



Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County Publication

September 2024

An Event for ALL Erie County 4-Hers!!

Cornell Cooperative Extension | Erie County

YOU ARE INVITED!

**2024 FOOD IN COMMUNITY
HARVEST FESTIVAL
& 4-H CELEBRATION**

Join in the fun of celebrating our 4-H program and come together to enjoy a meal and hands-on activities as we wrap up 2024.

**Friday, September 20, 5:30-7 pm
at Chestnut Ridge Park
Martin Lodge**

Scan to register:

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County provides equal program and employment opportunities. Accommodations for persons with special needs may be requested by contacting Sara Jablonski at sej57@cornell.edu or 716-652-5400 ext. 142 by September 15, 2024.

Our end of the 2023-2024 4-H year celebration will be combined with our Food in Community Festival again this year! Come celebrate the end of a year full of hard work by eating food, doing activities, and hanging out with friends. Registration is required:

https://pub.cce.cornell.edu/event_registration/main/events_landing.cfm?event=foodincommunity-3_214



A note from Maddie...

Erie County 4-H community! What a fun time we had at this year's fair!

From seeing all of your projects arrive on evaluation day to having them displayed in the Youth Development Building, I was so impressed by the talent you all have. It was very clear how much time and effort you've put into creating your projects this 4-H year.

I had so much fun getting to see you all face-to-face in the Youth Development Building, whether that was during one of our YDB events, while you were working the 4-H Café, or watching you give a public presentation. Thank you for bringing fun and laughter into the YDB.

I'd also like to give a huge thank you to parents, guardians, volunteers, and 4-H families. Thank you for the support you provide to Erie County 4-Hers. I appreciate all of the time you commit to making our 4-H program amazing!

I'm so excited for this upcoming 4-H year! See you soon!

Maddie



Elizabeth Zynda made this sweet treat to recognize the 4-H Café workers! We love how they made a clover out of cookies. Thank you to Elizabeth Zynda.

We would like to give a huge THANK YOU to all who helped in the Café this year, especially Deb Wingate, Jean Kron, Donna Kumpf, Ellyn Charette, Pat Minnick, and Tama Gresco-Sauers. Thank you for providing healthy food to 4-Hers and fairgoers throughout the fair. We appreciate all of the hours that you've dedicated to the 4-H Café.

ERIE COUNTY 4-H



LEADER MEETING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
EAST AURORA (SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER)
6-7:30 PM

Email mgw76@cornell.edu to RSVP

We will be having a 4-H Leader Meeting on Thursday, September 26 from 6-7:30pm at the East Aurora Senior Citizens Center. The leader meeting provides a space to connect, network, and share ideas with 4-H leaders, volunteers, and staff. This is a great time to share and receive project ideas and general club tips and tricks, as well as receive updates from the 4-H office. Club Packets will be available for clubs that have not picked them up.

Parents of independent members are welcome to attend to learn more about clubs and meet other volunteers in the 4-H community.

NOTE: We require 1 adult representative from each Erie County 4-H club to attend this meeting. This can be the organizational leader of the club, but it does not have to be. It is important that clubs send a representative so that they can bring back information from the 4-H office back to their club. Clubs are welcome to send more than 1 representative.

Please RSVP to Maddie (mgw76@cornell.edu).

ERIE COUNTY 4-H OPEN HOUSE

INTERESTED IN JOINING 4-H? NEW TO 4-H THIS YEAR?

COME LEARN MORE ABOUT BEING AN
ERIE COUNTY 4-H MEMBER!



Wednesday, October 9 from 6-7:30pm
Roycroft Power House (39 S Grove St, East Aurora, NY 14052)

RSVP appreciated- email mgw76@cornell.edu

**Cornell Cooperative Extension
Erie County**



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General 4-H Calendar Snapshot for 2024



- ✓ September 18 – 4-H Alumni Meeting
- ✓ September 20 – Food in Community- Harvest Festival
- ✓ September 26 – 4-H Leader Meeting
- ✓ September 30 – Last day of 2023-24 4-H year
- ✓ October 9 – Erie County 4-H Open House
- ✓ October 19 – 4-H Alumni Meeting
- ✓ November 12 – CCE Erie Annual Meeting

This list is a work in progress and will be updated in each 4-H Monthly Newsletter.

