



APRIL, 2026

Green & Growing

Grounded in purpose, growing in Dutchess County 4-H.
Cultivating curiosity, leadership, and clover pride.

NEW LEAVES ON THE VINE

New this issue:

Scholarship Opportunities
Member Write-Up: Armen Platyan
Member Write-Up: Tabitha Canning
Animal Crackers
Capital Days
Blessing of the Animals
4-H Renegades Night
Bannerman Island Volunteer Opportunities
Open Horse Judging
Model Horse Show
Spring Paper Clovers
4-H Fairbook Cover Contest
AQHA Virtual Contest
Parasite Management
Shadow Program

A NOTE FROM THE CLOVER PATCH

"Spring Forward" with Dutchess 4-H!

We're almost to spring! Check out everything Dutchess 4-H has to offer as we let go of winter in New York.

Take a look through April's newsletter for important dates, registration links, and ways to stay connected with the 4-H community.

SEASONS OF 4-H

Save these Dates!

April:

Youth Livestock Sale Mandatory Meeting: April 10th, 2026 |
7:00 PM @ DCFG Building E

Youth Livestock Sale Mandatory Meeting: April 14th, 2026 |
7:00 PM @ DCFG Building E

Spring Paper Clovers: April 17th - May 3rd, 2026

Dutchess 4-H Model Horse Show: April 18th, 2026 @
Millbrook Farm & Home Center

National Volunteer Week: April 19th - April 25th 2026

Southeast District 4-H Regional Dairy Bowl: April 11th,
2026 @ CCE Orange

NYS 4-H Livestock Quiz Bowl: April 25th, 2026 @ Cornell
University

District Public Presentations: April 25th, 2026 @ DCC

Fishkill

Cobleskill Livestock Skillathon: April 26th, 2026

YQCA: April 29th, 2026

*Information can be found further down in the newsletter.

Fashion Show Garment Evaluations: April 30th, 2026 @
FHC

May:

Animal Crackers: May 2nd, 2026 @ Cornell

Dutchess 4-H Fashion Show: May 7th, 2026 @ FHC

New Volunteer Orientation: May 8th, 2026 @ FHC

Weigh-In: May 9th, 2026 @ DCFG

Master Gardener Plant Sale: May 15th-19th, 2026 @ FHC

Rhinebeck Blessing of the Animals: May 30th, 2026

Hudson Valley Renegades Farm & Agriculture Night:
August 13th, 2026

CLOVERBOARD NOTICES

Thank You, 4-H Volunteers!

In celebration of National Volunteer Week, we want to take a moment to recognize and thank all of our incredible 4-H volunteers.

From club leaders and project mentors to event helpers and behind-the-scenes supporters, your time, energy, and dedication make 4-H possible. You help create meaningful experiences, inspire youth, and build stronger communities every day.

Thank you for all that you do—we truly couldn't do it without you.

WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!

April 19th 2026 — April 25th 2026

Happy National Volunteer Week. We would not be able to do what we do without each and everyone one of you.



Enrollment Update: Keep Going!

You're 4-H Team is still excited that our online payment system is officially up and running! Thank you all so much for your patience as we worked through the setup—this has been a long time coming, and we truly appreciate your flexibility along the way.

What You Need to Know About Online Payments

Families can now submit enrollment payments online using the link provided in the updated Payment Guide (**linked here**). When paying online, it is very important that you: **List the FULL NAME(S)** of all youth you are paying for in the memo/notes section. Without youth names, we cannot match payments to enrollments. You can pay for multiple youth in one transaction—as long as every youth's name is included in the memo.

**CLICK HERE TO PAY
NOW!**

2026 NYS County & State Fair Animal Health Requirements

The 2026 NYS County Fairs and New York State Fair Animal Health Requirements are now available online. All animals—whether for competition, exhibition, or demonstration—must meet these requirements to be present at any NYS county fair or the State Fair.

Requirements Document (PDF): **2026 Fair Health Requirements**

No-Cost Poultry Pullorum Clinics (PDF): **Pullorum Clinic Schedule**

Exhibitors should check the NYS Department of Agriculture website for updates on emergency animal disease regulations, as these may change in response to current events.

For full details, visit: **NYS Department of Agriculture – Fairs** and scroll down to “Fair Health Requirements”.

These PDFs can also be shared in fair premium books and with out-of-state exhibitors, vendors, and participants to help ensure a smooth fair experience.



2026 SCHOLARSHIPS

Continuing Education, Leadership Programs, and Supportive Service Funds



**SCAN HERE
TO APPLY**

or visit drcoc.org/scholarships



Cosimo DiBrizzi Culinary Arts Scholarship

Deadline to Apply: April 10

Established by the family of Cosimo DiBrizzi and the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce to honor his memory.

- Must be a resident of the Mid-Hudson Valley (counties of Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam and Ulster).
- Pursuing a career at The Culinary Institute of America.
- Student must be accepted (or currently enrolled) at The Culinary Institute of America and planning to attend within the next six months.
- If currently enrolled, student must have residency in the Hudson Valley for at least five years.



Eileen Hickey Nursing Scholarship

Deadline to Apply: April 10

Established by the family of Eileen Hickey and the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce to honor her memory.

