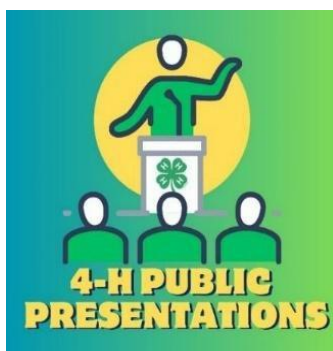


December 2025



It's Public Presentation Season!

What are 4-H Public Presentations? 4-H Public Presentation Days are a time when youth can practice their public speaking skills and gain confidence through positive encouragement. Youth that show livestock at the fair are required to complete a public presentation. All Erie County 4-H members are invited and encouraged to sign-up and participate in Public Presentations, regardless of club/independent member status or age.

All first- and second-year presenters are encouraged to do a presentation that has a poster. Learning the basics of a presentation in the first couple years will make an excellent presenter in the future. We remind our older youth who want to do a computer-based presentation to be comfortable with setting up your electronic devices without the assistance of an adult, and to feel confident when using your device to present.

Here are some videos created by our 4-H Teen Ambassadors with tips about preparing for and giving your presentation! Our 4-H Presentation Tip series features the following videos:

Finding a Topic - https://youtu.be/kdGB51_hglU, Mannerisms - <https://youtu.be/tJR9aT-k2C8>

Procrastination Prevention - <https://youtu.be/mi6jGUrV9z8>, Reviewing Rubrics: <https://youtu.be/gAjECtb8JLQ>

Practicing in Front of Crowds: <https://youtu.be/sibTg8rRm8Q>

Table of Contents

	<u>Pages</u>
Public Presentation Season Information	1, 2, 3
Heroes to the Rescue	4
Teen Ambassadors, Volunteer Reminder	5
Food in the Community	6
February Fiber Fest	7
Hemlock woolly adelgids & 4-H	8
Livestock Notes	9 – 13
Capital Days Information	13
Livestock Scholarship, Pen Pals	14

FOR ALL SKILL LEVELS



4-H Public Presentations

Public Presentation Kickoff: December 8

Public Presentation Pre-Game: January 14, snow date January 20

1 Hour Q&A Sessions

December 9, 2025

January 13, 2026

January 21, 2026



Public Presentation Q&A Sessions

On three separate days, we will meet virtually from 6-7 PM to answer your questions about the trickier parts of public presentations. Mark your calendars for December 9, 2025; January 13, 2026; and January 21, 2026, for our Q&A sessions. Please RSVP by emailing cmr348@cornell.edu.

Public Presentation Pre-Game Party- January 14, alternate date in case of snow: January 20

Our Public Presentation Pre-Game Party will be a chance for you to practice your soft skills and practice your presentation in front of 4-H educators and volunteers. You'll receive helpful advice on how to look confident and organized on presentation day. This is a fantastic opportunity for newer presenters to greatly improve their skills before their presentation day. Please RSVP by emailing cmr348@cornell.edu.

Public Presentation Registration:

February 7: Beyond Learning Center in Depew, NY (Snow date is February 14)

February 12: Revive Wesleyan Church in Hamburg, NY

***February 21:** Revive Wesleyan Church in Hamburg, NY

***February 26:** Global Charter School in South Buffalo, NY

* offering Horse Communications

Register Here For Your Presentation: https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/publicpresentations2026_214

Register Here for Your Horse Communication: https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/HorseCommunications2026-2-2-2_214

WANTED: Public Presentation Evaluators

Would you like to be involved in one of Erie County 4-H's most influential programs for youth?? Join our Public Presentations evaluator team!!

We are looking for volunteers who enjoy working with youth and are interested in helping them improve their public speaking skills. Evaluators would need to attend at least 1 presentation day (weeknight and weekend options). No experience needed- we'd love to see new faces! Training will be provided, and you can request to be paired up with an experienced evaluator.

We are also looking for a few volunteers who have experience conducting interviews!

If you would like to help our youth thrive in public presentations, please contact Tammi (tlk6@cornell.edu or 716-652-5400 x 132) to be put on an interest list.

4-Hers - We need YOU!

