

49th Annual

4-H Agri-Business Career Conference

October 8-9, 2026 @ SUNY Cobleskill



SUNY COBLESKILL
AG & TECH



**Beyond
Ready**

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities
Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for providing equal
program and employment opportunities in accordance with applicable laws.

What will you experience at the 4-H Agri-Business Career Conference?

- Exploration of Agricultural Careers
- College Life
- Meeting Farm and Agricultural Business Owners
- Exploring Diverse Agriculture
- Enhancing your Communication and Collaboration Skills
- Making New 4-H Friends From Across NY State
- Lots of FUN!

QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

DATES: Thursday, October 8 - Friday, October 9

LOCATION: SUNY Cobleskill Campus

COST: \$150 per youth participant, \$100 per adult chaperone*

Please make checks payable to CCE Herkimer County

COST INCLUDES: Overnight accommodations and meals**

AGE TO ATTEND: Enrolled 4-H youth ages 14 and older

HOTEL: Ramada by Wyndham, 121 Burgin Drive, Cobleskill, NY 12043

REGISTRATION DUE DATE: Wednesday, September 9

Register through your local 4-H Educator!

*If a participant wishes to come for one day, that is acceptable.

However, the cost will remain the same for all whom register. **Meals include Breakfast Friday morning, Lunch Thursday and Friday, and Dinner Thursday

Participant Expectations

- As a participant you are representing the Cornell Cooperative Extension Program of your County.
- You are expected to participate fully in all parts of the program.
- The program planned will be a full schedule. It will be necessary to be on time and to stay with the groups during tours.
- Be sure to report in with your chaperone on a regular basis. Report any problems, accident or illness to your chaperone. Respect and adhere to directions of all chaperones, even if it is not the one you came with. All chaperones are responsible for all of the participants.
- Boys and girls are not permitted in each others' hotel rooms.
- Alcohol, illegal drugs, and smoking of any kind is not permitted.
- Music and television played in hotel rooms should be kept at a level so as not to disturb other hotel guests. Talking and activities in the hall should also be at levels not disturbing to other hotel guests.
- Everyone is expected to adhere to the scheduled curfew.
- Any damage to hotel property will be the responsibility of the individual.
- No participants will leave the hotel or any part of the event on campus without a chaperone assigned by their county. All participants should follow reasonable directions or requests made by any chaperone for the event.
- Use of common sense, courtesy and respect is expected of all participants.
- Get the most out of the experience by participating fully and asking questions throughout the program.

Chaperone Expectations

- Chaperones are expected to participate fully in the program.
- Chaperones are ultimately responsible for participants assigned to them by their county. However, it is appropriate to offer guidance and discipline to any participants in the program in the absence of their chaperone.
- Chaperones should make sure their participants are in their room and quiet before retiring for the evening. Chaperones should also observe announced curfew. Chaperones are responsible for seeing that their participants are up and ready on time in the morning.
- Chaperones should report any problems to any member of the event committee.

Packing List & Information for Participants

You should bring the following:

- If you have not already given an emergency medical treatment form to your chaperone, please be sure to complete it and bring it with you.
- If you have a camera or smartphone, bring it with you...it will be useful for the activities we have planned. Please don't forget to bring any cables to transfer pictures to a computer and your instruction manual as well.
- Comfortable closed toe footwear that you don't mind getting soiled as some portions of the trip are outdoors and will possibly be muddy, weather pending. Boots or cold weather footwear are recommended.
- Clothing appropriate for mid October weather.
- Casual pants, shirts and tops.
- Sweater, hooded sweatshirt, sweatshirt and/or jacket – Evening activities will be outdoors.
- Sleepwear
- Toiletries (Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Deodorant, etc...)
- Raincoat and/or umbrella
- Hand sanitizer
- Extra spending money (if you would like to purchase something from the college bookstore or carriage house)

Please give your family the information below in case they have to get in touch with you.