- Must be a resident of Dutchess County.
- Pursuing a career in nursing at a college in New York State.



Juan Lafuente Leadership Scholarship

Deadline to Apply: April 10

Established by the Lafuente family and the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce, this scholarship memorializes Juan, who lost his life during the attacks on September 11, 2001.

- Must be a resident of Dutchess County.
- Awards are based on student's demonstration of: academic achievement, especially in the areas of math and science; leadership contributions to school and community; and character.
- Students must attend an accredited New York State college, university, or trade school. This scholarship is open to any academic major.



Richard W. Mitchell Memorial Scholarship

Deadline to Apply: April 10

Established by the family to honor the memory of Richard W. Mitchell, former President and CEO of the then Poughkeepsie Area Chamber of Commerce, with support from the Chamber's Hudson Valley Young Professionals.

- Must be a resident of Dutchess County.
- All college-bound or currently enrolled college students are encouraged to apply, regardless of what year of study you are in.
- Faced with significant obstacles while advancing their education (personal, financial, emotional, family, educational, economic, physical, developmental, etc.).
- This scholarship is open to any academic major.

More scholarships on the reverse side →

2026 Scholarships – The Chamber Foundation

The 2026 Scholarships from The Chamber Foundation are now open for applications, supporting students pursuing a variety of career paths including culinary arts, nursing, leadership, trades, and more.

Application Deadline: April 10

Opportunities include:

- Culinary Arts Scholarship
- Nursing Scholarship
- Leadership Scholarship
- Trade and Workforce Development Scholarships

Eligibility varies by scholarship, but many are open to Dutchess County or Mid-Hudson Valley residents pursuing higher education or training programs.

👉 **Click Here** or Scan the QR code in the flyer above



Jeffrey B. Senft Memorial Scholarship for the Trades

Deadline to Apply: April 10

Established by Jeffrey B. Senft and the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce, this scholarship is available to residents of the Mid-Hudson Valley pursuing a career in the trades and/or manufacturing.

- Applicants should have a love of working with their hands.
- Monies will be given directly to the educational institution in support of starting/continuing/ completing training in the applicant's desired trade or field.
- Must be a resident of the Mid-Hudson Valley (counties of Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, and Ulster).
- Must be committed to enroll in a training program for the trades and/or manufacturing.



Linda and Steven Lant Family Scholarship

Deadline to Apply: April 10

Established by the Lant Family to support students obtaining meaningful employment in high-demand job sectors.

- This scholarship is available to Dutchess County high school seniors, or current undergraduate students at a vocational school, who wish to pursue a training program that leads to a career in the trades.
- These trades fields may include but are not limited to nursing, mechatronics, aviation, building science, construction technology, electrical technology, etc.
- Students must plan to attend either Dutchess Community College or Dutchess BOCES Adult Learning Institute in the semester following their scholarship award.
- Financial need must be demonstrated along with academic performance and extra-curricular activities.
- Special consideration will be given to candidates who hold employment while going to school.



Norman and Rita Nussbickel Memorial Supportive Service Fund

This fund was established in 1987 by the Nussbickel family and the Greater Southern Dutchess Chamber of Commerce's Chamber Foundation in memory of Norman F. Nussbickel. The scholarship also honors Norman's wife, Rita, who passed away in 2006.

This fund assists low-income, at-risk youth and adults pursuing career goals, employment pathways, education, or skills training. Participants can request funds for paid work experience opportunities, training programs, or critical supportive services not covered by other resources.

- Participants of the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce Workforce Development Center, Dutchess One Stop, and Nubian Directions are encouraged to apply.
- Those in need of assistance with job training or hands-on experience in the career field of their interest are encouraged to apply.

** Applications are accepted year-round and funds are awarded based on the needs of participants.*

Charles S. North Leadership Advancement Scholarship



In recognition of the outstanding leadership of Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce past President and CEO Charles S. North, a scholarship was established in 2014 upon his retirement. Awarded to any individual living or working in Dutchess County, the Charles S. North Leadership Advancement Scholarship signifies Mr. North's commitment to inspiring and mentoring leaders across the region. To apply, fill out the Youth Leadership / Leadership Dutchess / or Executive Leadership application and check the box for "Charles S. North Leadership Advancement Scholarship."

- Live or work in Dutchess County or work for a member of the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce.
- Attach a 500-word essay expressing how the program will help you advance your professional career. Incorporate your sentiments on what defines a great leader. In your essay, articulate in 100 additional words your financial need for the scholarship.

** Applications are accepted year-round and funds are awarded based on the needs of participants.*

CLOVERS IN THE SUNLIGHT

Dutchess 4-Hers Attend UConn 4-H Dairy & Beef Day!

By Jim Barey

On March 28th, Dutchess County 4-H youth traveled to the University of Connecticut campus in Storrs for the UConn 4-H Dairy & Beef Day!