We are looking for 4-H members who would like to learn more about **public presentations** while gaining *community service hours* that can be used for school or other requirements. There are a couple of roles you can fill during any of our Public Presentation Days:

- **Runner-** Carry public presentations evaluation forms from presentation rooms to the tally room (you don't actually need to "run")
- **Junior Evaluator-** Sit with evaluators and learn what they are looking for to give out "5"'s to a presenter. This may help you learn what to work on for your own presentation! This is also a great way to meet and interact with fellow 4-Hers while learning about some cool topics.
- **Junior Room Host-** Introduce a presenter to their audience and their evaluators

Youth are welcome to volunteer for a couple of hours (when they aren't giving their presentation) on the same day that they sign up to present. Youth are also welcome to sign up to help on a day that they are not presenting.

To sign-up, please indicate you'd like to help on your presentation registration online form, or email erie4H@cornell.edu



PEER EVALUATION



4-Hers 14 and up, consider signing up for this slightly different presentation format.

What is peer evaluation?

- Peer evaluation is the opportunity for youth to observe and evaluate each other by giving presentations and providing feedback within their group.

How does it work?

- You will be in a room with three other 4-H members. All four 4-Hers (yourself included) will give their presentation to each other.
- You will complete a brief evaluation form for each presentation that you will share with your peers giving each other feedback.
- Two adult evaluators will also be in the room who will share verbal feedback and complete the regular rubric, then give you a point score to decide your ribbon color.
- This whole experience will take approximately two hours.
- There will be a required, brief pre-event virtual orientation to help you feel prepared.

Why participate?

- Get feedback directly from fellow 4-H peers, in addition to adult evaluators.
- Gain experience in evaluating and giving feedback.
- Get community service hours – since you'll be benefiting other 4-H members through your feedback, participating in this format can count toward school service hours.

How do I sign up?

On the Public Presentation registration page to select **Peer Evaluation** for either Saturdays of 4-H Public Presentation Days (Feb 7th or 21st). The 4-H Office will follow up with you to confirm the time block of your group.

HEROES TO THE RESCUE



JOIN US IN PAINTING SOME SUPERHERO LOGOS

January 16th, 2025 6:00pm - 8:00pm
@ 387 Massachusetts Ave Buffalo, NY 14213



Register using the Qr code or link
[https://pub.cce.cornell.edu/event_registration/main/events_landing.cfm?
event=4HJanuary2026GuidedPaint_214](https://pub.cce.cornell.edu/event_registration/main/events_landing.cfm?event=4HJanuary2026GuidedPaint_214)



HEROS TO THE RESCUE

In this workshop we will be using some painting and drawing skills to make a dc and marvel hero painting. We will split the canvas into 4 corners and put a superhero logo in each one with a basic background color. The superhero's logos we will be using are Batman, Superman, Green Lantern and The Flash. If you feel your drawing skills are not the best no worries we will have stencils for you as well. Make sure to sign up using the registration link:

https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/4HJanuary2026GuidedPaint_214

If you have any questions, feel free to email me at ts944@cornell.edu. Look forward to seeing you all there!

Join Teen Ambassadors in 2026

APPLICATIONS DUE BY January 2, 2026

Calling all 4-H members ages 13 to 18!

- Do you want to:
 - Build your confidence?
 - Meet new people?
 - Help others?
- Do you need community service hours for school?
- Do you want something to add to your resumé for college applications?

Then the 4-H Erie County Teen Ambassadors is a perfect fit for you! We hold monthly meetings, with a mix of virtual and in-person meetings, starting in January. The Teen Ambassadors will plan and carry out a project that benefits the 4-H program, in addition to supporting other activities like the Food in Community Program and Public Presentations.

Apply here: https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/teenambassadors2026_214

Here are some videos our Teen Ambassadors made last year to help 4-Hers with their Public Presentations:

Practicing in Front of Crowds - <https://youtu.be/pc1ZadbNbyM?feature=shared>

Finding a Topic - https://youtu.be/kdGB51_hglU?si=SWT3K0FYu5KKhbtq

Please join us to share your opinion about the Food in Community program. Whether you've participated in recent years or looking to learn more, we want to hear from you. We'll be meeting virtually on Zoom on Tuesday, January 26th from 7:00-8:00pm. Please sign up to get the meeting link here:

https://cornell.zoom.us/meeting/register/3eUk3eodShW_Zw0ZnKq4-w.

Questions? Contact erie4h@cornell.edu



Erie County Leaders & Volunteers!

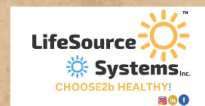
Reminder that the Sexual Harassment Training MUST be done every year!

Please go to <https://blogs.cornell.edu/ccevolunteertraining/required-training/> to complete this mandatory training. Once you have completed this training, please email your Acknowledgement to erie4h@cornell.edu. A link for this training is also available on our webpage @ [erie.cce.cornell.edu/4-H Youth Development/4-H Forms and Handouts](http://erie.cce.cornell.edu/4-H%20Youth%20Development/4-H%20Forms%20and%20Handouts).