Thursday afternoon: Farm visits off campus & SUNY Cobleskill Campus

Thursday evening: On campus, then the night is spent at the Ramada by Wyndham, 121 Burgin Drive, Cobleskill, NY 12043

Phone: 518-360-2679

Friday: SUNY Cobleskill Campus



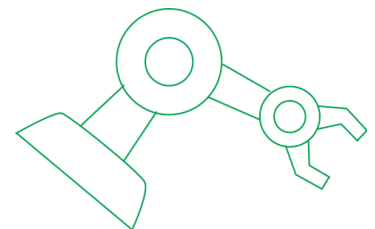
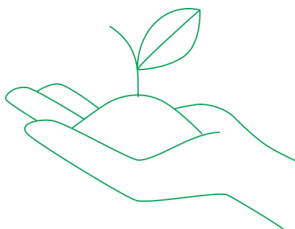
2026 ABC Conference Schedule

Thursday, October 8

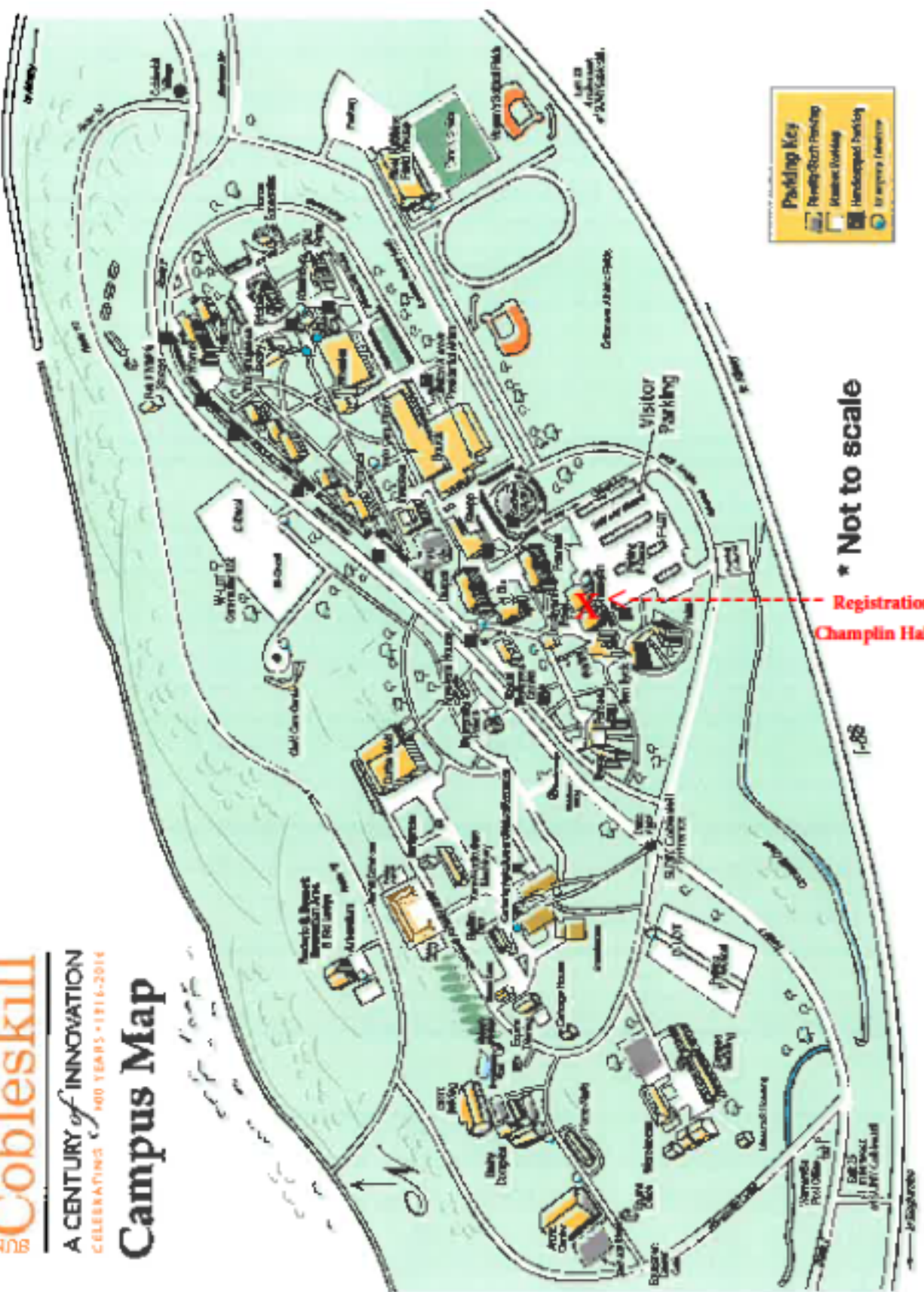
9:15am-10:00am	Registration/Mixer activity at Upper Champlin Hall (Upstairs)
10:00am-11:00am	Welcome, orientation and college panel
11:00am-11:45am	Buffet Lunch - Upper Champlin Hall
12:30pm-1:30pm	First Mini -Tour
2:00pm-3:00pm	Second Mini -Tour
3:45pm-5:00pm	ACI Lab (Agriculture Career Investigation) Chaperone Meeting during ACI Lab
5:30pm	Banquet at SUNY Cobleskill - Upper Champlin Hall
6:00pm	ACI Group Presentations (during banquet)
7:30pm-9:30pm	Activities on Campus
9:30pm	Leave for Ramada by Wyndham Hotel