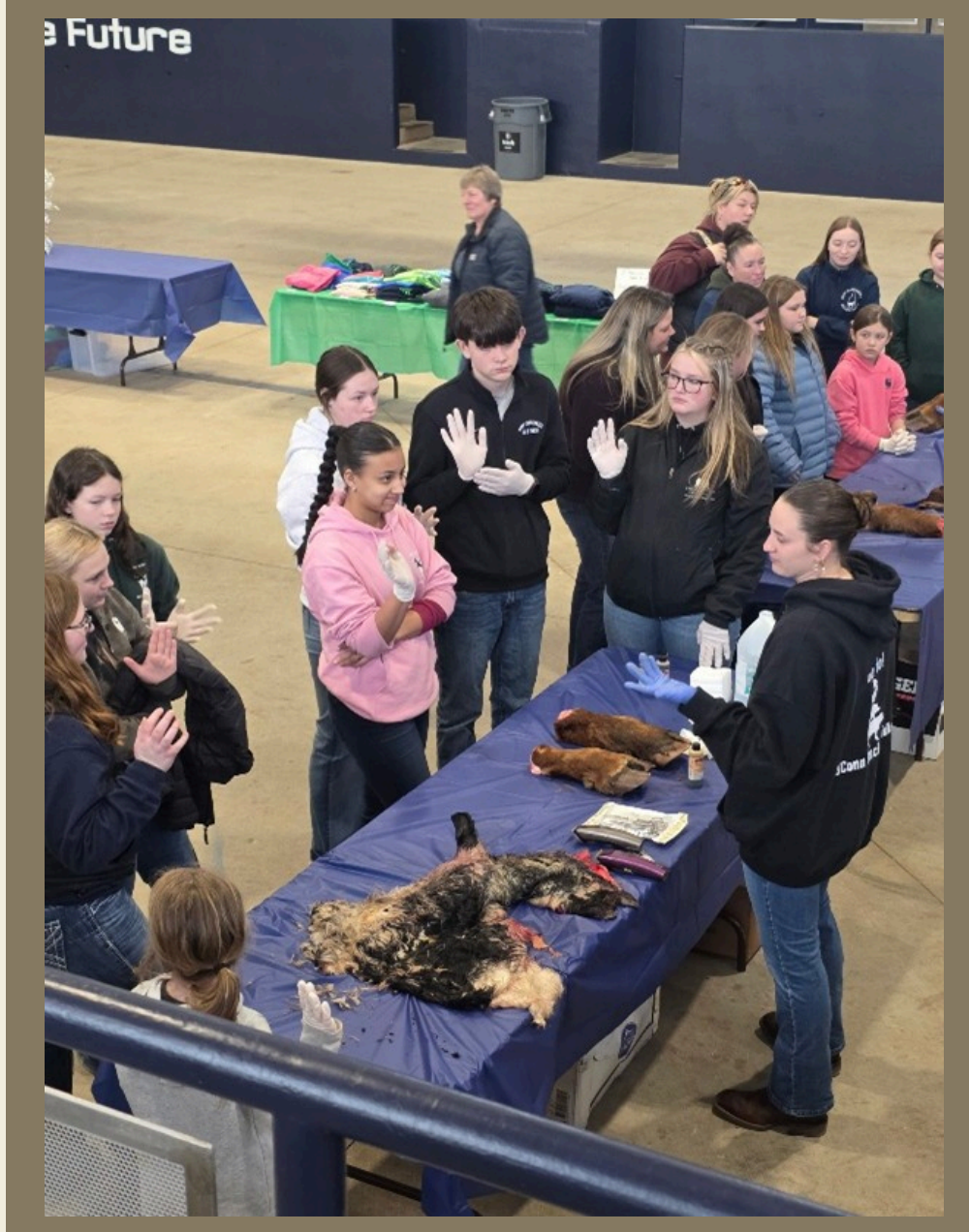
Participants spent the day rotating through hands-on workshops covering vaccinations, meats evaluation, udder evaluation, ice cream testing, and feeds and nutrition. 4-H members also took part in judging sessions, putting their observational skills and decision-making abilities to the test.

This event provides an excellent opportunity for Dutchess 4-H members to build practical cattle knowledge, explore different areas of the beef and dairy industries, and connect with other 4-H youth from across the region.

Be sure to ask your fellow 4-Hers questions about their experiences at this 2026 event!

Group photo from left to right: Giovanna Di Cintio, Averie Feroe, Emily Burlingame, Hope Miller, Tatum Osofsky, Kody Lawrence, Emily Coon, Coghlan Mullen, Justin Lawrence, Krew Lawrence, Dylan Burlingame, Beach Burlingame





GROWING GREEN LEADERS

Dutchess 4-Her uses Public Speaking skills in NCFCA Tournament!

By Armen Platyan

February eighteenth, just another Wednesday for most people. Not for me. Because that was the opening day of my first ever NCFCA Speech and Debate Tournament. NCFCA stands for National Christian Forensics and Communication Association and is a fantastic tool in helping young people such as myself



learn how to effectively communicate in a professional setting.

