

Chenango County 4-H



Pre-Fair Guide



2026 T-Shirt Contest Winner: Beth Wilcox

Show your 4-H pride and decorate your livestock or club booth area using this year's theme: *"Once Upon a Fair"*. We look forward to seeing your creativity! Prizes will be awarded to several exhibits.

Welcome to your 2026 pre-fair guide for the Chenango County Fair! Carefully read this guide to begin preparing for 4-H exhibitions. Always remember, as your 4-H staff, we are here to help with questions and concerns.

2026 Chenango County 4-H & Open Fair Schedule



Monday, August 10, 2026

9:00am - 4:00pm	4-H Judging for Non-Perishable & Perishable Exhibits	HL Case Building
11:00am - 5:00pm	Dairy/Livestock Animal Vet Checks	Fairgrounds

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

8:00am-12:00pm	Dairy/Livestock Animal Vet Checks	Fairgrounds
1:30pm	4-H Pet Show	Follett Show Ring
4:30pm	Market Animal Weigh in	Livestock Barns
6:00pm	Animal Exhibitor Meeting - Required	Follett Show Ring
6:30pm	4-H Dairy Showmanship	Follett Show Ring

Wednesday, August 12, 2026

8:00am	4-H & Open Poultry Show	Livestock Show Ring
11:00am	4-H & Open Livestock Shows (Sheep, Meat Goats)	Livestock Show Ring
7:00pm	Chenango County Fair Parade	Fairgrounds

Thursday, August 13, 2026

9:00am	4-H Dairy Goat Show	Livestock Show Ring
9:30am	4-H & Open Dairy Cattle Shows	Follett Show Ring
7:00pm	4-H Fun Activities	Follett Show Ring

Friday, August 14, 2026

8:30am	4-H & Open Youth Horse Show	Horse Show Ring
8:30am	4-H & Open Livestock Shows (Swine, Beef)	Livestock/Follett Show Ring
11:00am	4-H & Open Rabbit Show	Follett Show Ring
6:30pm	4-H Livestock Auction	Follett Show Ring

Saturday, August 15, 2026

9:00am	Open Dairy Goat Show	Livestock Show Ring
9:30am	Chenango District Jersey Cattle Club Show	Follett Show Ring
3:00pm	Super Showmanship Competition	Livestock Show Ring
5:30pm	4-H Fair Awards & Ice Cream Social	Follett Show Ring
7:00pm	4-H Dance with DJ Ryan	Follett Show Ring

Sunday, August 16, 2026

9:30am	Chenango County Holstein Club Show	Follett Show Ring
10:00am	4-H Goat Judging Contest	Livestock Show Ring
5:00pm	4-H Premium Checks & 4-H Domestic Exhibits Released	HL Case Building

***** Check-in times are determined by NYS Ag and Markets and may be subject to changes *****

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4-H EVALUATION EVENTS

Evaluation is an important part of the educational process. Evaluation is built into the 4-H Program through special events that occur throughout the year. It is conducted by the members themselves (self-evaluation), leaders, educators, and judges or evaluators at public presentation events, clothing revue, fair, animal shows, and judging contests just to name a few. No matter what or where the evaluation occurs the goal is the development of the individual or 4-H member.

What is accomplished by evaluation?

- It helps members gain a greater appreciation of excellence and quality of workmanship or performance.
- It educates members and helps them to improve their skills and techniques.
- It encourages members to discover and develop their talents and potential.
- It makes members think critically and objectively about their work and themselves.

How is judging done?

The Danish System is used to evaluate 4-H project exhibits. In this system, there is no limitation to the number of awards that may be presented at any level. Each entry receives an award. Items are compared to a standard (set of criteria), not to each other.

- Items that do not meet the specifications listed or class descriptions are disqualified.
- In addition to the quality of workmanship, age, skill level, and years in the project category, factors that may limit the abilities of youth, and type of adult supervision are considered.
- The consultation method of evaluation may be used in combination with the Danish System. The 4-H members will be present with their exhibit or item. The evaluator will talk with the 4-H'er about the item and the process utilized.

- A modified Danish system is often used in competitive events such as animal shows or equitation competitions. After each entry receives the appropriate award a specified number of the top entries are ranked to receive “place value.”