Please contact Maddie with any questions (mgw76@cornell.edu or 716-652-5400 x 130)

HIKING

Do you want to learn more about nature? Would you like to find some cool new hiking spots in Erie County?

You're in luck! We're going to have a series this fall to get outside and get hiking!

The series will have 3 dates where we'll visit a new park each time and learn about the plants and animals that live there. We'll tentatively be visiting Tifft Nature Preserve, Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, and Knox Farm State Park. Each excursion will consist of a 1-3 mile nature walk.

Save the dates for our hiking excursions!

Monday, October 14

Monday, November 11

Saturday, December 14

All of the hiking trips will occur during the day (Mondays are holidays from school).

Stay tuned for times and more details. Email mgw76@cornell.edu to express your interest and/or ask questions.



NATIONAL 4-H
COUNCIL

Share your 4-H story!

Has 4-H had an impact on you? Would you like people across the country to hear your story about 4-H? If you are a current 4-H member or a 4-H alumni, you can submit a story! Select stories will be featured in different media outlets through the National 4-H Council

Go ahead and share your story here: <https://4-h.org/story-submission/>

A Visit To Orchard Heights



On Wednesday, August 28, 2024, Alexa Jones and Alana Stone visited Orchard Heights retirement facility with their dog's "Poppy" and "Mulan", Alexa even brought along a snake and lizard. Alexa and Alana spoke to the group about 4-H and what it has taught them and educated them about their dogs and reptiles. The residents were truly engaged and asked the youth some great questions. Thank you, Alexa and Alana, for volunteering to bring your animals and for helping to put smiles on the seniors' faces.

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We have some space during the Open House for volunteers and 4-H members to share with potential new members why they participate in 4-H and how it benefits them. If you might be interested in speaking at the Open House, please let Maddie (mgw76@cornell.edu) know by September 30.

If you are a new member that joined during the 2023-2024 4-H year, you may benefit from attending this meeting and learning more about what 4-H has to offer!

Did you know that Erie County 4-H is on Instagram and Facebook??



Follow us to see 4-H updates, opportunities, and event pictures!

Facebook: "Erie County 4-H"

<https://www.facebook.com/erie4hny/>



Instagram: "@erie4h"

<https://www.instagram.com/erie4h/>



September 2024 – Livestock Notes

Wow! What a fair. Each year it is such a privilege to have the opportunity to work with such a great group of young people. I learn so much from each of you and to be able to watch you grow from year to year is an honor. It warms my heart to see you all work together in the barns, helping each other out, sharing information, making new friends. This year I watched you all interact, teach and lead by example. It was especially fun to see the falling critter in the swine barn, the community couch in the beef barn, the club tack stalls in the goat barn. Cherish the memories you make each year at the fair. As I think back to our auction, I am reminded of all the farewells, there were many. Each of our members that have aged out of the program, know that you have left your imprint on the program and youth that you had the opportunity to work with. I look forward to 2025 and can't wait to get started.

Food and Community: I hope to see you at our year end celebration on Friday, September 20, 2024, from 5:30-7 pm at Chestnut Ridge Park. You are all a very important part of our program and prime examples of agriculture and growing food. This will be a fun event for you and your family and an opportunity to see everyone that the Erie County 4-H program impacts. We will have games, activities, interactive tables to visit, and dinner (soup, bread and dessert). Our soup will be made from the vegetables harvested from our gardens. See you on the 20th!! See the first page of the newsletter for registration details.

