



Erie County

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County Publication

April 2025

2025 Western District- “Sowing the Seeds of Future Success”



On the last Saturday of March, 4-Hers from all six counties in the Western District gathered to present their polished public presentations and compete to see who was the best in the Western District. We had an excellent showing from all of our talented 4-H youth, who spoke on topics from paleontology to hippology. After much deliberation, we have selected the following youth as our top ten. In no particular order, we have:

Tyler Crowell- Chautauqua, Madeline Gabel – Erie, Bailey Tang – Niagara, Addison Vergien - Erie
Anna Henry - Niagara, Marea Palka – Erie, Colleen Kilroy - Niagara, Madalyn Ploetz - Erie
Allison Niefergold - Erie, Celes Paratore - Orleans

Congratulations on those who were recognized as the top ten! That was some stiff competition!

In addition, we also had former 4-H member John Pirrung give a wonderful speech related to our theme, “Sowing the Seeds of Future Success”, and Mr. Tom Duffy present awards to those who qualified for the Marcia Duffy Above and Beyond Award. Created in Marcia’s memory, this award recognizes all 4-H members who received a perfect score at county-level public presentations. Our recipients from Erie County were Grace Czech, Carter Engasser, Christopher Woloszyn, and Eryka Skuse. Congratulations to our stellar presenters who got a perfect score!

If you need to pick up your award for the top ten or for the Above and Beyond award, please contact our office and we find a way to get the award to you.

May Workshop: Hypertufa Pots

May 20, 6-8 PM
Reinstein Woods
93 Honorine Dr,
Depew, NY 14043



Learn how to make these beautiful hypertufa pots with Elizabeth Love,
and enjoy the beauty of Reinstein Woods!

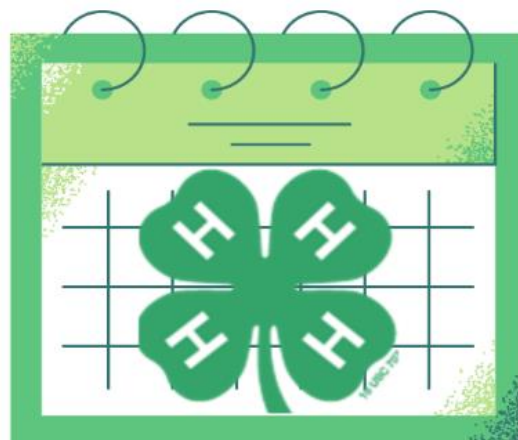
Register here:

https://apps.cce.cornell.edu/event_registration/main/events_landing.cfm?event=MayHypertufaWorkshop05202025_214



General 4-H Calendar Snapshot for 2025

- ✓ April 12 – Copper Embossment Workshop
- ✓ May 1 – Enrollment forms for new members due
- ✓ May 2-4 – STAR (trip to Syracuse – e-mail sej57@cornell.edu)
- ✓ May 16, Textile Review
- ✓ May 18-20 – 4-H Capital Days (trip to Albany- email tlk6@cornell.edu)
- ✓ May 16 - Textile Revue
- ✓ May 20 - Hypertufa Workshop
- ✓ July 7 – Fair entries due online (both YDB and animal projects)
- ✓ August 2 – Youth Development Building Evaluation Day
- ✓ August 3 – YDB Set-Up Day
- ✓ August 6-17 – Erie County Fair
- ✓ August 18 – YDB Pick-Up Day
- ✓ August 20-September 1 – New York State Fair
- ✓ September 30 – Last day of 2024-25 4-H year



This list is a work in progress and will be updated in each 4-H Monthly Newsletter. Please contact Sara with any questions (sej57@cornell.edu or 716-652-5400 x 142)

The 2025 Textile Revue is coming May 16!

Join us from 5 PM to 8 PM for a night of fun and fashion at the Power House in East Aurora!

Register before 5/1/25 if interested.

Teens! Do you want to be a 4-H STAR?

Registration is open for the 21st annual State Teen Action Retreat taking place May 2 through 4th in Syracuse.