Let me tell you a little bit about what was going on in the tournament, because there was a lot! First off, there are two kinds of debate, Team Policy and Lincoln Douglas. Team Policy is four debaters, two vs. two, while Lincoln Douglas is one on one. Then there are the speech categories. The ones I would like to tell you about are Informative, Persuasive, and Impromptu. I have done two of these, and my fellow club member completed another. Informative is quite straight forward. You prepare and memorize a speech and then present it in front of a panel of three judges with a ten-minute time limit. The point is to inform them on a topic of your choice. My speech informed the judges on the concept of villainy, and how it applied to villains in

literature and real life. My average time was roughly 9 minutes and forty seconds. Persuasive is also rather straightforward. It is nearly the same as informative, except the point of this one is not to inform, but to persuade the judges on a certain topic. I did not do this one, but someone else in my club did. The next category that I would like to tell you about is Impromptu. Impromptu is not for everyone and is a very difficult category. You do not prepare a speech, but instead draw a card with either a phrase, a saying, or a discussion question. You then have two minutes to write a five-minute speech without the use of notecards. I competed in this category, and trust me, it was an exercise in my brain's agility. These are not the only topics, there is also Extemporaneous, Open/Duo

Interpretation, and others. NCFCA is helping me to grow in my confidence, as a public speaker, and as a leader.



SAVE THE DATE - STAR: State Teen Action Retreat

STAR (State Teen Action Retreat) is a premier youth voice opportunity for 4-H teens ages 13–19, modeled after the National 4-H Conference. Teens are invited to apply to serve on the STAR Planning Team, where they'll select an adult partner and work together to help design and lead this statewide event.

STAR is a fun-filled, high-energy weekend that highlights positive youth development, experiential learning, agriculture and sustainable food systems, STEM, and civic engagement. Participants take part in hands-on workshops, youth-led roundtables aligned with the 4-H pillars, and meaningful discussions that encourage deeper exploration of important topics.

The weekend also includes a community service project, keynote speaker, dinner and dance, and—of course—an ice cream social!

This is a unique opportunity for teens to strengthen leadership skills, amplify youth voice, and help shape the future of 4-H across New York State.

 [Click Here](#) to learn more!

Join Faith, Jim and Zoe for



During this training you will expand your knowledge & obtain your certification!

**Wednesday, April 29th
6pm-8pm @ Dutchess CCE
(Millbrook, NY)**

OR

**Wednesday, May 20th
6pm-8pm @ Ulster CCE
(Kingston, NY)**

**A \$3 cost per youth may be associated
depending on your county**

Save the date- Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) certification trainings!

This required training helps youth expand their knowledge of animal care, ethics, and responsibility.

Wednesday, April 29th | 6:00–8:00 PM

Cornell Cooperative Extension **Dutchess County (Millbrook, NY)**

OR

Wednesday, May 20th | 6:00–8:00 PM

Cornell Cooperative Extension **Ulster County (Kingston, NY)**

A **\$3 fee per youth** may apply depending on county.

4-H AGRIPRENEURS



Spring

GARDENING, COMMUNITY,
BUSINESS SKILLS

2026

Meet new friends, learn about growing and marketing agricultural products, and care for your own garden patch while you grow pumpkins! Youth will research pumpkin varieties to plant and care for, all while developing a business plan to market and sell the same pumpkins at the completion of the project in early fall to benefit future 4-H projects.

Youth will attend two meetings each month from April-September to learn about pumpkin production, marketing and developing a business plan for agricultural products. Youth and parents will develop a schedule to visit the garden plot weekly to care for the plants.

AGRICULTURE



Sponsored by a generous grant from the Millbrook Garden Club.

Open to current or prospective 4-H members ages 8-18 as of 1/1/2026.

Parents are responsible for transportation to meetings at the Farm & Home Center in Millbrook.

Interested in joining? Contact Dutchess County 4-H at ccdcd4-H@cornell.edu or call 845-677-9935.

**Cornell Cooperative Extension
Dutchess County**

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for providing equal program and employment opportunities.

4-H Agripreneurs Program

Interested in gardening, business, and hands-on learning? The 4-H Agripreneurs Program offers youth the opportunity to grow and market their own agricultural products while learning valuable life and business skills.

Participants will:

- Learn about planting, growing, and caring for crops
- Develop marketing and business plans
- Work collaboratively and build community connections

Open to youth **ages 8–18**. Meetings will be held at the Farm & Home Center in Millbrook throughout the growing season.


☎ **For more information, contact the Dutchess County 4-H office.**



4-H Youth Represent at Sportsmen's Legislative Caucus

By Tabitha Canning

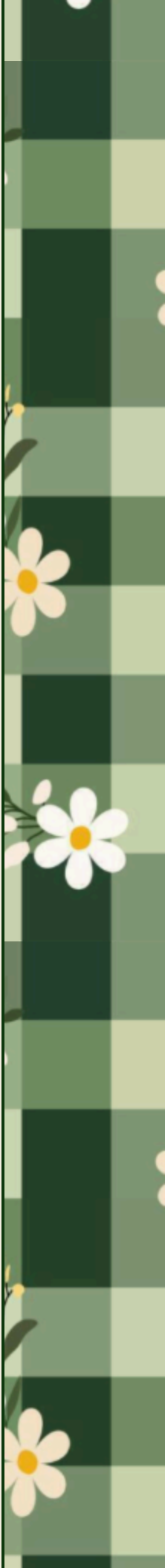
On March 11th, 2026 4-H Shooting Sports members from Dutchess County as well as Saratoga County



attended The Sportsmen's Legislative Caucus in Albany, NY. Dutchess County 4-H was represented by CCEDC 4-H Program Manager Jim Barey and 4-H Member Tabitha Canning. This event featured tables from some of New York State's biggest conservationists and sportsmen's organizations.

