H welcome)

Space: Limited - register early!

Contact Mamnenge to secure your spot: Email- [mbg242@cornell.edu](mailto:mbg242@cornell.edu) or call 518-272-4210



### CCE RENNELLAER COUNTY 4-H VETERINARY SCIENCE PROGRAM

Open to Youth from 6th - 12th Grade! (Open to non 4-H youth)

#### PROGRAM DATES & LOCATIONS

	April 8th: 6:30pm – 8:30pm <i>Brunswick Veterinary Hospital, Troy</i>
	April 9th: 6:00pm – 8:00pm <i>Mohawk Hudson Humane Society, Menands</i>
	April 10th: 6:00pm – 8:00pm <i>Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital, Saratoga</i>



#### WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

 Animal health, behavior & Handling	 Veterinary Skills & First Aid Basics	 Careers in Veterinary Science
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**An Exciting Experience in Veterinary Science!**

**Contact Mamnenge to register!**

 [mbg242@cornell.edu](mailto:mbg242@cornell.edu)  
 518-272-4210

No one shall be denied the opportunity to participate or receive information based on their ability to pay. If you need accommodation, please let us know at the time of registration



Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Rensselaer County

## 7 Signs of Spring Returning

After a long cold winter, spring has finally arrived, bringing new signs of the emergence of warm weather with each passing day. Some of these indicators of warm weather have already occurred while others are still on their way. Below are 7 signs of spring returning to New York.

- 1. Longer, lighter days:** After the spring equinox, countries above the equator line are tilted towards the sun. As a result, these countries experience longer days and higher temperatures.
- 2. Migratory birds returning:** Some birds stay here in NY all winter but far more travel south for the season. In New York, spring migration spans March to June, with peak songbird migration occurring between mid-April and mid-May. Keep your ears listening and eyes looking for the early returning migrants, the birds that arrive first in March and April.
- 3. Buds are blooming:** Both tree buds and flower blossoms are emerging. Sunny days awaken the first spring blooms, bringing vibrant colors of yellows, pinks, purples, whites, greens and blues back to the previously dreary winter landscape.
- 4. Torpor and hibernation come to an end:** In New York State, animals that hibernate or go through torpor include mammals like bears, groundhogs, some mice, and some bats. Other kinds of animals hibernate as well, including frogs, turtles, snakes, salamanders, and even some fish and insects. Torpor is a short period of sleep in which the animal's heart rate and body temperature decrease but it can still move. Hibernation refers to extended durations of torpor.
- 5. Frogs, toads, tadpoles and more:** Frogs and salamanders emerge from winter hibernation on rainy nights in late winter and early spring, after the ground has thawed and evening air temperatures stay above 40°F. Eggs of various frog and salamander species soon start appearing in ponds and vernal pools.
- 6. Insects awaking:** In the traditional Chinese lunar calendar, "Jingzhe," or the "Awakening of Insects," is the third solar term of the year, which normally occurs around March 5th. Its name references to the fact that spring thunder awakens insects that have been resting all winter and brings the earth back to life.
- 7. Leaves returning to trees:** Finally, the dark leafless branches of the trees that we've been living with all winter give way to vivid green leaves. This is the surest sign of spring returning out of them all.

## Member Birthdays

### April

Jacob Moore  
Owen Lavigne  
Brielle Chapko  
Sophia Uccellini  
Ryan Kendrick  
Allison Gansowski  
Jacob Blair  
Heidi Beraldi  
Owen Campanella  
Reed Hoag  
Emmeline Heer  
Evelyn Brownell  
Juliette Brownell  
Alice Bourdeau  
Mallory Rowland

### May

Eve Oathout  
Serena Foy  
Ava Olsen  
Elizabeth DaRosa  
Isaac Bushner  
Sofia Conte  
Olivia Doroski  
Emory Krongold  
Skyla Myers  
MacKenzie Diamond  
Adlee Chapko  
Lydia Hall  
Maggie Etman  
Pyper Bliss-Rafferty  
Saige Myers  
Ariana Severance  
Alexander Kendrick

HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY

# Calendar of Events

## April

3<sup>rd</sup> Hippology Practice 6 PM at the CCE office

6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Tractor Safety- pre registration was required

8<sup>th</sup> Junior Chefs Workshop @ Tamarac High School 10:00am

8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Vet Science

10<sup>th</sup> Hippology Practice 6 PM at the CCE office

13<sup>th</sup> Cattle PDC Meeting @ 7pm at the Fairgrounds Office

16<sup>th</sup> Rabbit/Cavy/Poultry Meeting @ 6:30pm Via Zoom

17<sup>th</sup> Hippology Practice 6 PM at the CCE office

18<sup>th</sup> NYS Horse Bowl Contest – Cornell University

19<sup>th</sup> Archery League, Dyken Pond EEC, 9:00am

21<sup>st</sup> Horse PDC meeting 6 PM via zoom

24<sup>th</sup> Hippology Practice 6 PM at the CCE office

25<sup>th</sup> District Presentations @ CCE Saratoga

25<sup>th</sup> Regional Horse Communications and Hippology Contests – Saratoga 4-H Training Center – All Day

25<sup>th</sup> NY State 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl Contest

26<sup>th</sup> Livestock Skillathon @ SUNY Cobleskill

30<sup>th</sup> Dog obedience classes start – Thursday nights @ the fairgrounds.

## May

2<sup>nd</sup> Archery League @ Baily Mountain Fish & Game Club 9:00am

2<sup>nd</sup> NYS 4-H Animal Crackers @ Cornell

4<sup>th</sup> 4-H PDC @ Brunswick Community Center 6:00pm

5<sup>th</sup> Container gardening pickup – CCE Rensselaer County Office

11<sup>th</sup> Junior Chefs @ the CCE Office; 6:00pm

16<sup>th</sup> Archery League @ Castleton Fish & Game Club 1:00pm

16<sup>th</sup> State Horse Communications Contest – Cornell All Day

17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> Capital Days, Albany

19<sup>th</sup> Horse PDC meeting 6 PM via zoom

25<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day - office closed

28<sup>th</sup> Tentatively Thursday Night Clinic – Fairgrounds

30<sup>th</sup> Archery League @ Pleasantdale Rod & Gun Club; 9:00am

## June

1<sup>st</sup> All Horse Paperwork due to the CCE office

7<sup>th</sup> Archery League Contest @ Dyken Pond EEC 9:00am

10<sup>th</sup> Career Ex Orientation @ the CCE Office 6:00pm

15<sup>th</sup> Lease/Grade Paperwork Due

19<sup>th</sup> Juneteenth – office closed

30<sup>th</sup> – 7/2 Cornell Career Explorations @ Cornell University