STAR features roundtables, workshops, community service, and a call to action to bring back the skills you learned to 4-H in your community.

The fee to attend STAR is \$200. There are scholarships that can help cover the cost of registration.

STAR 2025 Event Locations:

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday retreat will be held at Porter Elementary School
512 Emerson Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13204

Saturday Dinner, Keynote, and Reflection at the Everson Museum of Art
401 Harrison Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

If interested in attending, please e-mail Sara Jablonski at sej57@cornell.edu.



Watch for information coming soon!

Thank you to everyone who has expressed interest in these workshops.

We are currently working to secure locations and dates to hold the workshops.



Learn the Art of Jam

Making delicious preserves from fresh fruit.
Simple, fun, and tasty for everyone!

Have you ever wanted to learn how to make jam? The Erie County 4-H program would like to offer a workshop to share this knowledge and use some of the jam as offerings at the 4-H Market Auction to generate funds to support our 4-H program.

We are checking to see what the interest level is before we schedule a workshop.

If you would like to participate in the workshop and this community service opportunity, contact Tammi Kron at tlk6@cornell.edu. We would like to offer this workshop in June.

Note: This is a free workshop, all supplies are provided.



LET'S BAKE PIES & COOKIES!

Each year we offer workshops to teach how to make pies and cookies along with the history and science behind them. Participants are then asked to make a pie or cookies that are sold in our 4-H Market Auction at the fair to benefit the 4-H program.

If you are interested in participating in the workshop and community service opportunity, or need more information, please email Tammi Kron at tlk6@cornell.edu

We will schedule the workshop if there is enough interest.

Did you sign up for Glads for 4-Hers?

If yes, please mark your calendar for our informational meeting and glad bulb pick-up date

Friday, April 25 from 6:30-8:00pm at the Roycroft Power House



The 2024 Erie County Fair Book is now available, for both [4-H Livestock](#) and [4-H Youth Development](#)!

You can find the books on the [Erie County Fair website](#) under the "Competitions" tab. Looking at the books now will give you an idea of what projects you would like to enter at the fair this summer.

*The links for ShoWorks (how you enter projects) are now "live".

The purpose of the Erie County 4-H General Scholarship is to recognize those 4-Hers that exhibit a high degree of leadership and community service due to their involvement in the Erie County 4-H Program.

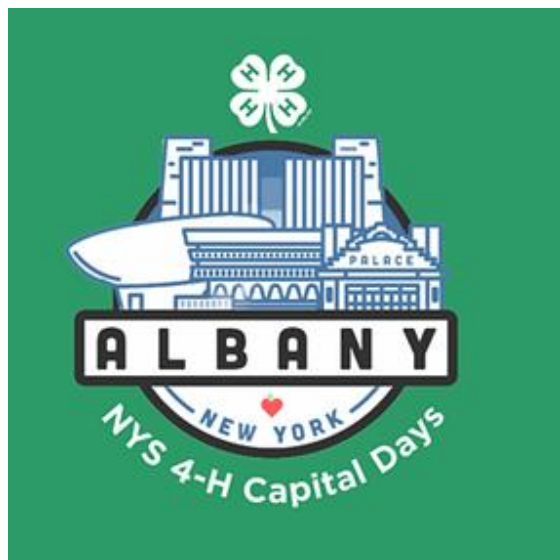
DEADLINE: - April 18, 2025 [4-H Scholarship Application and Information](#)

Cornell Cooperative
Extension of Erie
County 4-H General
Scholarship



As Scholarship opportunities become available they will be posted on our website :

[4-H Scholarships and Financial Assistance Page](#)



NYS 4-H Capital Days May 18-20, 2025

Erie County will be represented by:

Faith Michalovic
Ashley Niefergold
Aubrey Nickerson
Athena Clabeaux

NYS 4-H Capital Days is open to all youth grades 9-12. We will spend 2 full days at your NYS Capital experiencing the Assembly, Senate, Court of Appeals, and many state agencies (Dept of Ag, Education, Health, DMV, Parks and Recreation, Corrections), learning about career opportunities and how a bill becomes a law along with time to meet with your legislature and senator and work with other 4-H members from across the state.