It was a time with the purpose of giving the members of the legislature an opportunity to learn more about the importance of how hunting, trapping and fishing is key to conservation. It's important for government officials to understand the need to protect the rights of the individuals and organizations in this field to make it more readily available to those interested. It offered a look inside New York conservation organizations, industry and advocacy groups alongside state agencies such as NYS DEC Law Enforcement.

The New York State 4-H Shooting Sports table featured informative pamphlets, Shooting Sports pins, and an interactive archery booth. It was operated by the 4-H youth and was a time to better teach the state government representatives all about 4-H. The archery booth educated people in regards to things such as how to safely handle a bow. In addition to this participants learned proper aim and which eye they were dominant with. The youth were able to teach senators, legislators, and assembly members such as Dutchess County Representatives Rob Rolison, Michelle Hinchey, and Anil "AJ" Beephan these skills. More importantly it gave 4-H youth the opportunity to have a voice and to explain all the wonderful benefits this organization offers the youth all around New York State. Youth opportunities such as learning proper gun and bow safety, proper skills in handling these tools and the opportunity for hands-on learning. All people in attendance, including the youth, learned many valuable lessons and gained exponential knowledge.





Animal Crackers

Join youth from across New York State for the 2026 Animal Crackers Program, a fun and hands-on animal science experience!

Date: Saturday, May 2, 2026

Time: 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

This year's program will focus on horses, sheep, swine, and dogs, with interactive sessions and engaging activities designed for youth ages 8–12 or those with beginner to intermediate experience.

Cost: \$30 per participant (includes lunch, t-shirt, and materials)

Registration is required through the Dutchess County 4-H office and must be completed by April 22 or earlier if capacity is reached.

👉 Contact the 4-H office for registration details.



2026 NYS 4-H ANIMAL CRACKERS

SATURDAY, MAY 2ND, 2026

FEATURING DOG, SWINE, EQUINE, SHEEP

AGES: 8-12

COST: \$30 PER YOUTH AND CHAPERONE
LUNCH AND TSHIRTS WILL BE PROVIDED WITH REGISTRATION!

**REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 18TH, 2026!
DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS
APRIL 22ND, 2026 (UNLESS IT FILLS BEFORE THE DEADLINE)!**

**CONTACT YOUR COUNTY EDUCATOR
FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

WEBSITE: [HTTPS://CAL.S.CORNELL.EDU/NYS-4-H-ANIMAL-SCIENCE-PROGRAMS/STATE-EVENTS/PROGRAMS/ANIMAL-CRACKERS](https://cals.cornell.edu/nys-4-h-animal-science-programs/state-events/programs/animal-crackers)



4-H Capital Days

4-H youth are invited to participate in 2026 NYS 4-H Capital Days, an exciting opportunity to visit Albany, meet with legislators, and learn how government works.

Dates: May 17–19, 2026

Eligibility: Ages 14–18 (as of January 1, 2026)

Cost: \$285 (limited scholarships available)

Participants will tour the Capitol, visit state agencies, and meet with elected officials to share their 4-H experiences and learn how to make their voices heard.

👉 Youth interested in attending should contact Carolyn at cmm558@cornell.edu

Deadline to express interest: April 10, 2026



THE GREEN FRAME

Blessing of the Animals



AT THE
THIRD LUTHERAN CHURCH
31 LIVINGSTON STREET RHINEBECK

MAY 30TH

@ 12^{PM}



RAIN DATE: MAY 31ST @ 1^{PM}

**ALL ARE
WELCOME!!!**



Blessing of the Animals

A GREAT CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR CLUB FUNDRAISE

Join us for the annual Blessing of the Animals, a free, family-friendly event celebrating the bond between people and animals.

Date: Saturday, May 30, 2026

Time: 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Location: Third Evangelical Lutheran Church

Rain Date: May 31 at 1:00 PM

Bring your pets (or just come to enjoy the day!) for a hands-on blessing, meet a variety of animals, and visit with local organizations—including 4-H and other community groups.

This event is part of **Be Kind to Animals Week** and is designed to celebrate, educate, and inspire compassion for all living things.



4-H/Agriculture Night

Hudson Valley Renegades vs. Wilmington Blue Rocks
Thursday, August 13th @ 6:35pm

Game Information

- Join Cornell Cooperative Extension and local 4-H Clubs at the Renegades game on Thursday, August 13th!
- Enjoy different interactive tables, animals, and more!
- Portion of the proceeds will go back to your local 4-H Club

Link to Offer:

Scan QR Code for tickets:

[https://www.gofevo.com/
event/4hagiculturalnight
2](https://www.gofevo.com/event/4hagiculturalnight2)



**Cornell
Cooperative
Extension**



**FIND
YOUR
FUN!**



Hudson Valley Renegades 1500 NY-9D, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590 | @HVRenegades | (845) 838-0094

4-H Agriculture Night at the Renegades

Join us for 4-H Agriculture Night with the Hudson Valley Renegades!