Friday, October 9

8:00am	Check out of Hotel
8:15am-8:50am	Breakfast and Campus Welcome at Champlin Dining Hall
9:00am-10:15am	First Study Session (Meet in Curtis Mott Lobby)
10:15am-11:50am	Campus Tour
11:50am-12:00pm	Meet in Curtis Mott Lobby
12:00pm-1:15pm	Second Study Session
1:15pm	Meet in Curtis Mott Lobby - Certificates and Evaluations
1:30pm	Lunch at Champlin Dining Hall and Closing
2:00pm (Approx.)	Depart for home



Cobleskill
A CENTURY of INNOVATION
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS 1916-2016
Campus Map



Link to a clearer campus map is: <http://www.cobleskill.edu/about/map-and-directions.asp>

4-H Agri-Business Career Conference Mini-Tours

1

Speaking With the Vet

Learn about the experiences of a veterinarian. Join Cobleskill Veterinary Clinic staff to learn about their practice and what they do on a daily basis. What do they enjoy and what attracted them to their career? Interested in becoming veterinarian? Then this tract is for you.

Environmental Track

Are you interested in public safety and state land protection? Are you interested in wildland search, rescue, fire suppression, law enforcement, and incident management? Join New York State Forest Ranger Aaron France as he patrols Schoharie County's nearly 35,000 acres of state forests. Ranger France will discuss the day in the life of being a NYS Forest Ranger as well as his educational background and experiences that led him to becoming a forest ranger.

2

Hessian Hill Farm

A highly diversified 4 -generation family operation that produces sheep, hogs, cattle, chickens, horses and hay on its 350 acres. The Goblet family most recently opened a farm store located right on the farm. The farm store carries all Hessian Hill Products as well as showcasing and selling locally produced items. Hessian Hill Farm Canine Center offers dog training with private lessons and workshops. Hessian Hill Canine Country and Care offers boarding and grooming services. The Goblet Family takes great pride in opening their doors to educate the public. Farmhouse Floral Design, run by Jess Beretz got its start at Hessian Hill Farm and now operates off site as a full service wedding and event florist. Growing their own flowers during the growing season and working with other growers around the world for flowers year round.

3

Schoharie Valley Farms

Once the largest carrot growing farm east of the Mississippi, Schoharie Valley Farms is now owned and managed by the Ball Family. See how diversification has helped make this farm a popular stop for local shoppers of fresh produce as well as major tourist attraction. How much does the farm store add to the operation and how did the farm survive during the rain of this past summer?

Milk Quality Lab- SUNY Cobleskill

The Quality Milk Production Services (QMPS) serves dairy producers in New York State and across the nation from four laboratories located in Canton, Cobleskill, Geneseo and Ithaca. QMPS has developed over the years from being primarily a diagnostic program to one with a comprehensive education focus designed to offer assistance to dairy producers for mastitis monitoring, prevention and surveillance.

(All Tours Subject to Change.)



Slate Hill Lavender Farm

Slate Hill Lavender Farm is a small, artisan farm nestled in the hills of Sharon Springs, NY where they specialize in growing lavender and everlasting flowers for drying. Learn about their farm and how they harvest flowers to make products they sell on the farm.