4-H Beekeeping

Essay Context

For this essay, a 4-H Member should answer these questions:

- Why are youth important in beekeeping?
- How can 4-H members make a difference?
- How can more young people get involved in beekeeping? What are your future plans as a beekeeper?
- What is a major contribution a young beekeeper has brought to the industry?



Eligibility: The 2025 National 4-H Beekeeping Essay Competition is open to active 4-H members only. Essays entered must encompass the designated topic only. There will be no exceptions.

Essay Requirements for National Judging: Essays must be typewritten or computer-generated on single-sided pages and formatted following standard manuscript format using double-spaced type and 12pt font in a legible font face.

Essays must encompass the designated topic in 750 to 1,000 words. Word count does not include sources, works cited, or the writer's biographical statement.

All factual statements and interview references must be cited in a "sources" or "bibliography."

On a separate page, please include a brief biographical statement of the writer including mailing address, email address, and phone number.

Awards: Three cash prizes will be awarded in the 2025 National 4-H Beekeeping Essay Competition. The author of the highest-scoring essay will win first prize. The author of the second-highest scoring essay will win second prize.

The author of the third-highest scoring essay will win third prize.

First Prize: \$750 **Second Prize:** \$500 **Third Prize:** \$250

The three prize-winning essays will be published in ABF Quarterly, the magazine of the American Beekeeping Federation. All authors of essays submitted to the national competition will receive a relevant book on honey bees, beekeeping, or honey.

Submissions should be made to afd7@cornell.edu by April 25, 2025



Help is need for the Plant Sale

We are looking for volunteers to help at the Spring Plant Sale with sorting of all the baskets and orders ready to be picked up on Friday, May 9, 2025 from 9am-12noon at Bipperts Farm, Clinton St., Elma. If you are willing please email Tammi Kron at tlk6@cornell.edu

Spring Plant Sale

Help Needed



April 2025 – Livestock Notes

Your 2025 projects will soon be underway. Remember, sit down and develop a budget. Plan out how much you will need to cover your feed and veterinary expenses and determine what your limit is for the purchase of your market animal. If your parents will be helping to fund your project, be sure to communicate with them, share your budget and be sure to keep the lines of communication open. Once you have your projects home, give them time to settle in and then begin to work with them – remember they are athletes and need to be conditioned to perform as you want them to in the show ring. If they only know their pen, you will have a lot more work to do on show day. Start early, set your goals and achieve success.

Enrollment forms for the 2024-2025 –do you know of someone who wants to become a 4-H member? Please have them contact the 4-H Office.

We held our first Generic Livestock Meeting #1 on Monday, March 24, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. via zoom. Special thanks to NYS Veterinarian Katelyn Card-Allen. She discussed all the health requirements for animals being exhibited at the fair.

Livestock Interviews: Mark your calendar to attend one of the livestock interview dates to fulfil your animal show requirement. Dates they will be offered are Tuesday, July 1, Thursday, July 17, Wednesday, July 23 and Monday, July 28. More details are coming later in the year.

Livestock Dates at a Glance

April:

- 11 – Spring Plant Sale Fundraiser orders and payment due to 4-H office.
- 12 – Goat Bowl, St. Paul's Lutheran Church
- 17 – Flopper Hoppers – 6:00 p.m. – St. Paul's Lutheran Church
- Week of April 20 – Turkey Delivery
- 22 – Poultry Meeting 6:30 p.m., Power House
- 26 – NYS Dairy Bowl @ Cornell
- 27 – Working Goat Show @ Saraceni/Hayne Farm

May:

- 1 – Make up Public Presentations #1
- 2 – Lamb, Hog and Goat Market Animal Registration paperwork due to 4-H office.
- 2 – Dog License and Rabies Certificate due to the 4-H office.
- 3 – Animal Crackers at Cornell, Dairy Cattle, Goats, Rabbits and Poultry
- 7 – Make up Public Presentations #2
- 8 – Flopper Hoppers – 6:00 p.m. – St. Paul's Lutheran Church
- 9 – Spring Fundraiser - Plant Delivery
- 13 – Poultry Meeting – 6:30 p.m. Power House