Thursday, August 13

Game Time: 6:35 PM

Enjoy a fun evening at the ballpark while supporting local 4-H programs. The event will feature interactive tables, animals, and activities, and a portion of ticket proceeds will go back to your local 4-H club.

Get your tickets using the link or QR code on the flyer.

Volunteer Opportunities at Bannerman Island

Looking to get outdoors and give back this spring? There are several upcoming volunteer opportunities at Bannerman Island, with a mix of weekday and weekend options available.

Please note: All activities are weather-dependent, as access to the island is determined by Hudson River conditions.

Interested in volunteering? **[Click Here for the application!](#)**

Weekday Volunteer Opportunities (April)

Volunteers are needed for painting and general tasks during the following weeks, between 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM:

- Week of April 13 → RSVP by April 6
- Week of April 20 → RSVP by April 13
- Week of April 27 → RSVP by April 20

Small groups (2–3 people max) are welcome.

Special Volunteer Events:

April 25 | 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

RiverSweep (with Riverkeeper)

Limited to 10 volunteers

May 2

I Love My Park Day (with Parks & Trails New York)

Limited to 20 volunteers

Celebrate Earth Day with 4-H

Earth Day is a great reminder of how small actions can make a big impact. Whether you're planting something new, cleaning up your community, helping wildlife, or volunteering your time—we'd love to see it.

Share what you're doing for Earth Day and show how 4-H is making a difference in our communities.

HAPPY EARTH DAY

April 22nd, 2026



Keep the Earth clean and green

4-H FASHION SHOW



MAY 7TH, 2026

STARTS AT 6:00

THOSE PARTICIPATING ARRIVE BY 5:30



CCEDC
2715 ROUTE 44,
MILLBROOK, NY



tea time

this way

STEP THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS AND
JOIN US FOR A WHIMSICAL 4-H FASHION
SHOW INSPIRED BY ALICE IN
WONDERLAND'S TEA PARTY! SHOW OFF
YOUR CREATIVITY AND STYLE IN THIS
MAGICAL EVENING OF FASHION AND FUN.



Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County

4-H Fashion Show: A Wonderland Tea Party

We're late, we're late... for a very important 4-H date! The 2026 Dutchess County 4-H Fashion Show is just around the corner, and we invite you to join us for an evening of creativity, style, and imagination. This year's theme, Alice in Wonderland's Tea Party, promises a whimsical showcase of outfits designed, curated, and created by our talented 4-H youth.

May 7, 2026. Starts @ 6:00 PM (guests welcome!)

Farm & Home Center, Millbrook

4-H members have been hard at work preparing their garments and completing evaluations, and now it's time to celebrate their efforts. Come out and support your fellow 4-H'ers as they bring their Wonderland-inspired creations to life on the runway!

✨ You won't want to miss this magical evening!

4-H Camp Owahta – Summer 2026

Looking for an unforgettable summer experience? 4-H Camp Owahta, located in the beautiful hills of Cortland County, offers youth the chance to build confidence, make new friends, and explore the outdoors through hands-on learning and adventure. The camp is operated by Cornell Cooperative Extension Cortland County and features both day camp and overnight camp options, as well as LIT and CIT leadership programs for older youth.

Campers enjoy a wide variety of activities including swimming, fishing, archery, ropes courses, hiking, sports, arts and crafts, STEM activities, gardening, nutrition programs, and nature exploration—all designed to help youth discover new interests and develop lifelong skills.

Summer 2026 Overnight Camp Sessions:

- Week 1: July 5–10
- Week 2: July 12–17
- Week 3: July 19–24
- Week 4: July 26–30
- Week 5: August 2–7
- Week 6: August 9–14

Contact: 607-391-2660
owahta@cornell.edu

👉 See the flyer for registration details and additional information about camp programs.



4-H Camp Owahtha



DAY CAMP



OVERNIGHT CAMP



LIT AND CIT

WHY 4-H CAMP OWAHTA?

Tap In To Your Potential every day at Camp Owahtha! Hands-on fun, outdoor adventure, and friendships that last.

Campers get to try a wide mix of activities, including:

Swimming & fishing, Archery & ropes course challenges, Nature exploration & hiking, Campfires, songs, Music, arts & crafts, Sports, Nutrition & gardening experiences

SAVE \$25
WHEN YOU
REGISTER
BEFORE APRIL
1ST



SUMMER 2026 DATES

DAY CAMP: Monday-Friday

OVERNIGHT CAMP: Sunday-Friday

Week 1: July 5-10

Week 2: July 12-17

Week 3: July 19-24

Week 4: July 26-30

Week 5: August 2-7

Week 6: August 9-14

CONTACT US

(607)391-2660

owahta@cornell.edu

Cornell Cooperative Extension | Cortland County

Open Horse Show Judging Seminar

Youth interested in equine judging are invited to attend the Open Horse Show Judging Seminar in Vermont. This professional-level seminar offers valuable insight into horse show judging and is open to 4-H, FFA, and Pony Club members.

