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Contact: Lynn Bliven

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Phone: 585.268.7644 ext. 18

E-mail: lao3@cornell.edu

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2026 Allegany County Fair Youth Swine Show

Lynn Bliven, Agriculture & Natural Resources Issue Leader

Monday, July 20th youth exhibitors showed off their swine projects at the Allegany County Fair. The contest is an opportunity to be rewarded for the months of hard work caring for and training their animal

In the Senior Showmanship division, Conner Armison of Farmersville Station, NY with a first-place finish received a blue ribbon along with a photo frame sponsored by Mark & Lorraine Stone. Second place finish to Collin Wilson Dansville, NY followed by Mason Findlay of Fillmore, NY; Morgan Holcomb of Friendship, NY; Shane Ploetz Cuba, NY; Natalie Burrows Cuba, NY all awarded a blue ribbon.

For the junior division with 9 participants all receiving blue ribbons, Garrett Ploetz Cuba, NY topped the class followed by Caidence Armison of Farmersville Station, NY; Grady Bell Bolivar, NY; Grant Bell Bolivar, NY; Grace Bell Bolivar, NY; Bentley Foster Friendship, NY; Grayson Bell Bolivar, NY; Beverly Ploetz Cuba, NY; and Tinsley Foster Friendship, NY. Garrett received a photo frame sponsored by the Ken Miller Family.

In the novice class, first blue awarded to Vincent Costello Scio, NY followed by Presley Mcdowell Bolivar, NY. Vincent received a showman harness sponsored by Stony Brook Farm.

The top 2 from each division competed for Grand Champion Showman. This year's winner Conner Armison received a belt buckle sponsored by Lindsey & Lincoln Reynolds. Reserve Grand Champion Showman Collin Wilson received Picture frame sponsored by In Memory of Sarah Beiler.

One future showman participated in the Cloverbub division open to youth between 5-7 years old. The judge complemented Gabriel Bell and Carter Fusiara for an excellent job participating in the show.

Four classes in the market swine division starting with light weight. The class of 7 Caidence Armison, Grayson Bell, Grady Bell, and Grace Bell received blues. Receiving red ribbons, Presley Madowell with 2 entries and Grayson Bell.

The medium weight swine, first place exhibited by Beverley Ploetz, followed by Vincent Costello in second, third Caidence Armison, fourth Natalie Burrows, fifth Grant Bell and sixth blue ribbon to Morgan Holcomb. First red to Grady Bell and second red to Grace Bell.

Connor Armison placed first blue in the intermediate weight class followed by Morgan Holcomb, Mason Findley, Natalie Burrows, Tinsley Foster, Collin Wilson, Grant Bell, Beverly Ploetz, and Tinsley Foster. Another group of blue-ribbon winners.

Blue ribbon heavy weight hogs exhibited by Mason Findlay followed by Connor Armison, Bentley Foster, Garrett Ploetz, Shane Ploetz, and Beverley Ploetz.

Grand Champion Market Swine receiving a banner sponsored by Skyview Farms along with a wall plaque from the NYS Pork Producers Association was awarded to the top heavy hog exhibited by Mason Findlay. The Reserve Grand Champion Market Swine banner was sponsored Burch Family Dental and awarded to Connor Armison's heavy weight hog. All these market hogs will be sold at the Annual Youth Market Animals Sale beginning at 6 PM on Thursday, July 23rd.

In first place of the breeding division and Grand Champion Gilt, was exhibited by Mogan Holcomb, she received a photo frame sponsored by ALCO Federal Credit Union. Additional blue ribbons were awarded to Shane Ploetz, Bentley Foster, and Tinsley Foster.

This year's judge for the swine show was Jim Luckman. He has judged swine shows for 20 years, including locations across New York and Rhode Island. He hopes that 4-Hers learn something new, make friends and have fun! Jim believes that 4-H shows are a great learning experience and encourages youth to listen to feedback as a valuable tool to grow their skills in both showmanship and the market ring.

The youth swine show was followed by the Livestock Judging Contest. First place senior, Collin Wilson, received a clip board sponsored by Nicholson Pharmacy. First place junior, Brendon Wilson, clip board was sponsored by First Citizens Bank. Thank you to our official Judge, Lenny Ando from Houghton, NY.

Youth shows at the fair are one of many programs offered by the 4-H Program through Cornell Cooperative Extension of Allegany County (CCE-Allegany). The association is part of the national cooperative extension system, an educational partnership between County, State, and Federal governments. As New York's land grant university Cornell administers the system in this state. For more information, call 585-268-7644 or visit our website at www.cce.cornell.edu/allegany. Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities.

Photo Credit: Lynn Bliven

Photo Caption: (left to right) Final Master Showmanship Drive. Collin Wilson, Caidence Armison, Conner Armison.



Photo caption: Grand Champion Marget Hog (left to Right) Conner Armison, Judge Jim Luckman, Mason Findlay. These animals will be sold at the Annual Youth Market Animals Sale at 6 PM on Thursday, July 23rd.