June:

- 1st week – Chicken Delivery
- 2 – Beef Heifer paperwork due to 4-H office.
- 17 – Poultry Meeting, 6:30 p.m. , Power House
- 23 – Pullorum Testing, 4-6 p.m., Power House

July:

- 1, 17, 23, 28 – Livestock Interviews – Power House 5:30 p.m.
- 7 – Erie County Fair 4-H Entries due online

Fair entries are now open at <https://www.ecfair.org/p/competitions/4-h--ffa/4h--ffa> Fair Entries will close on Monday, July 7, 2025.

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.

Beef: Beef Fitting and Showing meeting will be held in June, watch the next News for all the details.

Beef Preview show at the Erie County Fairgrounds, April 4-6. If you attend and have an animal entered in the show and participate, you will earn a beef meeting credit. If you go to watch, listen and learn, please submit a report within 5 business days and receive credit for a beef meeting.

Dairy Cattle: Applications are now being accepted for the NYS Junior Dairy Leader Program. See flyer for more information.

NYS JUNIOR DAIRY LEADER PROGRAM

GROW MAKE SERVE THRIVE

Program is designed to give young people an opportunity to build enthusiasm for the dairy industry along with personal, professional, and leadership development in a networking environment, while they discover the diversity of career choices in agriculture. The program presents youth with a realistic view of the dairy industry as a viable, profitable, and progressive business sector to work and build a career. Through a series of workshops participants represent NY at the National 4-H Dairy Conference, interact with dairy producers and industry professionals, on-farm production management experiences, tours of dairy and production facilities in the Northeast and Wisconsin, leadership development and team building, and technical skill growth in production management areas.



For more information contact:
Deborah Grusenmeyer
djc27@cornell.edu

To apply visit: <https://cals.cornell.edu/pro-dairy/our-expertise/youth/junior-dairy-leader-program>

Cornell CALS
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences



Eligibility Requirements

- At least 16 but not more than 19 years of age by August of the current year and at least starting their junior year of high school in the fall
- Have potential interest in dairy industry careers
- Can reasonably commit to the program from September of the current year to August of the following year
- Are not exhibiting animals at the World Dairy Expo during the current year
- Are not participating in the National Dairy Cattle Judging Contest during the current year

Cost \$375 for the year



PRO DAIRY
Education & Applied Research

Sheep – We held our Sheep Orientation on Wednesday, April 2 at 6:30 p.m. at Revive (thank you to Revive Wesleyan Church for allowing us to use their facility!) Our members learned about the program, rules and regulations along with a discussion on cuts of lamb and they even got to practice their meat wrapping skills. **Attention sheep members:** I have learned that the fair schedule I shared at the meeting and the fair book that is on the EC Fair website is the wrong one. As soon as the dinner is completed, I will work to get it all updated for you. Parents do not plan vacations on the dates I shared.

Swine - We held our Swine Orientation on Monday, March 31 at 6:30 p.m. We reviewed the fair schedule and project rules and regulations. We finished the evening discussing pork cuts and practiced wrapping the different cuts. Watch to see the outcome at the bidder dinner.

Poultry – Your market projects have been ordered. **Turkeys** –will ship to NY on April 21. Expect a text message from me on Tuesday, April 22 to come pick them up at the 4-H office. Please be sure to have someone that can come when you receive the text as they will need a drink and heat after their long journey. **Chickens** are scheduled to ship on June 2. I would expect them to arrive on Tuesday, June 3, I will text everyone when I pick them up at the post office, please be sure to have someone on standby to come pick them up as they will need a drink and heat after their long trip.