LET'S CONNECT! FOOD IN COMMUNITY

**We want to hear your ideas
about how we can connect
around food to better our
communities!**



**Tuesday, January
27th
7:00-8:00pm**

**Join us virtually
on Zoom**

**Connect with others
and share your
opinions about what
would make the Food in
Community Program
fun and meaningful for
you this year!**

Get the Zoom link by signing
up here:

https://cornell.zoom.us/join/register/3eUk3eodShW_Zw0ZnKq4-w



Cornell Cooperative Extension | Erie County

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for providing equal program and employment opportunities in accordance with applicable laws. Accommodations for persons with special needs may be requested by contacting Sara Jablonski at sej57@cornell.edu or 716 652 5400 x 142.

Please join us to share your opinion about the Food in Community program. Whether you've participated in recent years or looking to learn more, we want to hear from you. We'll be meeting virtually on Zoom on Tuesday, January 26th from 7:00-8:00pm. Please sign up to get the meeting link here:

https://cornell.zoom.us/join/register/3eUk3eodShW_Zw0ZnKq4-w.

Questions? Contact erie4h@cornell.edu

Join Us During Winter Break for 4-H February Fiber Fest

Erie County 4-H will be hosting an exciting new 1-day program on **February 18th** on textile skills. We will be offering a full day of workshops from 9 AM to 4 PM where you can learn to sew, crochet, and more; there are six workshops available, and you may choose a morning and afternoon activity. There is a \$10 fee that covers the cost of the materials and lunch.

Register here: https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/4HFebruaryFiberFest_214



FIBER FEST TIMETABLE			
	Block 1	Block 2	Block 3
9 AM			
9:45 AM			
10:30 AM	Learn to Sew: Tablecloth and Napkins	Sashiko Mending: Alter Your Clothes Fashionably	Intro to Needle Felting: Beautiful Birds
11:15 PM			
12 PM	Lunch and Learn	Lunch and Learn	Lunch and Learn
1 PM			
1:45 PM			
2:30 PM	Learn to Sew: Quilt Basics	Learn to Crochet: Basic Stitches and Cat Hat	Fabric Flowers and Felted Friends
3:15 PM			
4 PM			

HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID NATURE WALK AND TALK

LEARN HOW TO SPOT HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGIDS AND
PROTECT OUR EASTERN HEMLOCK TREES FROM THIS
INVASIVE PEST WITH HELP FROM EXPERTS.

MACKINNON LODGE
CHESTNUT RIDGE PARK
JANUARY 31, 2026
9:30 AM TO 1 PM



Cornell Cooperative Extension | Erie County

WANTED



REWARD \$1000

Photo Credited to Kelly Oten, North Carolina State University, Bugwood.org

Learn about the hemlock woolly adelgid with CCE staff and a local Master Gardener volunteer on January 31, 2026, and about how you can become a citizen scientist that helps save our environment.

Hemlock woolly adelgids (HWAs) are an invasive insect that attack North American hemlock trees and pose a threat to our forests and parks. Master Gardener and Forest Owner Paula and our county's Natural Resource educator Sharon will be there to teach you how to identify this pest, and how we are working to save our Eastern Hemlock trees from HWA.

We will meet at the Mackinnon Lodge in Chestnut Ridge Park, hold a short indoor educational session about the hemlock woolly adelgid, and we will then hike around the area to look for signs of the hemlock woolly adelgid together.

Use the QR code to register, or this link: <https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/HemlockWoollyAdelgidHike> 214



December 2025 – Livestock Notes

I look forward to the coming year as we make some small changes within the programs to make the experience better. As I prepared this month's news, I can't help but remind myself of all the growth I have seen in each of our members. You all continue to amaze me with your skills and knowledge, but most of all your passion. I hope that you each realize that what you are doing now will carry you into your next chapters. 4-H gives you the opportunity to have experiences and to make mistakes so that you can learn. I hope that you will continue to try new things, maintain sportsmanship and keep show ethics and practices as a high priority. Let's see what 2026 will hold for you!

Buyers: Did you happen to share your gratitude with your buyer? Grab a holiday card and send it to them, start making connections for your 2026 projects.

Re-enrollment forms for the 2025-2026 program year were due on November 3 for all returning members. Did you miss the deadline? If so, please get your forms to the 4-H office with payment ASAP. There is information about public presentations, meetings and important updates that are coming and if you are not enrolled, you will not receive them. Do you have a friend that would like to join 4-H – they have until May 1 to get enrolled but sooner is always better than later.

