



Clover Chronicle

August- September 2026

4-H Club Reports	2	3-Day Clinic, Thursday Night Clinic & Day at the Track Photos	12
How to reach us	3	Snack Bar Coupons/ Refillable Cups	13
4-H PDC.....	3	4-H Presentations at the Schaghticoke Fair	13
Leader's Digest	4	Club Exhibits.....	14
Re-enrollment Update	4	Dogs at the Schaghticoke Fair....	14
Volunteer Harassment Prevention Training	4	4-H Tractor Driving Contest at the Schaghticoke Fair	14
4-H Leader & Volunteer Roundtable.....	5	State Veterinarian Check-In Schedule	15
Schaghticoke Fair Books.....	5	2026 New York State Fair Animal Health Requirements	15
Honor Club Application	5	Animal Health Considerations Before, During and After the Fair	15
Teen Opportunities at the Fair	5	Pullorum Testing to show at Fairs.....	17
Ambassador Council Teens.....	6	4-H Silent Auction.....	17
Teen Exchange	6	The Snack Bar Schedule	18
Cornell Career Explorations.....	6	Schaghticoke Fair Snack Bar Wish List	18
Teen Council Scholarship.....	7	4-H Teen Manager Snack Bar Application	19
Upcoming Opportunities	8	4-H EXTRA Tee Shirts.....	21
Make & Take.....	8	New York State Fair Selections ..	22
Junior Chefs	9	Exploring Nature with all 5 Senses.....	23
4-H Agribusiness Career Conference	9	County Medal Application	24
NYS Youth Livestock Ambassador Program – Applications Now Open	9	Farm Day Out Farm Day Out	26
NYS Animal and Agriculture Leadership Program	10	Thank you, Rensselaer County 4-H- A Message from Kandis	26
Bloomin' Socks Fundraiser.....	10	Member Birthdays.....	28
Clover Fun Run October 24th	10	Calendar of Events	29
Mane Event Results - Congratulations!	11		
Congratulations to Vincent Reiter!.....	12		

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.

Clover Kids and Critters- Sophia Olsen

In July our club met, and we walked through the woods and found tracks that we made plaster tracks from. In July we met and did a recycled pallet project. At both meetings we had guests come to see if they would like to join our club.

Equine Explorers- Alice Bourdeau

During March the Equine Explorers were able to participate in Horse bowl. They spent much time practicing for this event that is all about horse science, but in the form of a question and answer timed with a buzzer event. Our junior member, Wyatt Tomlinson, placed 1st individually and his junior team placed 1st as well! Our Senior member, Alice Bourdeau, placed 5th individually and her senior team placed 2nd overall! Both members proceeded to compete at the States which occurred during the month of April. The States competition was located at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY. Our junior member, Wyatt Tomlinson, placed 5th individually and his junior team placed 4th overall. Our senior team member Alice Bourdeau, placed 3rd overall.

One of our members also participated in the Hippology horse science competition which is centered around many aspects of horses and is not a timed event. This event took place at the Saratoga 4-H Training Center. The team was proud

to place 1st at the competition and Alice placed 3rd individually.

Overall, the practices leading up to all these competitions were great opportunities to learn interesting information about our equine friends!

In May, we had a planning meeting in which we discussed Honor Club requirements, the Schaghticoke Fair, service projects, educational displays, and horse education fun meetings.

During our June meeting Equine Explorers discussed the fair exhibit, other upcoming activities, and confirmed our snack bar assignment for members. We also did some hands-on activities, cleaned stalls, helped turn out horses, and explored body language with one of our leader's horses, Merlin, through free liberty work.

Also in June, one of our members, Alice Bourdeau, applied to and was accepted to the Equine Ambassador Program which focuses on leadership and exploring careers in the equine industry through a presentation, a project, and several trips.

She is looking forward to incorporating her school project of looking into treating equine laminitis with acupuncture into her work with the Equine Ambassador Program. She is also looking forward to exploring different equine careers while getting to know the other Ambassador's as they just got started with their introductory meeting in June.

Growing Clovers- Aiden Tromblee

We met to plan for fair and talked about project records in our business meeting for June.

Rensselaer County Trailblazers- Abby Reynolds

We met to plan for upcoming 4-H equine events, shows, tack sale and one member participated in teen leadership opportunities and read for Ag Literacy Week and attended Capital Days.



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!

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.**

4-H Program Development Committee (PDC)

4-H PDC members are available to you.

*If you have comments or suggestions do not
hesitate to reach out to any of our PDC members.*

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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 renselaer@cornell.edu

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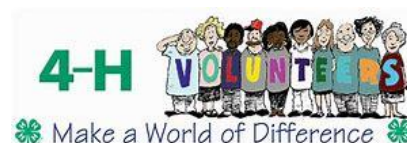
Leader's Digest

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. Welcome to our new 4-H Volunteers!

Laura Amedio

Cathy Hewitt



Re-enrollment Update

For the 2026-2027 4-H year, we will again be doing reenrollments and new enrollments virtually through 4-H Online beginning on October 1st. If you have not already done so, you will need to reset your password on 4-H Online the first time you log in. Use the email address which you are receiving the email blast with to sign in. If you have any questions, please contact Eileen at emd32@cornell.edu. If you have any questions, or if you would prefer hard copies of your paperwork, please contact Eileen.

To complete the reenrollment process please follow the instructions below:

Log into 4-H Online; *You will be asked to reset your password if you have not logged in before.* Use the email address which you are receiving the email blast with to sign in. Update any incorrect information and add any new projects.

All youth need to complete and submit the following forms – they can be found in 4-H online when re-enrolling – scroll down the forms page to choose the appropriate form -

Code of Conduct

Acknowledgement of Risk

Photo Release

Volunteers do need to complete and submit a Code of Conduct. These also can be found on 4-H Online.

Payment for your reenrollments can be made via the CCE website donation page at <https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/PY5DMJB36HRY2> or with a check payable to CCE Rensselaer County, that can be mailed to the 4-H office at 99 Troy Rd., Suite 203, East Greenbush, NY 12061

Enrollment fees are:

\$15.00 for each child (maximum of \$45 for families with more than 3 children)

\$10.00 for each leader (Maximum \$10 per couple)

A maximum of \$55.00 per family

Re-enrollments need to be submitted by November 1st. If you have not reenrolled by then please know that you are not covered by our insurance. If you plan to participate in any 4-H activities, make sure you have completed the reenrollment process. Youth do need to be enrolled by May 15th to show at the fair.