Premium Checks: Each member that participated in the fair should have received a premium check in the mail along with a breakdown. You must review it carefully. If anything is missing, you need to email erie4H@cornell.edu no later than September 20 with the name of the class missing and your ribbon color. Lynn, our Admin will be doing another check run at the fair. Please be sure to cash your checks as soon as possible as they are only good for 60 days from their issue date.

Market Checks: I am hopeful that your market checks will be out by the end of the month. We still have some outstanding purchases.

Buyers: Have you sent a thank you to your buyer? I emailed each of our participants the name and address of all your buyers. Continue to strengthen your connections by thanking those that supported you.

Award Sponsors: Did you receive an award at the fair? Please be sure to send a thank you to those sponsors as well. If you received a trophy, there should be a label on the bottom with the name and address. If a sponsor is not listed, please let me know and I will get you the information.

When you receive your market check you will also find the name and address of a sponsor. You each received a T-shirt, and those funds assisted in making them available. Please send a thank you for their support to the entire livestock program.

Re-enrollment forms for the 2024-2025 program year will be due on November 1 for all returning members. Please be sure to include your payment with the enrollment forms as you are not officially enrolled until payment is made. Why should you enroll early – SO YOU GET THE 4-H NEWS and can stay up to date with everything that is being offered. If the enrollment fee is a financial hardship, simply ask for it to be waived.

Email Addresses: Please be sure to write on your enrollment form the email addresses that you would like correspondence sent to. Email is our main line of communication. If you wish for your 4-H member to receive emails, be sure to write the address on the form. Please write neatly and clearly so we get the address correct.

Beef Orientation will be held on November 4 at 6:30 p.m. at the Power House, 39 S. Grove Street, East Aurora 14052. We will have some exciting changes to the beef program for the coming year and all the details will be shared at the orientation. We will also have a presentation from a guest speaker along with an overview and expectations of the project. A meeting you surely will not want to miss.

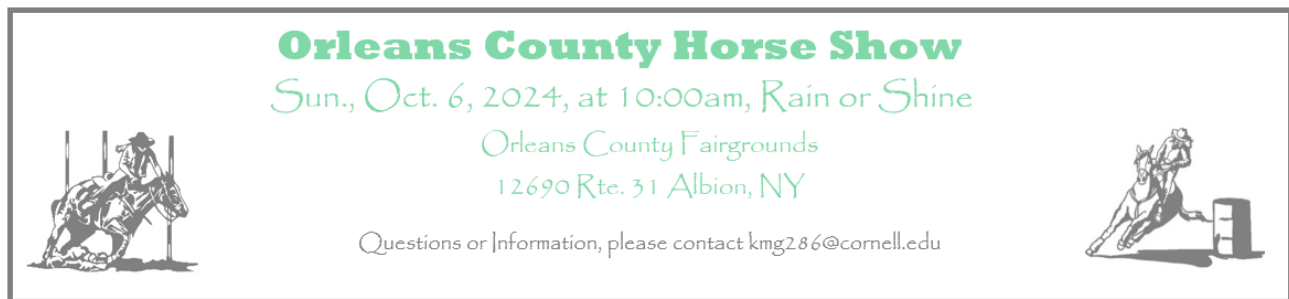
Dairy Cattle Orientation will be held on December 9 at 6:30 p.m. at the Power House, 39 S. Grove Street, East Aurora 14052. We will be making Mozzarella Cheese and going over the goals and objectives of the program and planning out some meeting topics.

Please join me in congratulating Isaac Folts on placing 2nd out of 50 participants in the NYS Dairy Judging Contest at the NY State Fair.

Goat Orientation will be held on December 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the Power House, 39 S. Grove Street, East Aurora 14052. By having our orientation early, we can begin to practice for Goat Bowl and hold some of our meetings while the weather keeps us inside. Our orientation will kick off the new year and we will share changes to the program and have a fun activity.

