

**Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County
Youth Development Program Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, September 17, 5:30 pm
Minutes**

1. Call to order – 5:37

Present: Penny Kephart, Jenny Groen, Steph Waters, Melanie Coley, Hannah Bush, Melissa Wheaton, Mikalene Bullock, and Tess McKinley

2. Approval of Minutes – Motion by Mel Coley, second by Hannah Bush. All approved

3. Reports

- Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC)
 - i. 2025-2026 recap
 - 1. Graphic was distributed with program statistics including 3000 students participated, 200 students visit Empire Livestock, 800 students toured a working dairy farm, local producers and state reps visit classrooms, etc.
 - 2. Summer Enrichment as Way-Co was well received.
 - ii. 2026-2027 forecast
 - 1. 11 of 13 districts participating – 2 schools increased participation.
 - 2. Way-Co Summer Enrichment Program likely again for summer 2027
- Subcommittees
 - Livestock Advisory Committee – no report
 - Small Animal Advisory Committee – no report
 - Horse Advisory Committee – no report
 - Dairy Advisory Committee – no report
- Programs
 - Shooting Sports
 - State Championship – 30 youth from
 - Report provided
 - Classes for October, November and December being planned
 - State Championship was well attended by Steuben Youth. 30 youth from 9 counties participated.
 - State Program Coordinator will be presenting basics and updates at the Finger Lakes District meeting hosted in Steuben on September 24th.
 - Dog – Jackie is starting up Dog Obedience classes on September 22 – she had 4 youth go to state fair. Received a few rosettes at NYS for Dog Obedience.
 - Sale – Prices were good for the kids, there were a lot of animals and baked goods.
 - Home Ec – No report
- Board of Directors meeting – Penny reported that the county is likely going to have CCE teach Youth in Government. CCE Steuben sharing Executive Director with CCE Chemung. The Annual Dinner is also coming up November 6.

4. Executive Director – Shared with BoD report.

5. Old Business

- Showcase
 - i. Recap – lots of growth from two years ago.
 - ii. 2027 Dates – July 22 – 24, 2027 (Thursday – Saturday)

- NYS Fair - Had a youth at every species except dairy cattle at NYS Fair. Youth did a lot of the knowledge contests at State Fair as well.

6. New Business

- Teen Leadership Opportunities – Josh Place participated in the Animals in Agriculture Leadership Program through CALS in 2025-2026. Will be participating in the Jr. Dairy Leader program for the 2026-2027 program year. CCE Steuben has provided financial assistance to offset participation costs to the family. Participants have opportunities to attend events such as the National 4-H Dairy Conference and visit progressive dairy operations throughout the Northeast and Wisconsin, preparing them for future education and careers in agriculture. Purchased IGNITE tickets for two youth and one chaperone. Will be looking at Senior Summaries to select youth to participate.
- YD PAC nominations – Losing Mel and Hannah as they are terming off. Some suggestions include Paula Brewer, Chrissy Palermo, Mackenzie Krisher and Betsey Gerber.

7. Staff Reports

- State 4-H Educators Conference in Skaneateles October 13 – 15th.

8. Announcements

- Cloverbud Day – September 19th
- 4-H Club Open House – October 8th
- Farm Trail Day – October 10th
- Macrame Class – October 12th
- ABC Cobleskill Trip – October 8 & 9
- Achievement Night – October 17th
- Fall Fundraiser Orders Due – October 19th
- Jelly, Jam & wreath making – October 24th
- CCE Annual Dinner – November 6th
- CHEESE DAY! – November 18th
- Makers Market @ Howard Building – November 21st
- Re-Enrollment Deadline – December 14th

9. Adjourn – motion by Hannah Bush and seconded by Mel Coley. All approved.

2026 Youth Development PAC proposed meeting schedule: 1/15, 3/19, 5/21, 7/16, 9/17 and 11/19