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 <http://blogs.cornell.edu/ccevolunteertraining/required-training/>. When completed, please forward the confirmation email to cce-reusselaer-volunteer@cornell.edu.

4-H Leader & Volunteer Roundtable

Tuesday, September 22nd- 6:00pm

Rensselaer County 4-H club leaders, volunteers and teens are invited to a roundtable to kick off the new 4-H year on Tuesday, September 22nd at 6:00pm at the CCE office. We will discuss reenrollment procedures, upcoming events, and share other information. Each club is strongly encouraged to send a representative. To rsvp for the meet and greet, please contact Eileen at emd32@cornell.edu. We hope to see many of our leaders that evening! Please RSVP by Friday, September 18th.

Schaghticoke Fair Books

Since we moved to an electronic format there will be few 4-H Premium books for the Schaghticoke Fair printed. Printed books will be available at the following locations after July 1st. You may want to call ahead for availability.

Schaghticoke Fairgrounds Main Office- 69 Stillwater Bridge Rd, Schaghticoke, NY 12154

Sand Lake Town Hall- 8428 NY-66, Averill Park, NY 12018

Hoosick Falls Town Hall- 80 Church St., Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

Kristy's Barn- 2385 Brookview Rd, Castleton-On-Hudson, NY 12033

CCE Office- 99 Troy Road, Suite 203, East Greenbush, NY 12061

The Fair Book will also be available online at Cornell Cooperative Extension

*Remember all Entries are due to the CCE office by August 10th.

Honor Club Application

Every 4-H Club has the opportunity to join the ranks of becoming a Rensselaer County 4-H Honor Club! This prestigious award is given to each Club that accumulates a minimum of 100 points on the rubric. Did you know it was as easy as getting enrollment paperwork in by October 31st, sending in Secretary's Reports, recording your community service project, and/or participating in 4-H events and trainings?

Points are available for a variety of activities such as membership, project work, 4-H training and workshops, participation in club and county events, and demonstrate consistent leadership. To be eligible for Honor Club, 4-H clubs must apply by October 1st.

[Honor Club Application](#)



Teen Opportunities at the Fair

Teen Assistants- Up to \$600 will be awarded to a maximum of 30 teen members for hours volunteered to assist with fair. The amount of the award will be dependent on the number of participants and the total number of hours. Teens wishing to participate must notify the CCE office by Fair Cleanup Day and keep record of duties completed during the fair. Selection and supervision will be done by 4-H staff. Teens will be asked to set up exhibits, assist at shows, do demonstrations, maintain exhibits, and more. Please reach out to Eileen if you are interested.

Teen Manager in the 4-H Snack Bar at the Schaghticoke Fair. Our 4-H Snack Bar runs in a unique way with the teens as the cooks to give them real world work experience with clubs volunteering in the front to take the orders. Teens will receive \$30 for each shift completed, please encourage your teens to complete the application if they have not done so already, and add their name to the google document for the shifts they would like to sign up for.

[4-H Teen Manager Snack Bar Application](#)

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kjGHdmltZ7qouK3InTnOlgePtkEnUpiNWouaxmw_4dM/edit?usp=sharing

Ambassador Council Teens

Ambassador Council Teens meet every other month to carry out community service. In May, teens met at the Van Rensselaer Manor to support a luau for the residents. If you are interested in joining, email Kandis or Eileen!

Teen Exchange

Well, by the time many of you read this current issue of Clover Chronicle, our Teen Exchange will be exploring agriculture and making new friends in southeast Washington and Idaho. We cannot wait to share all our experiences in the next issue. In the meantime, keep an eye on our travel week posts on FB. Thank you to so many of you that supported our Chicken BBQ and our July Donor Calendar. Keep an eye for our club display in the CCE building at the fair. Please also let us treat you to a delicious chicken BBQ on October 15th. You can reserve your dinner by going online to our donate button and providing your name and number of dinners https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=NJDL6WY2MGZ58.



Cornell Career Explorations

Cornell Career Explorations was held in June and July on the Cornell University campus. Rensselaer County 4-H was very happy to participate! During the three-day conference, participants were able to experience life on a large university campus. They stayed in the dorms, had their meals in a dining hall, and explored all over the campus. Some of our 4-H'ers were part of the University U program and participated in six different programs which introduced them to a variety of topics. Other youth took part in the Focus for Teens program, where they spent the three days being immersed in a specific program. All the programs were led by Cornell faculty and students.

Some of the programs that our delegation participated in included: Hospitality, STEM, Agriculture, Engineering, Communications, and Equine Science.

Our 4-H members were able to make connections with other 4-H members from all over New York State. These connections will be rekindled at other 4-H events, and our 4-H'ers often say that the best part of the experience was making so many new friends. Some of the trip highlights that they shared were meeting new people, the workshops, learning about new things, and getting some ideas of what they might like to do in the future.

Cornell Career Explorations is an annual 4-H Awards Trip and requires that youth apply in January. For more information about next year's trip, please contact the CCE office.



Teen Council Scholarship

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rensselaer County 4-H Teen Ambassador Council Scholarship is a very special award. The money is raised by 4-H'ers to honor and support fellow 4-Her's taking next steps after graduation. This year I am excited to announce this year's scholarship recipient as MacKenzie Diamond, of Wynantskill.

MacKenzie has been a member of Rensselaer County 4-H for 6 years; she is graduating from Averill Park High School with plans to attend Paul Smith's College in their environmental studies program. She has taken on many leadership roles at the club, county and state levels and donated countless hours to community service. In that time, she has demonstrated exceptional dedication, enthusiasm, and leadership. From the very beginning, she immersed herself fully, taking advantage of every opportunity available. Her willingness to say "yes" to outreach, leadership roles, and new experiences has made her a role model for younger members, her peers, and adult volunteers alike.

Mackenzie is widely recognized for her optimism and her ability to see the positive in every situation. This was especially evident during a challenging period in her primary 4-H project, raising goats. When one of her animals suffered a severe injury that led to the amputation of a leg, Mackenzie demonstrated exceptional compassion and resilience. She continued to provide dedicated care for her goat, Olive, and chose to bring her to the county fair, despite knowing she would not place in competition. Her actions reflected the empathy, perseverance, and commitment that are at the heart of the 4-H experience.