Sheep and Swine – while we currently do not have any meetings to schedule, now is a great time to begin to think about your public presentation, remember those will be here come February. Remember to get your 2025 enrollment paperwork and fee into the 4-H office by November 1.

Horse - Upcoming Opportunities: Check your email for more information



Niagara County 4-H Inter-County Team Horse Show – Niagara County Fairgrounds – Columbus Day weekend, October 12-13, 2024. Need information, contact Tammi Kron

Year End Awards Celebration will be held on *TBD* at the Holland Willows.

Watch the upcoming 4-H News for results from NYS Fair and to see if Erie County 4-H will have any members moving on to the National Level.

As the new year approaches, keep in mind all of the events that happen early in the year:

- January – Horse Bowl
- February – Horse Communications and Public Presentations
- March – Hippology and Regional Horse Bowl
- April – Regional Horse Communications, Regional Hippology, State Horse Bowl, Evaluations
- May – Evaluations, State Horse Communications
- June/July – Club Horse Shows
- August – Erie County Fair and NYS Fair

Stay tuned for more information as dates are set for the 2025 program year.

Poultry and Rabbit – Stay tuned for information coming about our poultry meetings that will begin in January and our Rabbit club meetings that will most likely begin this fall, watch your email for updates. Reminder: be sure to get your re-enrollment paperwork and payment to the 4-H office by November 1.

Dog - Our clubs are both accepting new members. The Ridge Rovers meet in Orchard Park and the Buffalo Barkers meet in Tonawanda. Here is a really cool opportunity for you to participate in if you are interested. *Open to 4-H members between the ages of 8-18 - Junior Agility class at PREMIER DOG SPORTS, with Instructor - Darcy Ferrentino. The course is 6 weeks, and the cost is \$100 for 4-H members. All dogs should have basic obedience skills. The class begins November 7 at 6:15 p.m., check out this link for registration information - <https://premierdogsports.com/class-schedule/>*

The 47th Annual New York State 4-H Agribusiness Career Conference will be held on October 17-18, 2024, at SUNY Cobleskill and local agri-businesses. The conference is co-sponsored by NYS 4-H, the State University of New York (SUNY) at Cobleskill and the NYS Farm Bureau Foundation for Education. This career exploration conference is open to all youth ages 14 and over who wish to become more aware of opportunities in agriculture and also the academic requirements for professional positions available in the various agri-businesses. It will feature mini tours to farms and businesses in the Cobleskill area as well as seminars, guest speakers and guided tours of the SUNY Cobleskill agriculture facilities.

Registration is due by Thursday, October 3rd. A participation fee of \$125.00 per youth and \$100 per chaperone will include all overnight accommodations and meals. (If a participant wishes to come for just one day, that is acceptable, but the cost of the program is the same.) Participants and chaperones will be staying at The Super 8 located at 955 East Main Street Cobleskill. Please note, if participants are coming in on Wednesday night, it is their own responsibility to make and pay for hotel reservations for that night.

New York State 4-H Agri-Business Career Conference Mini-Tour Topics – tours are divided into tracts – see below

Speaking With the Vet - Learn about the experiences of a veterinarian from SUNY Cobleskill. What do they enjoy, and what attracted them to their career? Interested in becoming veterinarian? Then this tract is for you.

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 a 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?

Sweet Tree Farm - This operation produces grass fed beef, natural pork, poultry, eggs and pure maple syrup. Hogs and laying hens are raised on pastures and NOFA-certified grains. Animal agriculture processing techniques will be discussed.

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.

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 aid dairy producers for mastitis monitoring, prevention and surveillance.

Jack Miller's Tractor & Truck - A full line New Holland dealer here to meet all your parts, sales, and service needs. We sell both new and used equipment and carry a wide variety of top brands such as New Holland, Woods, Ferris, Pequea, Buhler, and Bradco. Jack Miller's Tractor has been family owned and operated since 1980.