Awards include:

Blue or Excellent – Workmanship shows little need for improvement compared to the relative standard.

Red or Good – Workmanship is satisfactory or average but there are definite areas for improvement, even considering the age and challenges of the child.

White or Worthy – Workmanship shows that a worthy effort has been made and that the finished product is useable for the purpose intended. However, there is much need for improvement even considering the age and challenges of the child.

Cloverbud Participation – Cloverbuds are not judged competitively.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Youth must be re-enrolled members of Chenango County 4-H by **June 1st** of the current year to exhibit in Chenango County 4-H Youth Development classes at the Chenango County Fair. **No Exceptions will be made.**
- All 4-H Project Animals must show a **June 1st** ownership date on registration or identification papers. Bred and owned kids and lambs born after the June 1st deadline are eligible to exhibit.
- All exhibits, animal and domestic, must be pre-registered for exhibition. **Entry forms are due July 17th by 4:00 pm.**
- All **Cloverbuds** exhibiting domestic projects in the Harry L. Case Building must enter their projects in Section 1 – Cloverbuds.
- All 4-H exhibitors, family members, and volunteers are required to purchase entry passes onto the fairgrounds. 4-H Exhibitor Passes are \$5 each and can be purchased at the CCE Office or the fairground's Main Gate. All vehicles parked on the fairgrounds during the week are required to have a hanging pass, available at the fairground's main gate.
- 4-H exhibits and displays will be released on the last day of the fair. Exhibits must remain in place until superintendents determine they can be released.
- All 4-H youth participating in the county fair, in any way, and that will be under the supervision of a club leader or someone other than their parent must have a **Designated Chaperone**. Forms can be found on our website.
- Animal exhibit barns close 11:00 pm-6:00 am. Youth are strongly discouraged from being in the barns during these hours. Youth remaining in the barns during these hours must be under the direct supervision of their parent/guardian(s).
- 4-H teens we are looking for your help to make county fair the best it can be! If you need volunteer hours, please contact the 4-H office!

FAIR ENTRY MATERIALS

Fair Books: Make sure that you are using the 2026 4-H Chenango County Fair book to complete 4-H Fair entries. If you use the Open Show book, sections, and class numbers will be different. 4-H Fair Books will be available to all families on or near June 1st. **All Entries will be using FairEntry Online.** No prior forms will be accepted. We are here to help you navigate the new system. Please reach out to the 4-H office with any questions!

Registration Papers/Certificates: Each animal entered for competition must have a copy of its registration paper or animal certificate. **These must be submitted to the office prior to June 1st.**

ENTRY PROCEDURES

- Each youth and each club need their own entry forms. Do not combine youth from the same family or youth exhibits with club exhibits.
- Need help filling out forms, or deciding which section a project is entered under? Please contact 4-H Staff right away. We are willing to help but please be considerate and realize that complicated questions are best answered well before the fair.
- **All 4-H Fair entries are due by 4:00 pm July 17th. No exceptions.**

Non- Animal Exhibits:

- Sections 1-12 are for domestic exhibits to be judged and exhibited in the Harry L. Case Building.
- Read the instructions in our fair book for each section the youth is entering. Some sections require extra information about the project to be included on a 3X5 card. Without this extra information, projects will be marked down.
- Pre-Judging – all domestic items are to be judged before the fair begins. Families and clubs must register for a time slot for judging to help us plan the day and keep youth and projects moving through the process. We will do our best to keep on time and try to accommodate those with conflicts.
- **(NEW)** All non-perishable and perishable exhibits must be brought to the Case Building for prejudging on **Monday, August 10th, 2026**, between 9 am – 4 pm.
- During prejudging, judges will evaluate each section. Youth are expected to present themselves and their exhibits without parental assistance to the judges. Each judge will then examine the exhibit and talk to the youth about how the project was constructed, what the youth learned, and offer tips to improve on future projects.
- All judged exhibits will have an evaluation sheet attached as well as the earned ribbon. Exhibits will then be placed in the members' club booth or set aside for State Fair Competition consideration at the end of prejudging.
- The Case Building will be organized by club membership and independent membership. Each club will be given a booth for their projects and/or club display during building clean-up. Some display risers will be available for club/member use in the booths.
- Clubs are responsible for setting up their projects in their booths for the County Fair display. Teen assistants will set up the independent member booth upon completion of pre-judging. Set-up must be completed by 12 pm, **Tuesday, August 11th**.
- Items selected for the State Fair Competition will be exhibited in the State Fair Booth for the entirety of the County Fair.
- Those unable to pick up their exhibits at the end of the county fair must make arrangements ahead of time with 4-H Staff to get their exhibits.