MacKenzie has served as a teen leader at numerous events, contributed to outreach and educational activities, and taken on key responsibilities at the county, state and national level. She has assisted with New York State Fair 4-H displays, ensuring exhibits were judged, attended New York State 4-H Capital Days, Cornell Career Explorations, National 4-H Conference, National Congress and Ignite. She also was a part of the 4-H Influencers team, where she helped create and share content for New York State 4-H social media.

If you are looking for a dependable, motivated, and inspiring teen leader, Mackenzie is among the first to step forward. She consistently brings energy, thoughtfulness, and a commitment to learning and sharing knowledge with others—hallmarks of a 4-H member who is truly Beyond Ready. She demonstrates the confidence, character, and skills needed to thrive in new environments and contribute meaningfully to her community. Without a doubt, she will make the most of her time at Paul Smith's College, as she is fully 4-H Beyond Ready for success and leadership at the next level.



Upcoming Opportunities

Make & Take

4pm during Fair Clean Up at the Schaghticoke Fairgrounds in CCE Building. Photos can be entered in this year's county fair as well at State Fair. County Fair- we will add to your FairEntry Registration for you. If you are interested in also entering them in State Fair, please see evaluation information below.

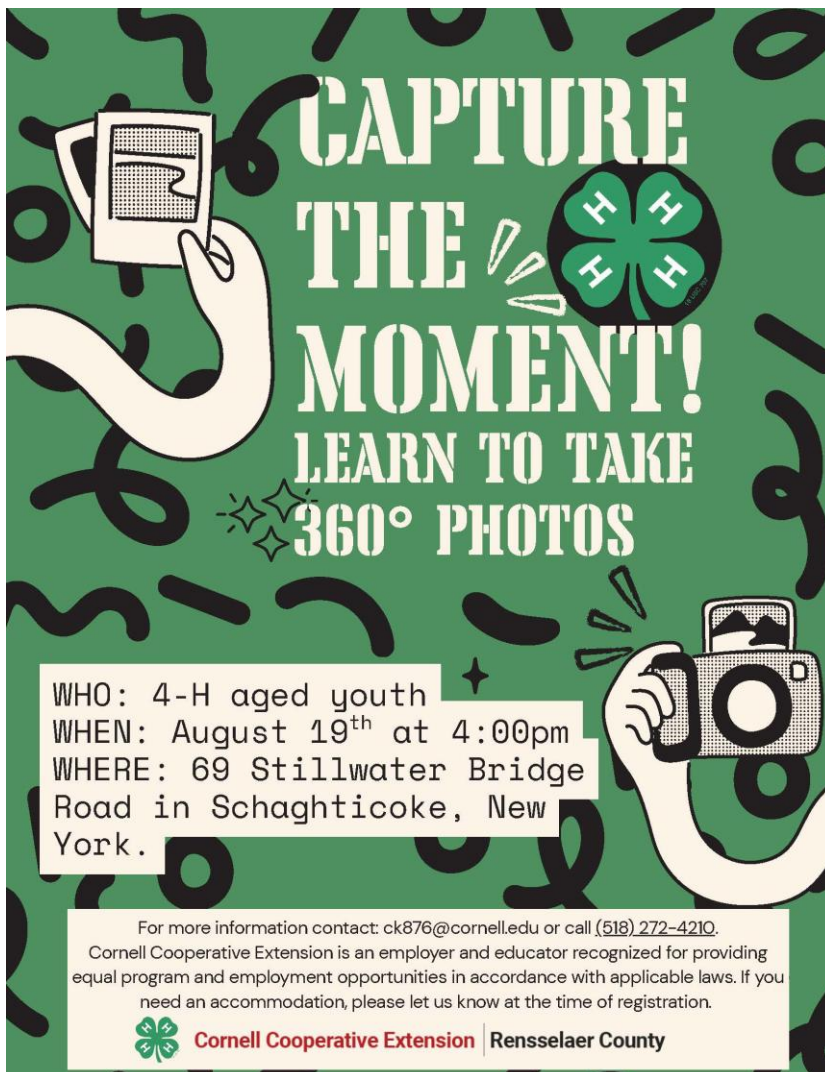
No Registration is required to participate in Make & Take class- just show up to CCE Building at 4pm.

Entering 360 photo in NYS State Fair

1. Email photo/s by August 1st to Kandis Freer - kmf83@cornell.edu
2. Complete Universal Evaluation Sheet

[NYS 4-H Evaluation Information Sheet.docx](#) | [Powered by Box](#)

- a. Section B, Class 2
3. Complete Exhibit Card
[State Fair Tags](#)



CAPTURE THE MOMENT! LEARN TO TAKE 360° PHOTOS

WHO: 4-H aged youth
WHEN: August 19th at 4:00pm
WHERE: 69 Stillwater Bridge Road in Schaghticoke, New York.

For more information contact: ck876@cornell.edu or call (518) 272-4210.
Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for providing equal program and employment opportunities in accordance with applicable laws. If you need an accommodation, please let us know at the time of registration.

 **Cornell Cooperative Extension** | Rensselaer County

Junior Chefs

Welcome to Fall!

Monday, September 28th

6:00pm @ the CCE Office

The Junior Chefs will meet on Monday, September 28th at the CCE Office

The Junior Chefs will be making food items with a fall theme. There is a participation fee of \$10.00 for 4-H members and \$12.00 for non-members. Pre-registration is required no later than Thursday, September 24th, and registration will be limited. To register a youth, or for more information, please contact Eileen at emd32@cornell.edu



4-H Agribusiness Career Conference

Mark your calendars! Official Registration will be released in July- but please let Mamnenge know if you are interested.

The 2026 4-H Agribusiness Career (ABC) Conference is coming soon! Join us for an exciting opportunity to explore careers in agriculture, connect with industry professionals, tour SUNY Cobleskill, and engage in hands-on learning experiences with fellow 4-H members from across the state.

Open to enrolled 4-H youth ages 14 and older.

Dates: October 8-9, 2026

Location: SUNY Cobleskill AG & Tech



NYS Youth Livestock Ambassador Program – Applications Now Open

Are you a high school student interested in animals, agriculture, veterinary medicine, nutrition, marketing, or leadership? The NEW YORK STATE LIVESTOCK AMBASSADOR PROGRAM (LAP) is an exciting opportunity to explore careers in the livestock industry while gaining valuable hands-on experience!