Kelley's Farm & Garden

Take a look at the retail side of agri-business with the Kelley Family. The store has been in business for over 70 years. In 2000 it became known as Kelley's Farm & Garden where they supply animal feeds, equipment, plants, lumber and more! This tour will show participants the ins and outs of supplying these goods to their community. Youth will also receive information about how they have grown their business and what it takes to work or own a business in this field.



Fairbanks Stable

Fairbanks Stable is a Boarding and Training Stable founded in 2005. Head trainer and owner, Faye Benedict Smith, is a 4H alum from the Dutchess County, NY program, and trains horses & riders in the hunter jumper industry, as well as breeding horses for various careers. On top of training and breeding, the facility also offers full-service boarding to horse owners (including SUNY Cobleskill college students), caring for over 60 horses. Lesson students can also participate on an IEA team, and in competitions, hunter paces & foxhunts.

Dairy Processing Center

Cobleskill Dairy Processing Center: An operational Dairy Processing Plant on Campus, utilizing campus produced milk. A tour of our plant focusing on equipment usage. Samples of products made on campus. Discussion of various job opportunities and options for local farmers to develop value added products in the DPC through the Institute for rural vitality. Summary of the class topics we address in the course run in the DPC.



Osborne Family Farm

Located in its current location since 1990, Osborne Family Farm is a modern 400-acre dairy farm focused on producing high-quality cattle and exceptional dairy genetics. The family operates with a strong commitment to herd health, cow comfort, and progressive farming practices. The farm markets dairy seedstock throughout the Northeast and beyond, carrying on a long-standing tradition of breeding quality cattle. Osborne Family Farm also raises grass-fed beef cattle on the home farm near the village of Sharon Springs.

Townline Equipment

Townline Equipment is synonymous with high-quality products and first-rate service. If you are interested in Agricultural Engineering this is the visit for you! Townline is one of the first twenty-five Kubota dealers established in the United States. Learn from the professionals about different positions in this field and what their normal day of business is like.

(All Tours Subject to Change.)



Black Willow Pond Farm

Black Willow Pond Farm is pasture-based. Here, the livestock are allowed to be the animals they were created to be - grazing in green pastures, scratching for bugs, simply doing what comes natural for their species! Over years of grazing and working the land, we have increased soil fertility with strict pasture management and intensive rotational grazing. We are extremely proud of the quality forage our pastures provide the livestock.

West Meadow Farm & Dairy

West Meadow Farm is so much more than just a farm. When owners Tom & Patricia Vaughan decided to throw their lot into upstate NY, their vision was much broader than simply milking their Jersey cattle. It was also much bigger than just making cheese from that milk. For Tom, West Meadow Farm is a way of life. It is serving plants, animals and soils with the respect they deserve. It is educating a community that has drifted nutritionally from the beaten path our ancestors forged for us. But ultimately, it is respecting Nature and the bounty she has given us.

(All Tours Subject to Change.)

4-H Agri-Business Career Conference College Study Sessions

Agricultural Business &
Communications

Environmental Science & Wildlife

Animal Science & Natural Sciences

Agricultural Engineering &
Technology

Floriculture & Plant Science

Canine Studies

Scenes from past conferences!



4-H Agri-Business Career Conference

Registration Form

This form does not need to be turned in as all registrations are completed online. It is simply for you to give to your 4-H members so they can select what you will register them for.

Name:	Age:
Address:	Email:
Phone #:	Chaperone:

Mini-Tour Selection

Choose/rank three Mini-Tour Options Use numbers to right for corresponding Tours	
1st Choice	
2nd Choice	
3rd Choice	

Tour 1 - Speaking with the Vet / Environmental Track

Tour 2 - Hessian Hill Farm

Tour 3 - Schoharie Valley Farms / Milk Quality Lab

Tour 4 - Slate Hill Lavender Farm / Kelley's Farm & Garden

Tour 5 - Fairbanks Stable / Dairy Processing Center

Tour 6 - Osborne's Dairy / Townline Equipment

Tour 7 - Black Willow Pond Farm / West Meadow Farm

College Study Sessions Selection

Rank the following Campus Study Sessions with ONE being your first choice and SIX being your last choice:	
Agricultural Business & Communications	
Animal Science & Natural Sciences	
Floriculture & Plant Science	
Environmental Science & Wildlife	
Agricultural Engineering & Technology	
Canine Studies	