Dates: April 18–19 (attend one or both days)

Cost: \$20 per day (covers lunch and facility)

Note: Youth must attend with a chaperone

 **Application Deadline EXTENDED UNTIL APRIL**

4th

Call Jim if interested in applying.

 **Click Here for the application.**

This is a great opportunity for youth to observe and learn in a professional judging environment.

4-H Model Horse Show

Calling all horse enthusiasts! The 2026 Dutchess County 4-H Model Horse Show is coming up, and we invite 4-H members to join in the fun.

Date: April 18, 2026

Time: Starting at 9:00 AM

Location: Farm & Home Center, Millbrook

Whether you love Breyers, Schleich, Peter Stone, or other model horses, this is a great opportunity to showcase your collection and connect with other 4-H'ers who share your passion.

SAVE THE DATE



Dutchess Co 4-H Model Horse Show!

Calling all Dutchess 4-Hers!

Do you love horses? Obsessed with Breyers, Schleich, Peter Stone, and other model brands? Get ready for our 2026 4-H Model Horse Show!



When: April 18, 2026
Starting at 9AM

Where: CCEDC Farm &
Home Center (2715 Rt 44,
Millbrook, NY



Cornell Cooperative Extension
Dutchess County

Cornell is an equal opportunity employer. For more information visit
hr.cornell.edu/ecco.

Looking for important 4-H dates? Look no further! Here's your go-to spot for upcoming deadlines, events, and all the can't-miss moments of the year. Whether it's fair week, workshops, or special events, this is where you'll find all the key dates to keep your 4-H year on track. You can also find a list of upcoming events on our **4-H website!**

👉 **April**

ALL DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

2026

04

APRIL



NOTE:
SPRING PAPER CLOVERS:
APRIL 17TH - MAY 3RD



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 	8 	9	10 YLS MANDATORY MTG	11 SOUTH EAST DISTRICT DAIRY BOWL
12	13	14 VLS MANDATORY MTG	15	16	17	18
19	20 	21	22	23	24	25 SOUTH EAST DISTRICT PRESENTATIONS
26 COBLESKILL LIVESTOCK SIGILLATHON	27	28	29	30		

FIELD NOTES

Clubs are invited to participate in Demo Day on Saturday, April 25, a special in-store event that's a great opportunity to connect with the community and boost fundraising efforts.

Participating stores will have a \$50 gift card available for a 4-H program, and there is also a statewide fundraising incentive through the Tractor Supply Foundation.

👉 Be sure to register and **connect with your local store if you'd like to participate.**

Facility Notice:

The weather this winter has taken a toll on the Farm & Home Center! The building and the CCEDC offices remain open, but repairs are ongoing. The county is beginning work on March 11th to repair these damaged sections of the roof and ceiling. If you were previously scheduled for a room in the F&HC, be aware your club might be moved. Be sure to check with the CCEDC Team to confirm that rooms are not overbooked. Thank you for your understanding!

The graphic features the title "4-H FAIRBOOK COVER CONTEST" in large, blue, bubbly letters. To the right is a small image of the 2026 Dutchess County Fair book cover, which includes the text "THE DUTCHESS COUNTY FAIR AUGUST 25-30, 2026" and "180 YEARS OF CULTIVATING AND GROWING TRADITIONS dutchessfair.com". An orange oval contains the 2026 DCF theme: "2026 DCF THEME: 180 YEARS OF CULTIVATING AND GROWING TRADITIONS." Below the title, a blue oval with a white border contains the text "DEADLINE: MAY 1ST". To the right of this oval is a 4-H clover logo. A blue box with an orange border contains a list of prizes: 1st place \$25, 2nd place \$15, and 3rd place \$10. Below the list, it says "Winners chosen by the 4-H Fair Committee". At the bottom of the blue box, there is a small disclaimer: "Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County Cornell is an equal opportunity employer. For more information visit hr.cornell.edu/eecc."

4-H Fairbook Cover Contest

Show off your creativity in the 4-H Fairbook Cover Contest! This year’s Dutchess County Fair theme is “180 Years of Cultivating and Growing Traditions.”

Deadline: May 1

Prizes will be awarded to the top entries, and the winning design will be featured on the 2026 Fairbook.

Submit entries to: ccedc4-H@cornell.edu

Share Your Skills with Dutchess County 4-H!

We know our 4-H community is full of talented and knowledgeable people, and we’d love to tap into that for fun, hands-on learning opportunities for our members! Do you have a special skill, interesting job, or hobby that you’d be willing to share with youth in a workshop, activity, or talk? This could be anything—robotics, canning, photography, storytelling, writing, gardening, or

even something totally unique

If you're interested, please take a few minutes to fill out this quick survey (scan the QR code). Your skills and experiences could inspire our members, help them learn something new, and create more ways for them to interact with our amazing 4-H community.



SCAN ME

THE WANDERING VINE

**Parasite
Management
Webinar Series**

**AQHA Achieve –
Virtual
Knowledge
Contest**

Join a virtual 4-part webinar series focused on sustainable parasite management in sheep and goats, followed by an optional hands-on workshop.

Webinar Dates: April 14, 21, 28 & May 5 (7:00–9:00 PM)

Topics include parasite lifecycles, grazing strategies, infection monitoring, and building effective control programs.