Open to students entering 11th grade and above

Participants will meet industry professionals and gain experience for future careers in the livestock industry. Program runs from Late Fall through Spring

Participants must commit to attending all scheduled sessions and events

Application requirements include a letter of reference and a basic resume

Program Cost: \$100

Application Deadline: September 1st

For more information, contact:

Brian Aukema – bja14@cornell.edu

607-254-1208

New York State Animal and Agriculture Leadership Program

The New York Youth Animal Science team is thrilled to announce the launch of the second year of the NYS Animal and Agricultural Leadership (AAL) Program — a statewide opportunity for high school students entering at least their sophomore year.

This unique program allows students to explore post-secondary education and career pathways in the dairy, livestock, and equine industries. Participants will connect with faculty and college students, engage in college and career planning, and take part in personal development activities — all within a dynamic, hands-on learning environment.

Throughout the program, students will gain exposure to the field of animal science, exploring opportunities within various species and learning how those interests can translate into diverse career paths.

Program Highlights:

Four two-day sessions held throughout the year

Interactive experiences across multiple animal science disciplines

Networking and mentorship opportunities

Skill-building in leadership, planning, and communication

Application Deadline: September 1

Selections will be made based on each applicant's essay, demonstrated interest, and a personal reference.

Program Fee: \$100 per student for the year

Apply and learn more at: <https://cals.cornell.edu/.../nys-animal-and-agriculture...>

Bloomin' Socks Fundraiser

Rensselaer County 4-H will have a Bloomin' Socks fundraiser this summer. The socks will come in a variety of patterns including the 4-H Clover, several animal fun patterns (cows, goats, horses, chickens, rabbits, and sheep) and tractors. They would make great gifts, or a treat for yourself! The socks are 100% American made and will sell for \$12.00 a pair. Each purchase supports Rensselaer County 4-H. To purchase socks, contact Eileen at emd32@cornell.edu. We will also have socks at upcoming 4-H events as well as at the fair to purchase.

Clover Fun Run October 24th

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. 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.

Past Events

Mane Event Results - Congratulations!

A heartfelt congratulations and thank you to all our members and their families that supported them in attending and our Mane Event Show and Team Challenge. It was a perfect weekend and lots of learning and fun was had by all.

1st place team – Madyson Bull, Mya Bull and Evyn Patenaude

2nd place team – Ariana Severance, Allison Gansowski and Kennedy Hunter

3rd place team – Lili Ruepp, Christina Lynch and Audrey Kondak

4th place team – Eva Higgins, Olivia Doroski and Korabeth Thompson

With Individual riders of Rylynn Starks and Cloverbuds Madylynn Rathbun, Emmalynn Fowler, Shyann and Daisy Hayashi.

Another thank you to all who made this event possible, including our judges.



Congratulations to Vincent Reiter!

Congratulations to Vincent Reiter who represented Rensselaer County and Region 5 B in the New York State 4-H Hippology and Horse Judging Teams. Vincent joined junior members from Fulton/Montgomery to create our region 5B Junior Team which competed in both Horse Judging and Hippology. Vincent placed 10th individually and the 5B Junior Team placed 3rd for Horse Judging. Thank you to Alicia Hayashi our county and regional coach, and all the parents and volunteers that made this contest possible.



3-Day Clinic, Thursday Night Clinic & Day at the Track Photos



FAIR INFORMATION

Fair Clean Up

On Wednesday, August 19th 4-H families from across Rensselaer County will gather at the fairgrounds to clean out the winter cobwebs and spruce up for the fair. Although the majority of 4-H'ers display projects in the 4-H Building, there is a relatively small crew of volunteers to clean up and set up. Everyone is asked to chip in to help. Remember - many hands make light work! Cleanup will start at 1 PM for those available, "Make and Take" workshops at 4 PM followed by finishing cleaning and setup in the 4-H Building and Barns. Since attendance at Fair Clean-Up Day has fallen off in recent years, the clean-up/set-up process has been streamlined. Display dividers are no longer covered with new paper on fair clean-up day. Clubs should keep this in mind when preparing their stationary exhibits. Paper will be available during judging and exhibit set-up for clubs that need to cover the dividers.

The fair schedule often conflicts with back-to-school activities, so members and volunteers should mark the dates on their calendars and be prepared to plan ahead to be able to fit everything in.

General Interest Evaluations

There will again be two General Interest Judging Days this year, Saturday, August 29th from 9am-12pm and Monday, August 31st from 4-7pm. General Interest entries are due on or before August 10th.

Snack Bar Coupons/ Refillable Cups

4-H Members and families can purchase Snack Bar Coupons at the Snack Bar with cash or credit card. We know many of you are up at the fair all week and this is our way to make purchasing food at the Snack Bar a little more affordable. For \$7.50 you will receive a coupon redeemable for \$10 worth of food. This is a great thing to purchase for young people staying at the fair, so they do not have to carry money around with them! We hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity. We will also have \$15 refillable cups for sale this year- with free refills for the entire fair (please do not bring last year's cups for refills)! Please call Kandis with any questions.



4-H Presentations at the Schaghticoke Fair

4-H members who participated in County Presentations are eligible to give a repeat performance at the Fair. If you would like to do a presentation at the fair, please contact Eileen at emd32@cornell.edu to schedule a time for your presentation in the CCE building. This is a non-competitive event that offers 4-H members the opportunity to present for an audience of the General Public and other 4-H Members. We do ask that you let us know by Wednesday, August 19th if you plan to do a presentation.

Club Exhibits

Club leaders, we are working on our plan for the CCE building, if your club is planning a Club Exhibit this year, please let Eileen (emd32@cornell.edu) know as soon as possible to reserve your exhibit space.

Prepare for the Fair

All the pages of the 4-H Schaghticoke Fair book are crammed full of important information, rules, and regulations. And there are some changes this year! It can be a daunting task to try to figure out what to enter, and where to enter it. Leaders, parents, and members are encouraged to contact the 4-H office with questions about any of the classes or projects listed in the fair book.

Now is the time to ask questions about projects that may fall outside of recognized 4-H curricula. Help us avoid disappointments on judging days. We certainly do not want members to show up with items that cannot be evaluated by our judges!