Animal Exhibits:

- Cloverbud animal exhibitors should entry Class S1 – Cloverbud Show and Tell as well as their respective breed classes. Breed class exhibition is for experience only with Cloverbuds receiving participation ribbons only.
- Each animal entry is required to have a copy of its registration paper or animal certificate turned in, showing ownership by June 1st of the current year.
- Horse exhibits must have a horse certificate and copy of current rabies and Coggins on file by June 1st of the current year. Horses should be on the grounds and ready for the first class by 8 am. Facilities are available for those wishing to stay at the fair. Arrangements must be made before the fair. **In case of severe weather, the show will be delayed or canceled.**
- Cats, dogs, ferrets, etc. entered in the 4-H Pet Show must have a current copy of a rabies certificate.

- Each animal exhibitor will receive pen and stall assignments from the Superintendent of that barn.
- It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to feed, water, and clean their rabbit/cavy every day. **Herdsmanship will be scored for those exhibitors staying the entire week.**

All animal exhibitors are required to have all the proper identification, paperwork, and vaccinations per New York State Ag and Markets requirements. All animals will be checked in by barn Superintendents and the New York State Field Veterinarian/Animal Health Inspector. For detailed information go to:

<https://agriculture.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2026/02/fairhealthrequirements.pdf>

PARKING PASSES & BACK GATE

To alleviate congestion, encourage more people to visit the animal and youth exhibits at the fairgrounds, and for the safety of everyone; the Fair has reworked its rules and regulations for parking near the barns and Case Building, as well as people entering through the back gate. Only vehicles with a Livestock Pass will be allowed to enter the back gate of the fairgrounds off Grove Avenue. These passes will be strictly controlled and distributed. Livestock Passes can be picked up when Open Show Entry Forms are turned in at the Fair Office. The back gate will be closed to vehicle entry after 10:00 pm. The gate will be manned between 10:00 pm and Midnight to allow exiting only. The only people who will be allowed to enter the back gate, by vehicle or on foot, will be those with an exhibitor pass. 4-H members/families and volunteers may purchase a 4-H exhibitor pass for \$5.00. **No passes will be given out without payment first.**

CAMPING AT THE FAIR

A limited number of camping spaces are available at the Fair Grounds for the entire week. These spaces are on a first-come, first-serve basis. To register for a camping spot, please visit the Fair Office, located at the Grandstand. Please contact the County Fair Office for the most up-to-date pricing.

ANIMAL CHECK-IN PROCEDURES

Animal Health Inspectors from New York State Agriculture & Markets and barn Superintendents will perform animal check-ins. Checking of paperwork will be done by barn Superintendents and 4-H staff, who will be checking to be sure that all the animals that you have brought to the fair are properly identified on your health chart and that all vaccinations and other dates are acceptable.

***** For biosecurity and the reduction of unnecessary health risks animals will be checked off the trailers as soon as they arrive at the fairgrounds.**

Barn Superintendents who will be checking animals into the fair:

Dairy: Lee Hodge

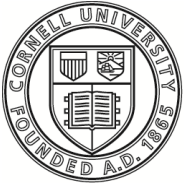
Beef, Sheep, Swine, M. Goats: Brian Graham

Rabbit: Jake Cotten

Goats: Patsy Graham

Poultry: Scott Fairchild

4-H: Micaela Meseck



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Chenango County

99 North Broad St
Norwich, NY 13815

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Please join us for 4-H Fair Preparations

Cleanup and Pen Setup

Monday August 3rd, 2026

Chenango County Fairgrounds

5:00-7:30pm

(Food Provided! Contact Micaela Meseck @

mm3589@cornell.edu to RSVP)