

2026 Niagara County 4-H Auction Scholarship Application

Overview:

All Niagara County 4-H Livestock Auction participants are invited to complete application for the annual auction scholarship award. The Auction Scholarship Committee reserves the right to determine the amount and number of scholarships for distribution. Once an applicant has received this auction scholarship award, the individual is no longer eligible to apply for this award another time. Selected recipients may receive a minimum of \$750 each if all requested criteria is met based on our point system outlined in this packet. One or multiple scholarships will be given, to those eligible.

Applicant requirements:

- Must be a current 4-H member in Niagara County, NY, enrolled in 4-H for the year of application.
- Applicant must be enrolled or planning to enroll in an accredited post-secondary program at an accredited college or university, community college, technical school, military service, or trade school, and have participated in at least one of the following auction livestock areas (beef, goat, sheep, swine, poultry, rabbit) for two consecutive years or a minimum of three years non-consecutive participation. ****NEW in 2026 – 4-H members currently employed in the work force may apply for scholarship funds to put towards tools or other equipment for their job.**
- Applicant must have completed high school by 2026 or earlier and be attending college or post-secondary program, or joining the workforce or military, in 2026 (start dates may vary).
- Applicant may be a high school senior or college freshman or working
- A 400-800 word typed essay must accompany scholarship application.
- Applicant must provide one letter of recommendation, from a non-family member; Letter must highlight or mention your auction and/or 4-H experience. Letters can **not** be from CCE employees. Letters can be from any 4-H animal science leader or auction committee member/auction liaison or other adult 4-H mentor. Letter of recommendation must be typed and signed.
- Chosen scholarship recipients (winners) may be asked to provide proof they are enrolled in the post-secondary school or program that they will be attending, by providing copy of an enrollment acceptance letter or receipt from their college or school or program. Auction committee will request this if needed.

Return completed application and required documents to:

CCE Niagara County

Attn: Heidi Feltz

4487 Lake Avenue

Lockport, NY 14094

Due Date:

- Applications are due by Wednesday July 15, 2026 (night of Workbee)
- You may mail in your application or drop it off to the CCE admin building.

Winners Announced:

Sunday Closing Ceremony of Niagara County Fair

Evaluation:

Scholarship evaluation criteria is based on a point system, which is further detailed at the end of this application.

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AUCTION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Home address: _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Age as of January 1, 2026: _____

What year did you graduate from high school? _____

What high school did you graduation from? _____

Are you currently enrolled as a Niagara County 4-H Member? _____

Is this your last year in 4-H? _____

What college/school/program/university/service/job are you planning to attend?

What is your field of study or area of work:

What **month and year** will you begin (or continue) your studies/program? _____

Please put a checkmark on each line to designate species participated in auction with and indicate number of years you auctioned off an animal in that species:

Beef: _____ Goat: _____ Sheep: _____ Swine: _____ Rabbit _____ Poultry _____

#Yrs: _____ #Yrs: _____ #Yrs: _____ #Yrs: _____ #Yrs _____ #Yrs _____

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THIS PAGE IS TO BE KEPT FOR APPLICANT'S REFERENCE

On a separate page, complete a typed essay, which must include answering the following questions (shown below in 5 different bullet points) in the body of the essay. Minimum of 400 words. Maximum of 800 words. Print your typed essay and attach to this application. Please include your name at the top of the essay.

- Describe how at least one auction project animal was selected and acquired (or if you bred and raised your own).
- What have you learned from your experience in the 4-H auction program?
- Describe your future plans to further your education and/or skills. Why did you select your course of study or field of work? What will you put this scholarship money towards?
- List your involvement in school and community activities.
- Include any other 4-H programs and/or 4-H activities you have been involved in or participated in over the years.

Applicant Checklist for 4-H'er to use:

- ☐ Completed scholarship application form (print and fill out page 2 of this packet)
- ☐ You have enrolled in 4-H for the current year
- ☐ 400-800 word typed essay
- ☐ One letter of recommendation

This section below and on next page is to show applicant how their scholarship application packet will be scored

Scoring/Evaluation Criteria: **Scoring and evaluation is determined by 4-H Auction Committee**

- 1) Applicant completed application, filled out in their own hand-writing, answering all questions: _____points / out of possible 10 pts.
- 2) Applicant is enrolled for the current 4-H year: _____points / out of possible 5 pts.
- 3) Applicant submitted typed essay: _____points / out of 5 pts.
 - a. Name is indicated at top of essay _____(2 pts.)
 - b. Essay is between 400-800 words _____(5 pts.)
 - c. Essay is free of spelling and grammatical errors _____(5 pts.)
 - d. Essay includes answers/explanations clearly explained to each of the 5 questions: _____(20 pts. – possible 4 pts. per answer)

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- 4) Applicant provided one **typed** letter of recommendation: _____points / out of possible 5 pts.
- a. Letter is from a non-family member/non-CCE employee_____points /out of possible 2 pts
 - b. Letter highlights or indicates applicant's involvement in 4-H and/or auction program. _____points / out of possible 2 pts.
 - c. Letter is signed _____pts. / out of 2 pts.
- 5) Application was turned in on time: _____pts. / out of possible 3 pts.
- 6) Completed application packet was neat and professional appearing_____pts. / Out of possible 4 pts.

TOTAL POINTS: _____pts. / out of possible 70 points.