Unfortunately, 4-H members often bring wonderful items to the fair only to find out they are not suitable for exhibit in the 4-H Building. 4-H leaders can be our first line of defense in preventing this disappointment. As we approach fair time, please remind your members that not everything we do and not everything we make during the project year is eligible to exhibit at the fair. Leaders should use their fair book as a guide. If your club has made something or worked on a project that does not fit into a category in the fair book, it is not appropriate for exhibit in the CCE Building and cannot be evaluated by our judges. If you have any questions, please contact the 4-H office. If we cannot find a way to make projects fit into the CCE Building, we can help you enter them in the Open Class.

Horse questions should be directed to Bernie Wiesen <mailto:bw27@cornell.edu>

Other animal questions should be directed to Mamnenge Gbim-Gbande <mailto:mbg242@cornell.edu>

Questions about General Interest projects, Club Exhibits, or special opportunities in the CCE Building during the fair should be directed to Eileen DePaula <mailto:emd32@cornell.edu>

Questions about the Snack Bar and Fair Auction should be directed to Kandis Freer <mailto:kmf83@cornell.edu>

Dogs at the Schaghticoke Fair

Just a reminder to all 4-H'ers and families interested in exhibiting dogs at the Schaghticoke Fair and NYS Fair- Dogs must be owned or leased by June 15 of the project year. 4-H youth who have trained their personal, immediate family, or a leased dog in the 4-H Dog Obedience program, or any other dog series & passed satisfactory evaluation at designated 4-H county dog evaluation event are eligible to participate at these events. If you have questions, please reach out to Mamnenge.

4-H Tractor Driving Contest at the Schaghticoke Fair

Have you taken the 4-H HOSTA Tractor Safety Course? Do you want to demonstrate your skill behind the wheel at the Schaghticoke Fair? All 4-H members who have successfully completed the 4-H Tractor Safety Course can participate in the annual 4-H Tractor Driving Contest at the Schaghticoke Fair that will take place on Sunday, September 6th at 4:00 PM. Participants will drive on a closed course that will have them demonstrate equipment inspection, turning, backing, and stopping. To sign up for the 4-H Tractor Driving Contest please do so on Fair Entry by August 10th. If you have questions, contact Mamnenge at 4-H office by calling 518.272.4210.

State Veterinarian Check-In Schedule

The State Veterinarian will be available at the Schaghticoke Fairgrounds for livestock check-in on the following dates and times:

Tuesday, September 1st: 2:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Wednesday, September 2nd: 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM

If you need assistance coordinating your veterinary check-in at the fairgrounds, please contact Mamnenge at 518-641-2521.

2026 New York State Fair Animal Health Requirements

The 2026 NYS County Fairs and New York State Fair Animal Health Requirements are now available online. In state and out-of-state requirements have been consolidated into a single document.

You can find the requirements by going to: <https://agriculture.ny.gov/farming/fairs>

and scrolling down the page until you find the section “Fair Health Requirements”.

2026 Fair Animal Health Requirements:

<https://agriculture.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2026/01/fairhealthrequirements.pdf>

For instate poultry exhibitors, no-cost poultry **pullorum clinics** are listed on the NYS Ag & Markets website, exhibitors wishing to participate in clinics should check the website for updates.

<https://agriculture.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2026/01/pullorumclinicschedule.pdf>

All animals, including single day competition animals, paid animal exhibits, volunteer demonstration exhibits, show animals or any other category of animals, *must* meet NYS Fair Health Requirements to be present at a NYS county fair or the New York State fair.

Due to ongoing national animal disease events, exhibitors are encouraged to check the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets website for updated emergency animal disease regulations for state and county fairs on a regular basis. These regulations may change in response to animal disease events in real time and may apply to both instate and out-of-state exhibitors.

Animal Health Considerations Before, During and After the Fair

Participating in fairs and agricultural shows is a fun and rewarding part of 4-H. These events bring together people and animals from many different places, which can create unique health risks. When we bring animals to fairs, we take on the responsibility of keeping them and ourselves safe. Proper animal care and smart practices help reduce the risk of spreading diseases. Whether it's a common illness or something more serious, taking simple precautions before, during, and after the fair can make a big difference.

Prior to taking animals to a fair or show

Work with your veterinarian to establish a herd wide vaccination program. Ensure that all fair animals are vaccinated according to requirements.

Do not bring any visibly sick or unthrifty animals to a fair or show.

Complete tests as required by show, county or state fair regulations. Provide appropriate paperwork.

Obtain a properly completed Certificate of Veterinary Examination from your veterinarian for each species including individual tamperproof identification for each animal to be exhibited.

Test for bovine viral diarrhea (BVD) and BVD-PI status. Work with your veterinarian to determine testing protocol.

Minimize stress prior to the fair by providing a clean, dry and comfortable environment, plenty of water and offer the same feeds that will be taken to the fair.

Transport to fair and shows in clean trailers. Do not transport other exhibitors' animals in the same trailer. Avoid the use of commercial trailers.

During the fair:

Maintain Cleanliness: Maintaining cleanliness is paramount when handling animals. Before and after interacting with animals, thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water. This practice prevents the spread of germs between animals and humans. Present a good image to the public through proper personal hygiene.

Keep Pens Clean and Dry: Ensure animals' pens at fairs or shows remain clean and dry. Regularly dispose of waste, used bedding, and uneaten food to maintain hygienic conditions.

Provide Clean Water and Feed: Offer animals clean water and consistent feed throughout the show or fair. Avoid changing the type or source of feed or water during exhibitions. Keep unused feed, forage, and equipment covered to prevent contamination.

Limit Contact: Minimize contact with animals from different farms and avoid sharing equipment with other exhibitors. Restricting interaction between animals, exhibitors, and equipment from disparate sources reduces the risk of contamination. Do not allow nose-to-nose contact with animals from other farms or other animal species. Avoid contact with manure from other animals. This means keeping wheelbarrow tires, pitch forks and especially feeding equipment clean and free of manure.

Disinfect Equipment: Do not use the same equipment for animals at the show and those on the farm. Disinfect all equipment thoroughly before returning it to the farm to safeguard animals remaining there from show-related contamination.

Dispose Properly: Dispose of any remaining bedding, feed, and forage either at the show or at an appropriate off-farm site after the exhibition.