Our next poultry meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 22, at 6:30 p.m.** at the Power House. Hermann Weber is going to be our guest speaker and will discuss a topic that is of interest to each of you – I look forward to having a good attendance. The May Poultry Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 13 at 6:30 pm.** at the Power House, Amy Berkley, our Cornell poultry specialist, will be our guest speaker, and she will be discussing the effects of Avian Bird Flu on the poultry industry. This is a topic that you will most likely encounter questions about and a meeting you will not want to miss

ERIE 4-H WORKING GOAT FUN SHOW!

April 27th, 2025, at 11:30am

3082 Broadway Rd. Alexander, NY 14005

Class List:

1. Senior Showmanship
2. Junior Showmanship
3. Beginner Showmanship
4. Senior Pack Obstacle
5. Junior Pack Obstacle
6. Beginner Pack Obstacle
7. Packline
8. Obstacle Cart Driving
9. Agility Small Goat
10. Agility Large Goat
11. Goat Calling

Beginner; 5-8 years old OR 1st year showing
Junior; 9-13 years old
Senior; 14-18 years old
Packs are expected for obstacle class.
At least one goat with a pack for packline
Small Goat under 23"
Large Goat over 23"



- One goat per exhibitor
- Any goat showing signs of illness or sore mouth should be left home. If a goat arrives with signs of illness or sore mouth, they will be asked to leave
- Entries due April 18 to Bonnie Hayne Morganhorse6@yahoo.com
- \$3/class, due at check in

Goat Orientation – Dairy, Working and Meat – was held on Monday, March 10.

Goat Bowl: How is your goat knowledge? The UGA Goat Club will be hosting a 4-H Goat Bowl on Saturday, April 12, 2025, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in West Falls. Watch the next News for the results.

Working Goat Show: Here is a really exciting opportunity for all the working goat members, The Saraceni/Hayne family will be hosting a Working Goat Show at their farm on Sunday, April 27 from 11-2 pm. Youth are encouraged to bring one goat to work with. Please be sure your goat is free of any communicable issues. To register please check your email for the form along with all the details.

Rabbit – Flopper Hopper Rabbit club will have their next meeting on Thursday, April 17 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 53 W Falls Rd, West Falls, NY 14170 from 6-7:30 p.m. Youth are asked to bring paper and pen and your bunny to all meetings except for April. Please check your email for information about the meeting that you will receive from the leader Kelly Weaver. The Flopper Hopper meetings are open to all rabbit exhibitors. Market rabbit participants, please be sure to attend at least 2 Flopper Hopper meetings to be eligible to show and sell at the fair.

Dog - Do you have a family dog? Make it a 4-H project. The Erie County 4-H program has 2 dog clubs that are accepting new members between the ages of 5-18. The Ridge Rovers meet in Orchard Park and the Buffalo Barkers meet in Tonawanda. Our leaders do an exceptional job in offering education around grooming and handling, agility, obedience and community service projects. Contact Tammi for more information.

Dog Fair Requirements: All dog exhibitors that will be participating at the fair, don't forget to send in your **dog project form, valid dog license and rabies certificate to the 4-H office by May 2, 2025.** The NYS Veterinarian will be coming to the office in May to review all the documents. Please contact your leader or the 4-H office for more information.

Horse

Congratulations to all of our horse participants that participated in the County Hippology contest. Watch the next news to see the results of the Regional Hippology contest as we have great representation from Erie County.

Congratulations to our Horse Communication participants who participated in the Regional contest on Saturday, March 29 and have received an invitation to move on to the State level on Saturday, May 17 at Cornell.

Senior Team

1st Samantha Parsons + Charlotte Parson

2nd Gavin Lexi + Isabella Makelke

Junior Team

1st Makayla Wilson + Bentley Pharyn

Horse Certificates, Rabies and Coggins: All paperwork due in the 4-H office by Friday, May 23, 2025, (this is a new date) the NYS Veterinarian will be at our 4-H office to review everything at the beginning of June, please be sure I have the most updated and correct paperwork for her to review.

Need help preparing for show season? Come join us for our annual 4-H Riding clinic!



Get a lesson with a WNY professional trainer and your evaluations done at the same time!

It's a win-win!!