Cost: \$25 per household (webinar) | Additional \$30 for workshop

Registration Deadline: April 13

This program is ideal for producers looking to improve herd health and management practices.

👉 See Flyer Below for more details.

The AQHA Achieve program offers a virtual knowledge contest for youth interested in expanding their understanding of horses and the equine industry. Participants will have the opportunity to test their knowledge, build confidence, and grow their skills in a fun and competitive format.

👉 See the flyer for registration details and how to participate.





Sustainable management of internal parasites in sheep and goats in the upper Midwest and Northeast USA.

FORMAT:

Virtual webinar series (4 sessions) followed by an afternoon workshop on the MSU farms and campus.

DATES & TIME:

Virtual webinar series: Tuesday evenings at 7:00-9:00 pm including question and answer time. **Eastern Time.**

April 14, April 21, April 28, May 5 (4 sessions)

Workshop: May 9, noon to 4 at MSUSTRC and MSU campus.

COST:

\$25 per household for webinar series only, \$30 per person additional for the workshop (50 participant limit, each will receive a FAMACHA card and guide)

REGISTRATION:

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/Sheepparasites/>

Registration closes at 11:59 on April 13

CONTACT:

Mike Metzger at metzgerm@msu.edu

INSTRUCTORS:

Richard Ehrhardt, Senior Extension Specialist
Barbara Makela, Research Technician
Mike Metzger, Extension Educator

Control of internal parasites is a major health challenge in sheep and goat farms. Previous control methods have led to the development of drug resistant parasites, furthering the problem. Effective and sustainable parasite control requires a program tailored to each farm's unique circumstances. An effective and sustainable program will reduce animal health and productivity losses while minimizing the advance of resistance problems.

The MSU Small Ruminant Extension Team will be hosting a series of four webinars Tuesday evenings (at 7:00pm EST) to discuss which parasites are a problem in the Midwest/Northeast, risk factors for infection, grazing strategies to reduce parasite load, infection monitoring, effective drug treatments and farm specific control programs.

This will be followed by an optional workshop on May 9 on the Michigan State University campus that will provide hands on instruction on the FAMACHA parasite monitoring program and the practice of fecal egg counting.

Virtual program (all sessions via Zoom at 7 pm with recording available 2 days later).

Session 1: April 14. *Parasites of impact in sheep and goats, and basics of their lifecycles.*

Session 2: April 21. *Factors that determine risk of parasite infection and grazing management strategies to reduce exposure.*

Session 3: April 28. *Infection control and monitoring approaches and methods to maintain refugia.*

Session 4: May 5. *Putting it all together: developing a successful sustainable integrated parasite control program for your farm.*

Workshop on May 9, noon to 4 pm, MSU campus

Participants will learn how to monitor infection using the FAMACHA system on sheep at the MSU STRC and then travel to the nearby MSU campus labs to learn how to perform quantitative fecal egg counting. Participants will receive a FAMACHA anemia scoring card and training certificate. Workshop participants must attend or listen to the recordings of the 4-part webinar series to attend the workshop.

2026 Judge Shadow Program

With great success the last five years, we are pleased to announce the Sixth Annual Youth Shadow Opportunity. Recognizing the need for a robust dairy show judge's pipeline, and the challenges associated with aspiring judges' training opportunities, we are excited to provide this opportunity in our Northeast Spring Show experience.

Learn in the ring as a shadow to the official judges, experiencing the logistics of effective ring practice from both judge and ring steward, as well as gain insight into the judge's process in sorting through classes. Based on interest, individuals will be selected for the various breed shows that will take place from April 18-25, 2026.

Open to enthusiastic young people between the ages of 22-28. Experience exhibiting in state and regional shows and an intent to judge future dairy shows required.

Those interested should express interest by emailing:

Betsy Bullard
bbswbullard@gmail.com



2026 Judge Shadow Program

The 2026 Judge Shadow Program is now accepting interest from youth looking to gain hands-on experience in dairy show judging. This opportunity allows participants to work alongside official judges during the Northeast Spring Show, learning about ring procedures, class evaluation, and decision-making from both judge and ring steward perspectives.

Participants will be selected to shadow judges across various breed shows taking place April 18–25, 2026.

Eligibility: Youth ages 22–28 with experience exhibiting in state and regional shows and an interest in judging

👉 To apply or express interest: Contact Betsy Bullard at bbswbullard@gmail.com


Looking for more things to do in Dutchess?

Click Here to visit Destination Dutchess. It's your one-stop guide for events, activities, and adventures happening across Dutchess County.

DON'T LEAF US BEHIND

Have Something to Share?

We love celebrating the amazing things happening across Dutchess County 4-H! If your club has an upcoming event, a community service project, a fundraiser, a fun photo, or a story worth spotlighting, send it our way. We're always looking for club updates, activities, member achievements, crafts, jokes, riddles, and anything that highlights the creativity and spirit of 4-H.

 Send photos, stories, and submissions to:

ccedc4-H@cornell.edu

Thank you for helping us grow a vibrant, connected 4-H community.

We can't wait to see what you're up to next!

– Carolyn, Jim & Brooke

Dutchess County 4-H Team





4-H GROWS HERE

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