Livestock Marketing Meetings will be held at the Ag Discovery Center at the Erie County Fairgrounds on the following dates: Marketing #1 – Wednesday, January 28, Marketing #2 – Tuesday, February 17, Marketing #3 – Monday, March 16 all from 6:30-8 p.m. Please know that we have a fresh and exciting program developed for our members who have participated in 3 or more auctions – rest assured you will not be hearing the same information. Our 1st and 2nd year members will continue to build the skills to solicit bidders, but we will also have a little spin on the presentation from last year. Remember if you are planning to sell at the auction you are required to attend 2 of the 3 (but all 3 would be great). Mark your calendar now to participate in the Bidder Dinner that will be held on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at the Grange Building at the Erie County Fair. Participation in the dinner is required for all members selling in the auction. Do you have a conflict with a date? Email Tammi to let her know PRIOR to the meeting and you will be put on a make up list, make up sessions will be held via zoom, but you must be on the list before the meeting to qualify and to receive the zoom link.

Bidder Dinner Planning Committee: Your help is needed to make our Bidder Dinner successful; it takes many volunteers to help with the planning and on the day of the dinner. If you would like to help, please let Tammi know by emailing tlk6@cornell.edu. Let me know if you are willing to be on the planning committee, or if you are willing to help the day of the event (this would entail setting up, serving, cleaning up). These committees are open to both youth and adults.

Fair Book: I will keep you posted, but once the fair book is available online, I would encourage you all to take a look at it. There are some program changes (we will also discuss at orientations), but you should read the fair book, so you are in compliance with the rules and regulations and aware of all the classes that are being offered.

DUE DATE APPROACHING: Market Steer Registration Forms are due in the 4-H office by Monday, January 5 at 4:30 p.m. for all 2026 Market Steer Projects. Be sure to attach a copy of your BVD paper to the form and submit it together. Please do NOT email them. Drop in the mail or hand delivery to the office, there is a drop box outside our office door if you come before/after business hours.

Halter breaking: Have you been working on getting a halter on your steer projects, if not what are you waiting for? Remember to submit either your signed halter form or a video of you walking your steer on the rope and show halter, which demonstrates your ability to control the animal.

Market Heifers are now an option and will be shown in the non-sale market beef class only (market heifers may not be shown in the breeding class). Market Heifers are not eligible to be sold in the auction. We have also added to the prospect calf class, the option to show a prospect heifer (this heifer may not be shown in breeding class), you will have to choose where you want her shown. Note that steers and heifers will show together.

Dairy Cattle Orientation was held on Wednesday, December 3 we had a small group, but we reviewed the goals and objectives of the program and finished the evening by creating a marketing plan, designing an ice cream package, nutrition label, developed a cool name and made Ice Cream. Our senior group made "Triple M" ice cream with maple syrup and M&M's and our junior group made "The O.G. Ice Cream" and the variety was called "Cow Pies" with chocolate syrup and mini chocolate chips, with a gummy worm on the side.



Dairy Discovery Workshop – Friday/Saturday – March 27 & 28 at Cornell, need details, contact Tammi.

Dairy Bowl Practice sessions are beginning, if you would like to participate, please contact Carl Niefergold at carlniefergold1368@gmail.com Practice sessions will be held at the Langford Firehall.

Regional Dairy Bowl – Saturday, March 7 at Pioneer School hosted by Wyoming County.

Goat Orientation was held on a blustery, Wednesday, December 10 with some in person and some joined via zoom. We discussed the 2026 program and handed out the packets along with playing a short game of Kahoot. Goat Bowl will be hosted by Wyoming County 4-H in 2026, stay tuned for details, but it is never too early to begin studying.

Sheep and Swine – All too soon your producers will be very busy welcoming your 2026 projects into their barns. Now might be a good time to reach out to producers to share your interest in possibly purchasing animals. We do not have any meetings scheduled yet but remember that Livestock Marketing meetings are coming in January-March with the dinner in April. Public presentations are coming in February, start preparing now, so you have time to practice, practice, practice. There are many workshop opportunities that will help you with your presentation, check those out at the beginning of the news.

Poultry – Our 1st poultry meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the Power House, 39 S. Grove Street, East Aurora. We will take orders for the 2026 Market projects. I will communicate with you the cost of the chickens and turkeys in the January news.