After the fair:

When transporting animals to home farm, have designated areas to unload animals away from home herd.

House show animals in a separate facility from the rest of the herd for 3–4 weeks upon return to prevent potential disease spread. Use separate equipment for returning animals. Work routine should be modified so that returning animals are attended to last. Monitor animals for signs of disease, such as fever, diarrhea, skin abnormalities, heel warts, mastitis or abortions.

Minimize stress by making sure they are comfortable, well fed and watered. This will give them the best chance to fight off any infection picked up at the fair.

Ensure that the home herd is well vaccinated prior to any animals attending shows or fairs. Should a returning animal bring home a disease there will be less chance of a disease outbreak.

Adhering to these guidelines ensures responsible animal care during fairs and shows, minimizing health risks and promoting the well-being of all animals involved.

Rabbit/Cavy/Poultry Barn Shifts

It is required that every child bringing poultry or a rabbit to the fair sign up for at least two barn shifts.

Please sign up via Google Doc:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FszliOM3BgjOqvNH_bn6t7JSRVFXfBkzpVbOspGeKVk/edit?tab=t.0

If you are unable to view the google document or have any questions, please contact Mamnenge.

***Please note they are 2 hours and 15 minutes to try to avoid as many gaps as we have had in the past- maximum 2 youth per shift.

Pullorum Testing to show at Fairs

If you cannot make that date visit the website below:

<https://agriculture.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2026/05/pullorumclinicschedule.pdf>

for an alternate date. Pullorum- an infectious, bacterial, poultry disease caused by the bacterium Salmonella pullorum. The disease affects mainly young chicks and pullets, but can also affect older chickens, game birds, guinea fowl, ostriches, parrots, peafowl, ring doves, sparrows, and turkeys.

Birds must be tested for pullorum-typhoid to attend county or New York State fairs and shows. The testing date for Rensselaer County/Schaghticoke Fair is Saturday, August 8th, 2026, from 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM at the Schaghticoke Fairgrounds, Stillwater Bridge Rd., Schaghticoke NY.

4-H Silent Auction

We are again asking clubs and independent members to collect donations, hang up posters, and ask community businesses to help publicize the Annual 4-H Auction by displaying it on their reader boards, A-frame signs, their websites, or any social media their company uses.

Proceeds from the auction help support the Teen College Scholarships, fair judges and awards, and all educational activities and trips.

This is one of the largest fundraising opportunities for Rensselaer County 4-H. To make this successful, we need your help!

To ensure that all donors receive a Thank You note from Rensselaer County 4-H, please submit a list of donors to Kandis.

Name of Business or Individual	Complete Mailing Address	Items Donated

The Snack Bar Schedule

We have a few spots left. To receive fair passes your club must be signed up for a Snack Bar shift.

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
7:30am-11am	Hoosick Shamrocks	Jogging Juniors	Hooves, Paws & Claws	Clover Kids & Critters	Blue Ribbon Bandits	Feathers & Furs
11am-2:30pm	Giglio Family	Equine Explorers	Kaufman Family	Nichols Family	Boots & Roots	
2:30pm-6pm	Growing Clovers	Diamond, Goyer & Danish Families	Stablemates	Clover Kids & Critters	Grown in Groveside	Mountain Clovers (Could use another family)
6pm-9:30pm	Trailblazers	Southern Livestock	Stablemates	Cropsey Family	Stateline Livestock	

Schaghticoke Fair Snack Bar Wish List

As you all know, prices are always on the rise, and it is important to the 4-H Program and Teen Ambassador/Council Members to keep the prices at the 4-H Snack Bar low and affordable. In order to do this we are asking each club to give one donation.

Clubs are encouraged to pool funds to purchase **something** off the list or a **gift certificate to Hannaford, Price Chopper, Wal-Mart, or Sam's Club** will allow us to keep our prices low and affordable while raising money for our 4-H members. All proceeds from the Snack Bar go toward the Scholarship Fund, awards, Fair Judges, educational activities, and trips.

Cases of Water
Tea bags– large and regular size
Honey Mustard Dressing – 2, 13 oz bottles
Creamy Italian Dressing – 2, 13 oz bottles
Italian Dressing– 2, 13 oz bottles
Sweet N' Low packets
Hot Dog Buns
Individual bagged chips
Salsa
Shredded cheese– taco blend
Mustard

Mayo
Taco Seasoning
Hot Coco mix
One time salt and pepper shakers
Vegetable Oil
Hot Dogs
Individual Cereal
Sour Cream
Relish
Ketchup
Freeze Pops

4-H Teen Manager Snack Bar Application

Job Description: A teen manager needs to be at least 13 years old, upbeat, and positive, able to work well with others, organized and ambitious. They are expected to prepare food, clean dishes, restock during the fair, disinfect, and clean the workspace, participate in the clean up before and/ or after fair, and assist where needed. It is also expected that a teen manager acts professionally, is respectful, and is comfortable talking to the adult manager on shift or CCE Staff.

A Teen Manager may also run the cash register if they feel comfortable. Along with the other expectations, the cashier needs to be able to work with the public, perform under pressure, practice good customer service, and be accurate and proficient in making change.

The Snack Bar is looking for Teens that are ready to be the face of 4-H for our County. If you are interested, complete the form, and return it to the 4-H Office or email it as an attachment to kmf83@cornell.edu

Please use additional paper for your answers if needed.

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Years in 4-H: _____

1. What leadership roles have you played in school or 4-H?

2. Previous job experience (any job counts, please specify)

3. Did any of the jobs include working with a cash register?

Cornell Cooperative Extension | Rensselaer County

99 Troy Road, Suite 203
East Greenbush, NY 12061
Tel: 518-272-4210 Fax: 272-1648

To: 4-H Auction Donors

August 1, 2026

From: Rensselaer County 4-H Teen Council Ambassadors

Re: 4-H Auction

4-H members and volunteers in Rensselaer County are planning a major annual auction as a fundraising event.

As a 4-H member in good standing, I am seeking a donation from your business for the auction. All proceeds from the Auction go toward college scholarships, fair judges, awards, educational activities, educational trips, and support volunteer recognition efforts.