Stone House Farm - The Everett family has been farming at Stone House Farm since 1964. Tim and Patti Everett took over the farm in 1986 and have been farming there ever since. While maple syrup production has been in the family for several generations, Tim and Patti have slowly expanded their maple syrup production each year since they have been

here. They started selling maple products on the farm in 1994. Currently they operate a 5,000 tap maple syrup operation with a wood-fired evaporator and serve pancake breakfasts in season.

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 serves plants, animals and soil 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.

Fairbanks Stable - Fairbanks Stable is a Boarding and Training Stable founded in 2005. Head trainer and owner, Faye Benedict Smith, is a 4-H 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.

Black Willow Pond Farm - Black Willow Pond Farm is a diversified, pasture-based livestock operation nestled in the hills of Cobleskill, New York. Established in 2010, the farm is owned and operated by Carrie Edsall, Dan Zeh and their sons, Luke and Jacob. Black Willow Pond Farm is dedicated to raising livestock and poultry seasonally and in a natural setting. Katahdin Sheep, Berkshire pigs, egg layers, meat chickens, and turkeys for the Thanksgiving market are all raised on the farm. The farm also partners with Carrie's family dairy farm to raise beef, veal and yogurt. The farm works hard to connect with their customer base and focuses on direct retail sales. Products are sold at two year-round markets, at the farm, shipped via the farm website as well as at local stores and featured on local restaurant menus.

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.

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.

New York State 4-H, 2024 Agri-Business Career Conference, Mini-Tour Tracts

Tract 1 Speaking with the Vet & Schoharie Valley Farms

Tract 2 Sweet Tree Farm & Hessian Hill Farm

Tract 3 Milk Quality Lab & Jack Miller Garage

Tract 4 Stone House Farm & West Meadow Farm & Dairy

Tract 5 Fairbanks Stable & Black Willow Pond Farm

Tract 6 Dairy Processing Center & Kelley's Farm & Garden

Study Sessions include the following topics: Agricultural Business & Communications, Animal Science & Natural, Sciences, Plant Science/Environmental Science/Wildlife, Agricultural Engineering & Technology, Health & Human Services

Interested? Contact Tammi Kron for more details at tlk6@cornell.edu

Those requesting more information will receive the entire packet. This is a great opportunity, don't miss it.

Note: Apply for paper clover funds to help offset your expense.

Apply for funds here: https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_exQWUIMdZHghz8

Also note, you do need 2 letters of recommendation - https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9MHjbNdKL56W8n4



Shooting Sports – The NYS 4-H Shooting Sports project fosters responsibility and helps youth acquire knowledge, skills, abilities and the opportunity to develop social skills, leadership techniques and community service opportunities. New York State 4-H certified volunteer instructors supervise each 4-H Shooting Sports program. Safety is a primary concern. Youth and adults are trained to know, practice and adhere to the tenets of firearm safety and handling. Are you at least 12 years old and interested in learning more? Contact Tammi Kron to be connected to our club leaders. The Erie County Sharp Shooters meet at the Tonawanda Sportsman Club the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

This year our Shooting Sports program recognized the Tonawanda Sportsman’s Club at the livestock auction with a presentation to the President, Mark Poleon and Club member, Frank Panzarella. For the past 10 years, the Tonawanda Sportsman's Club has provided us with access to their state-of-the-art shooting ranges without charge. We have been able to instruct the 4-H members in the safe use of air pistol, rifle, shotgun, and Muzzleloaders at their wonderful facility. Additionally, they recently awarded us with a very generous \$500.00 donation to use towards ammunition. We are very, very grateful for their support. A special thank you to Frank Panzarella who has faithfully attended almost every single 4 H Shooting Sports meeting, providing his support and expertise.



*Back row: Mark P., Dan D., M. McGuire
Middle: F. Panzarella
Front Row: J. Hartz and F. O'Donnell*

4-H'ers are...

- 4X** more likely to give back to their communities
- 2X** more likely to make healthier choices
- 2X** more likely to participate in STEM activities