Pullorum Testing 2026: NYS Ag and Markets will be doing pullorum testing in Erie County at the Power House on Monday, June 22, 2026, from 5-6 p.m. Register for your pullorum clinic spot here: <https://bit.ly/3Mt1i7x>

Rabbit – Our rabbit club (The Flopper Hoppers) will hold a meeting on Thursday, January 15 from 6-7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, West Falls and the topic of the meeting will be record keeping and getting to know each other. Youth are asked to bring your rabbit (1) to the meeting along with a 2x2 piece of carpet and proper travel cage.

Upcoming Rabbit meetings: Thursday – January 15, February 19, March 19, April 16 at 6:00 p.m. – mark your calendar.

Dog - Our clubs are both accepting new members. The Ridge Rovers meet in Orchard Park and the Buffalo Barkers meet in Tonawanda. If you have a family dog, joining one of our dog clubs could give you the opportunity to strengthen the bond you have with your family friend. Interested, send Tammi an email and I will connect you with the leader closest to where you live.

March Dog Madness will be held on Saturday, March 7 at Cornell – interested? Contact Tammi Kron at tlk6@cornell.edu

Shooting Sports – Want to participate in the Shooting Sports program here in Erie County? Do you have an interest in acquiring the ability to work with firearms safely and to develop social skills, leadership techniques and community service opportunities? We have 3 New York State 4-H certified volunteer instructors that supervise each 4-H Shooting Sports meeting. 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? The Erie County Sharp Shooters meet at the Tonawanda Sportsman Club the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Contact Tammi Kron tlk6@cornell.edu to be connected to our club leaders. December meeting



Horse - Upcoming Opportunities: Watch your email for more information.

Horse Bowl is coming Saturday, January 24, 2026. This year the event will be held at Marilla Baptist Church, 11651 Bullis Rd, Marilla, NY 14102. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. with the contest at 10:00 a.m. All youth that belong to a horse club will register through your club leader. Youth who do not belong to a club, please send your name and date of birth to Kathryn Silliman at ksilliman@moog.com and you will be put on a team. If anyone needs resources to study from, please contact Tammi as we have a bunch of resources in the office.

Horse Communications are just around the corner February 12 or 21, 2026 at Revive Wesleyan Church. Have you ever thought about doing a horse communication and a public presentation, with the same presentation? You can, but what is the difference? It is simply the time. A public presentation we ask for it to be at least 5 minutes, while a horse communication must be between 9-12 minutes. Just think about it, you could do the same presentation but have a chance with a horse communication to move on to the regional, state and national level. Why not give it a try this year.

Register Here for Your Horse Communication: https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/HorseCommunications2026-2-2-2_214

Mark your calendar for the following dates for upcoming events. *=update

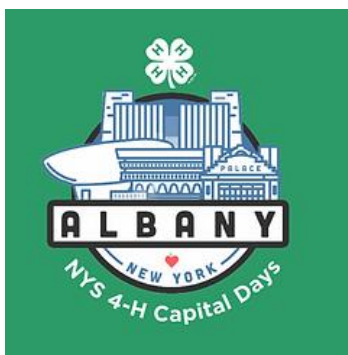
- *Friday, January 16 - Horse Bowl Registration closes, work with your club leader to register or if you are not in a club send your registration to Kathryn Silliman at ksilliman@moog.com
- *Wednesday, January 21 – Horse Communication and Public Presentation registration CLOSES.
- *Saturday, January 24 – Horse Bowl, Marilla Baptist Church, Bullis Road, Marilla
- Saturday, January 31 – State Horse Judging Clinic at Alfred
- *Saturday, February 7 – Public Presentations at Beyond Learning, Depew (snow date 2/14)
- * Thursday, February 12 - Horse Communications/Public Presentations at Revive Wesleyan
- * Saturday, February 21 - Horse Communications/Public Presentations at Revive Wesleyan
- *Thursday, February 26 – Public Presentations at Global Concepts Charter School, Buffalo
- *Sunday, March 8 – Region 1 Model Horse Show and Equine Career Day, Niagara County
- *Saturday, March 7 or 14 – Hippology – St Paul's Lutheran Church, West Falls
- Saturday, March 21 - Regional Horse Bowl – Cattaraugus Co.
- *Saturday, March 28 – Regional Horse Communications – with District Presentations at ECC North Campus
- Saturday, April 18 – NYS Horse Bowl - Cornell
- Saturday, April 25 - Regional Hippology – St. Paul's Lutheran
- April - Evaluations
- *Wednesday, May 13 - Horse Certificate, Rabies and Coggins Due to the 4-H office – all together in a packet
- May – Evaluations
- Sat., May 16 - State Horse Communications – Cornell
- June – State Hippology – tentative – will not be held at NYS Fair in 2026
- Wednesday, July 8 – Erie County Fair entries close at 11:59 p.m.
- June/July – Club Horse Shows
- August – Erie County Fair and NYS Fair

Thank you to Sardinia Saddlers and Jennifer Barber for hosting our first clinic of the 2026 program year on November 15 with Larry Thurber. I heard it was a great day with a lot of participation. We hope that each member left that day with some knowledge and understanding of what a judge looks for when evaluating you at your shows.