This year's event will be held **Sunday, May 18, 2025**, again, at

Blakestone Stables, 12260 Savage Rd., Sardinia, NY

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

(Thank You Jen Barber!)

The cost is \$5 for a 1-hour lesson with one of 4 local professional trainers. While you're working with the trainer our 4-H evaluators will be conducting your evaluation, painlessly while you ride.

Make your reservation for this super fun event today! Call/Text Jen at (716) 698-7083

or email her at Blakestonerider1@aol.com

Horse Opportunities at a Glance

April:

26 - Regional Hippology, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, West Falls, 10 a.m.

April – Evaluations, date to be determined

May:

Evaluations – to be determined

23 –NEW DATE) ALL HORSE CERTIFICATES, RABIES AND COGGINS PAPERWORK IS DUE IN THE 4-H OFFICE

17 - State Horse Communications – Cornell

17 – Horse Fundraising event hosted by Farrell's Hilltop Farm, LLC, South Buffalo Moose Lodge 7 p.m.

18 – Riding Clinic @ Blakestone Stables

31 – Training Show – location TBA

June:

23 – Mandatory Fair Meeting for horse participants- zoom

14 – Sardinia Saddlers Show

28 – TriColor Equestrian Show

July:

July 7 – Erie County Fair Entries due

July 19 – Hillside Riders Show

July 26 – Wild Wind Riders Show

August:

10-13 - Erie County Fair

23 – NYS Hippology and Horse Judging contests at NYS Fair (note this is a Saturday)

Rider Evaluations – we are working on the dates and locations.

Riding Clinic! Sunday, May 18 at Blakestone Stables from 9-3. This is an opportunity to get a 1-hour lesson from a local professional and the best part – if you need a rider evaluation it will be done while you are in the lesson. Please contact Jenn Barber to reserve your spot today! information.Blakestonerider1@aol.com

The **training show** is back for 2025. The date will be Saturday, May 31 and we are currently securing the location. Please watch your email for all the details.

Thank you to Farrell's Hilltop Farm, LLC for hosting a fundraising event to benefit our horse program. They will be holding a Meat Raffle on Saturday, May 17 at the South Buffalo Moose Lodge. Tickets are available by emailing meatafflewny@gmail.com, for more information you may reach out to Nicole Farrell at sunshinesaville@yahoo.com

2025 NYS 4-H ANIMAL CRACKERS

MAY 3, 2025

@ CORNELL UNIVERSITY



THIS YEARS SPECIES INCLUDE:

- **DAIRY**
- **GOATS (DAIRY AND MEAT)**
- **RABBITS**
- **POULTRY**



SAVE THE
DATE

Watch for more information or visit -

<https://cals.cornell.edu/nys-4-h-animal-science-programs/state-events/programs/animal-crackers>



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FROM ONE FIELD TO ANOTHER

JOIN US FOR NO FARMS, NO FOOD NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK!

VS.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 4TH 6:30PM DWYER STADIUM

AN EVENING CELEBRATING our local farms and agriculture community.

ONE FREE TICKET, HOT DOG, POPCORN, AND DRINK per FFA or 4-H club member.



How about a night out at the ball game. Our 4-H participants have been invited to receive free tickets to attend the annual NO FARMS NO FOOD night in Batavia NY at the Dwyer Stadium for a Batavia Muckdogs Baseball Game on Wednesday June 4th - 6:30 PM. Last year over 500 local agriculture community members attended the game.

Alleghany Farm Services as well as other agricultural industries have purchased blocks of tickets & food vouchers for all local FFA & 4-H Clubs and their family members.

If your family would like to take part in this free event, email Tammi at tlk6@cornell.edu to request your tickets no later than Friday, May 16, 2025.



ERIE COUNTY CRAFTERS



The Erie County Crafters held a bake sale on April 5th at the Lancaster Public Library. This event was our first bake sale, but not our last! The members enjoyed serving the library patrons and loved roaming the library book sale. Later that afternoon, we traveled to the Whitworth-Ferguson Planetarium at Buffalo State University for two fascinating presentations on outer space.