Since 1917, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rensselaer County (CCE-Rensselaer) has responded to the needs of residents with unbiased, research-based information, tools and education that people have come to depend on and trust. Our programs are developed in direct response to community input and are based on the most current information available from Cornell and other Land Grant universities from across the nation. From our experiences we know that 4-H changes lives, helping youth to become confident, mature adults ready to succeed in today's challenging worlds. Studies show that youth participating in 4-H do better in school, are more motivated to help others, feel safe trying new things, and develop lasting friendships. Access to Cornell's resources gives young people an opportunity to make connections for college and beyond.

CCE-Rensselaer is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization and is part of the Cooperative Extension land grant system, a partnership between County, State, and Federal governments that is administered in New York State through Cornell University. Your donation is considered a charitable contribution, please let us know if you need more documentation.

Your generous assistance in support of these worthwhile causes is certainly appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this or any other 4-H program, please feel free to call Kandis Freer at the Rensselaer County 4-H office at 272-4210 ext. 106.

On behalf of Rensselaer County 4-H Youth Development, and the young people who benefit from 4-H programs, thank you for your support.

4-H EXTRA Tee Shirts

Tee shirt orders are due on or before August 9th.

Available in both youth and adult sizes. (Please note shirts are NOT available in Youth Extra Large.)

Tee shirts cost \$12 (there will be an additional \$3.00 for adult 2XL and 3XL)

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Club: _____
--



Specify number of shirts for each size	small	medium	large	XL	2XL	3XL
Youth Tee shirt				n/a	n/a	n/a
Adult Tee-shirt						

Pay by check or with credit card at <https://rensselaer.cce.cornell.edu/donate> and email Eileen DePaula the completed order form.

New York State Fair Selections

4-H projects that were chosen at the 2025 Schaghticoke Fair for the New York State Fair will be evaluated and on display in Syracuse from August 26th to September 7th. All projects must be delivered to the CCE office no later than Friday, August 21st, or can be dropped off at Fair Clean Up Day on August 19th.

All State Fair projects do need an "Exhibitor Entry Statement". The NYS 4-H office is working on updating the form and when available it will be on the 4-H forms page CCE Rensselaer website at <https://rensselaer.cce.cornell.edu/4-h-youth/4-h-forms>.

Please be sure to remove all tags and ribbons from your project, repair any damage that may have occurred during the year, make sure it is neat and clear. Pack it securely for transport to the State Fair.

If you have any questions, please contact Eileen at emd32@cornell.edu and watch upcoming email blasts for more information as well.

Those projects chosen to advance to the 2026 State Fair are:

Melody Bailey: sourdough bread

Evelyn Brownell: pottery cup, pottery dog

Juliette Brownell: photo, sourdough pumpkin muffins

Carlo Colarossi: pastry cutter

Kira Colarossi: bouquet, gladiola

Thomas Colarossi: cherry ornaments

Owen Campenella: graphic print, level, checkerboard

Lucas Corrow: crochet hair scrunchies

Mackenzie Danish: brownies

Maggie Etman: sculpture

Lily Bell Ellis: cowboy toothpicks

Jace Freer: rocker, boot jack

Bret Giglio: paintings

Olivia Goyer: painting

Blake McCormick: photo

Jameson Roberts: photo

Benjamin Stratton: sculpture

Carter Stratton: plate, wood inlay, napkin holder, clipboard, oak table

Sophia Uccellini: what's for dinner game

Wade Wilcox: photo, glass flower, banana bread

Whelan Wilcox: oatmeal cookies, glass flower

Exploring Nature with all 5 Senses

When you interact with nature, you may utilize all of your five senses in order to experience the world around you in various ways. Taste nature when it's safe to do so, listen to its sounds, smell its new scents, feel its textures, and take in its vivid colors and intricacies.

Sight:

Nature is full of many tiny details that may initially be invisible to the eye. Take some time to notice the tiny details all around you. Observe small characteristics in larger things, for example the bark on a tree. Further these observations by using field guides to identify vegetation and wildlife or by writing down your observations in nature journals.

Sound:

A peaceful approach to becoming aware of the environment around you is to listen to the sounds of nature. One of the best ways to hear the sounds of nature is to find a quiet spot and concentrate on listening to the small details and sounds. One excellent way to strengthen your connection to the sounds around you are to use apps like Merlin Bird ID to help you better understand bird sounds surrounding you.

Smell:

There are plenty of scents of nature everywhere you go. Compare scents of the different plants around you or seasonal smells like a hot summer day in New York vs a crisp cool one. Scents can help us further connect with the world around us.

Touch:

Feel various elements around you such as the soft squishy mosses or tall flowy grasses. Compare textures of different tree barks and leaves. Touching nature directly can be an amazing way to feel connected to the earth around you.

Taste:

Enjoy fruits, vegetables, flowers and anything else safe and edible from nature. Engage your senses by foraging for food, visiting farmer's markets, or enjoying nature walks while sampling local produce.

Take some time to explore the natural areas around you in a new mindful way. Slow down, pay attention and actively engage all of your senses. Happy exploring nature with all 5 senses!

County Medal Application

[countymedalfillable.pdf](#)

To be considered, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Must be 14 years old as of January first of the current 4-H year and currently enrolled as an active 4-H member.
 2. Must have participated in the Medal project area for a minimum of 2 years and able to document outstanding work related to project quality and quantity.
 3. Must have diversified experiences related to the project area, including a leadership component.
- Your completed County Medal Application must be completed and returned to the 4-H office by AUGUST 10th of the current 4-H project year. *Late arrivals will be disqualified.* NOTE: Members may apply for a County Medal in more than one project area each year. However, they will not receive more than one Medal award per year. Medals are awarded only once in each project area. Complete both pages which includes a summary.

County Medal Categories

Achievement in Area not Listed	Entomology	Tractor /Engine
Agriculture	Fashion Revue/Sewing	Photography
Beef	Fitness	Poultry
Breads	Food & Nutrition	Public Speaking/Commentary
Cavy	Food Preservation	Rabbit
Community Service	Forestry	Safety
Conservation	Gardening/Horticulture	Sheep
Consumer Education	Health	Shooting Sports
Dairy	Horse	Swine
Dairy Foods	Leadership	Vet Science
Dog Care	Natural Resources	Wood Science
Applicant Name (please print):		
Mailing Address:		
Zip:		
<i>The undersigned verify this application represents an accurate record of achievement as stated:</i>		
Applicant Signature:		
Leader Signature:		

Please give a summary of the most valuable lessons you have learned as the result of your involvement in your selected project area. Have your expectations changed for the project? Do you envision a career in this field? Has this project made an impact on your life? Has this project allowed you to influence others in a positive way? How have you grown through this project?