During November 14-15, 2025, The Hillside Riders 4-H club took an overnight trip to Springfield, Massachusetts to attend the annual Equine Affair. The Equine Affair is a four-day equestrian expo at the Eastern State Exposition. They arrived on Friday night and quickly settled in before driving to Fantasia. Fantasia was a beautiful show to start their trip. Skilled horse riders danced with their horses to music in sync with their companions to create a rhythmic masterpiece. In a reenacted ancient battle scene stunt riders bravely rode towards each other prepared for battle. Acrobats balanced atop their steeds while performing excellent tricks while “equestrian vaulting”. After getting a good night’s sleep the Hillside Riders excitedly woke up and raced to the Expo. During the group’s visit, they shopped for interesting and unique horse tack, grooming supplies, and equestrian apparel. Although each member spent a fair amount of time browsing through the shops, they still managed to attend many clinics where an expert could teach viewers a specific horse-related subject. The Hillside Riders watched a few clinics as a group. One clinic they watched was for barrel racing where they learned to quickly accelerate and control their horses during western games, events where riders complete a pattern as quickly as they can with sharp turns and quick stops. In addition, they all watched a liberty training clinic. During this clinic an expert showed how you can control your horse and form a strong bond through small signals. While liberty training you can teach your horse groundwork and can even take your horse through maneuvers without a lead rope. These were only two of the many clinics that the Hillside Riders visited. Many clinics were about training your horse to become more advanced while others had horse ownership or even showcases of specific horse breeds. All in all, each and every 4-H member had an amazing experience that will not be easily forgotten.

Submitted by: Leah Peck, Reporter



2026 NYS 4-H Capital Days: Who would like to experience learning how our NYS Government works and experience firsthand all the opportunities? If you are interested, please let Tammi Kron know so an application can be shared with you. You may also obtain an application from our website on the Capital Days Page. NYS 4-H Capital Days will be held May 17-19, 2026.

Hey Livestock Kids: Do you need a little financial help for your project?

Apply today for the Alumni Large Market Animal Scholarship

January 15, 2026, Deadline

Erie County 4-H Alumni offer a large market animal scholarship designed to assist currently enrolled Erie County 4-H member's. This year we were able to allocate additional funds! Our goal is to assist 4-H Member's in the following large market animal areas: Market Beef, Swine, Lambs and Goats. The process is simple! Need an application? Call or email Tammi at tlk6@cornell.edu for one today. Application is also available on our website on the Scholarship Page.

- Complete an application, submit it to the 4-H office by January 15, 2026.
- Determine what area you can volunteer in.

We are excited to announce additional volunteer opportunities are available so you can fulfil your commitment before the fair.

The committee will review the application and award the scholarship in early March.

Did you know Erie County 4-H Alumni partner with the Erie County Dairy Ambassador's and Upstate Milk Co Op to provide you with that delicious ice-cold milk at the Fair!

Calling all youth who would like to participate in a Digital Pen Pal Experience.

In 2025 we began a program where we linked 4-H members who live in rural Erie County with youth that live in urban Erie County. Youth interacted by sharing answers to the topic questions through Instagram or text (regulated by our educators) and learned many different things that brought a lot of awareness of similarities and differences in each of their communities. The youth then experienced a day at the fair and met in person, while eating lunch, then took a tour of the livestock area and participated in a mock dairy show.

We are currently looking for 4-H members from rural and suburban areas who are interested in sharing your daily life experience with youth from our urban program. Youth who have participated are planning to do so again, but we have had many urban youth now express interest to participate.

What is the time commitment? Each month the group will be given a few questions to answer in small groups via Instagram or group chat. Youth will meet early in the summer to connect and also again at the fair.

Does this sound exciting? If so please reach out to Tammi Kron at tlk6@cornell.edu We are hoping to get started right after the new year – I hope to hear from many of you soon.