Farm Day Out Farm Day Out 2026

Cornell Cooperative Extension Rensselaer County is pleased to invite community members to Farm Day Out at Mill Pond Alpacas at 11 Old Mill Pond Road, Nassau, NY on Saturday, September 26, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. as part of National Alpaca Farm Days Weekend.

This free family-friendly event offers visitors the opportunity to experience alpacas up close while learning about fiber agriculture and the journey from fiber animal to finished product. Guests can enjoy photo opportunities with alpacas, explore fiber animals, pick their own pumpkins, and browse offerings from local vendors.

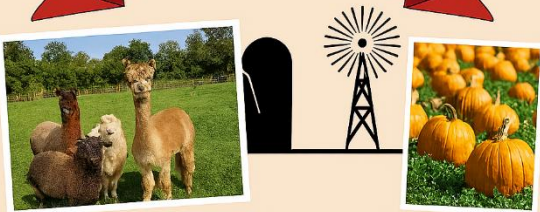
Farm Day Out is designed to connect families with local agriculture through hands-on learning and fun activities for all ages. Whether you are curious about alpacas, interested in local agriculture, or simply looking for a fun fall outing, there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

We are looking for volunteers with fiber animals (sheep, goats, rabbits, etc.) to participate in our upcoming Farm Day Out! This is a wonderful opportunity to help educate the public about fiber animals, wool, and where fiber products come from while sharing your passion for agriculture.

If you are interested in volunteering with your animals, please let Mamnenge know at mbg242@cornell.edu.

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Rensselaer County

Farm Day Out



NATIONAL ALPACA FARM WEEKEND
September 26th, 2026
11am to 3pm

MILL POND ALPACAS

- Fiber animals
- Pick your own pumpkins
- Local vendors
- Photo ops
- Learn about fiber agriculture and where fiber products come from
- Experience alpacas up close
- Fun day for the family

**11 Old Mill Pond Road,
Nassau, NY 12123**

Summer Intern

Christopher "Critter" Kuhbender will be working as a summer intern through the fair.

Critter comes to us from South Georgia, where he is a third-year student at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC) and worked as a Program Assistant in the Cook County Extension Office.

Critter has 14 years of experience as a 4-Her in Georgia. In Georgia 4-H he showed livestock, competed in judging and public speaking competitions, and participated in civic engagement and leadership activities across the state.

After graduating high school, he worked his first of three summers as a camp counselor for 4-H at Rock Eagle 4-H Center. Once he started school, he began working in Cook County with 4-H where he led activities based around agricultural and digital literacy as well as leadership and civic engagement, taking the summer off to serve as a camp counselor. Please welcome him to Rensselaer County 4-H this summer!



Thank you, Rensselaer County 4-H- A Message from Kandis

I have accepted the position of New York State 4-H STEM & Career Readiness Specialist with Cornell Cooperative Extension and will begin this new role on October 1, 2026. While I am excited for this next chapter, leaving my current position as 4-H Youth Development Team Leader in Rensselaer County is bittersweet.

For more than 17 years with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rensselaer County, I have had the privilege of working alongside incredible colleagues, volunteers, youth, families, community partners, and supporters. Together, we have created opportunities for young people to learn, grow, discover their passions, and develop the skills they need to succeed. I am deeply grateful for the relationships, experiences, and memories that have shaped both my career and my life.

As a lifelong member of the 4-H community, beginning as a participant in the Rensselaer County 4-H program, it has been especially meaningful to serve the program that had such a profound impact on me. Watching youth gain confidence, find their voice, and realize their potential has been one of the greatest rewards of my career.

I want to thank each of you for your partnership, collaboration, encouragement, and friendship over the years. The work we do is never accomplished alone, and I am fortunate to have been part of such a dedicated and passionate community.

While my role is changing, my commitment to 4-H and Cornell Cooperative Extension remains the same. I look forward to continuing to work with many of you in a new capacity as we strengthen STEM and career readiness opportunities for young people across New York State.

Thank you for being part of my journey. I am proud of all we have accomplished together and excited to see what the future holds for our youth, our communities, and our organization.

With sincere gratitude,

Kandis Freer
4-H Youth Development Team Leader
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rensselaer County
Incoming New York State 4-H STEM & Work
Readiness Specialist



Member Birthdays

August

Evyn Patenaude

Lochlen Ferris

Luke Giglio

Emalee Foucher

Lillian Lovett

Madison Pospisil

Sean O'Brien

Bria Youngmann

Bridget Gutierrez

Ella Atherton

Ella-Mae Guile

Liam Gutierrez

Eloise Tse

Jackson Kendrick

Carlo Colarossi

Jace Freer

Colin Marchaland

Camden Fisher

William Cottrell

Abbigail Hayner

Ka'eo Mosher

Sadie Lavigne

Nora Lavigne

Colton Morris

Makenna Luskin

Eva Higgins

Brooke Ames

Landyn Barton

Galen Smith

Sophie Townsend

Russell Stifter

Chelsea Ames

Vincent Reiter

Ryan Hayashi

Benjamin Grab

Bentley Morris

September

Trent Marchaland

Charles Akerson III

Mason Tudor

Paige Tudor

Lilly Bell Ellis

Joseph Watkins

Gregory Kingston



Calendar of Events

August

- 6th Shooting Sports @ Castleton Fish & Game Club; 6:00pm
- 11th Horse PDC via Zoom 7 PM
- 15th Stablemate Club Show – Fairgrounds
- 19th 4-H PDC, noon fairgrounds
- 19th Fair Clean Up; 1:00pm
- 19th Make and Take Project 4pm
- 26th – September 7th NYS Fair, Syracuse
- 29th Projects Judging at the fair 9:00am – 12:00pm
- 31st Snack Bar- teens help but away delivery at 1pm
- 31st Projects Judging at the fair 4:00pm – 7:00pm

September

- 2nd – 7th Schaghticoke Fair
- 8th Post Fair Clean Up (Pick up Projects by 4pm)
- 15th Horse PDC via Zoom 7 PM
- 22nd Leaders Roundtable @ CCE Office; 6:00pm
- 28th Junior Chefs @ CCE Office; 6:00pm