

**March 2026**

## *A Message from your 4-H Educators*

We had approximately 250 youth across the county register for 4-H Public Presentations. For some of you, this was your first time presenting and was a nerve-racking experience. We are so proud of our courageous 4-Hers!

We also had a number of first-time presenters join our public speaking education in January - and wow, did your hard work show! For all those who joined our public speaking education opportunities, your judges really noticed how well your presentations were composed, and how confident you were.

We want to give special recognition to the following 4-Hers who had a perfect score. Thank you for going Above and Beyond at 4-H Public Presentations!

Amelia Errington

Madeline Gabel

Analise Hayne

Charlotte Saraceni

Katie Mullen

Danica Niefergold

Madalynn Ploetz

Grayson Ward



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## 2026 ERIE COUNTY FAIR – 4-H Entries

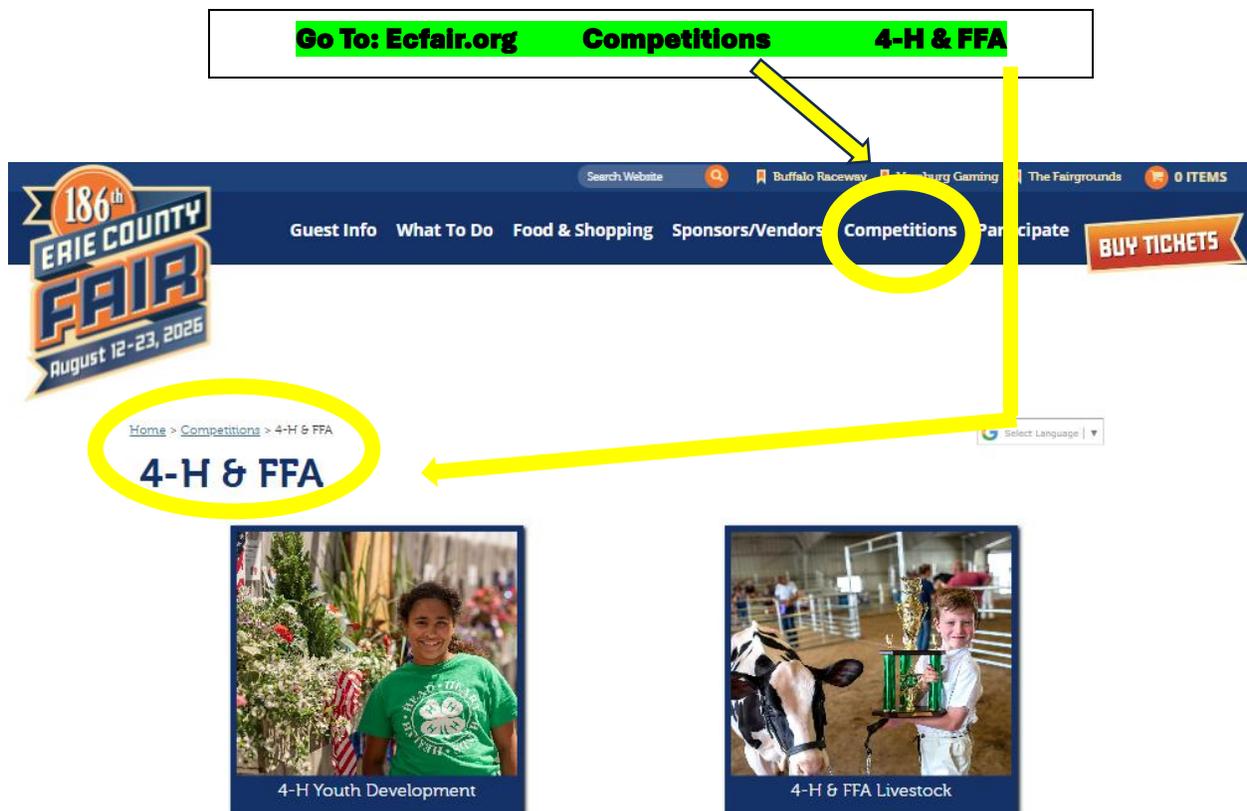
Thanks to the efforts of our 4-H staff, volunteer project superintendents, and the friendly staff at the Erie County Agricultural Society, we are happy to inform our 4-H families and volunteers that the 2026 Erie County Fair premium books are available to the public on the Erie County Fair website.

You can access the premium books here: <https://www.ecfair.org/p/competitions/4-h--ffa/4-h-youth-development>

For those new to the program, premium books are our guides for 4-Hers on how they can enter their projects completed during the program year as exhibits for the public to see at the Erie County Fair. For each exhibit you enter, you can earn a **ribbon and premium monies**. On top of that, you have the opportunity to earn free Erie County Fair tickets, additional awards, and most importantly, show your friends and family the amazing things you've done in Erie County 4-H.

The website for entering exhibits will open in April 2026; we encourage you to read through the premium books and use them to help plan your fair entries, or use the project classes as inspiration to take on new projects in the next few months. Anything you do- community service, science projects, crafts and recipes- can be a fair project. The sky is the limit!

**Here below is a screenshot of the 4-H premium books. It is important to note that we have a separate set of guidelines from adult competitions.**



# Upcoming 4-H Events for 2026



*Reminder-this calendar of events may change in future newsletters.*

## **March**

- March 26- Spring Leader Meeting
- March 26- Master Gardener Scholarship Deadline\*
- March 28- Western District Public Presentations will be held at the STEM Building on ECC North Campus

## **April**

- **April 1- Fair Entries Accepted!**
- April 2- Jim Smith Memorial 4-H Scholarship Deadline\*
- April 2 – 4-H Virtual Pen Pal Program kickoff
- April 8- 4-H Jewelry Making Party at the Boston Free Library
- April 11- 4-H and Friends Nature Hike at JP Nicely Park
- April 15- Livestock Bidder Dinner
- Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County 4-H General Scholarship Deadline\*
- April 25- Arbor Day Urban Ag and Forestry Fair

## **May**

- May 15- Erie County 4-H Textile Revue
- Late May/Early June- Food in Community Planting Day, exact date TBD

## **June**

- Office Hours for 4-H Youth Development Building Submissions- call or email for appointment
- Date TBD- 4-H Youth Development Building Clean Up Begins
- June 27- Reinstein Woods Photography Workshop and Nature Hike

## **July**

- **July 8- Fair Entries Close!**
- Date TBD- 4-H Youth Development Building Clean Up Continues

## **August**

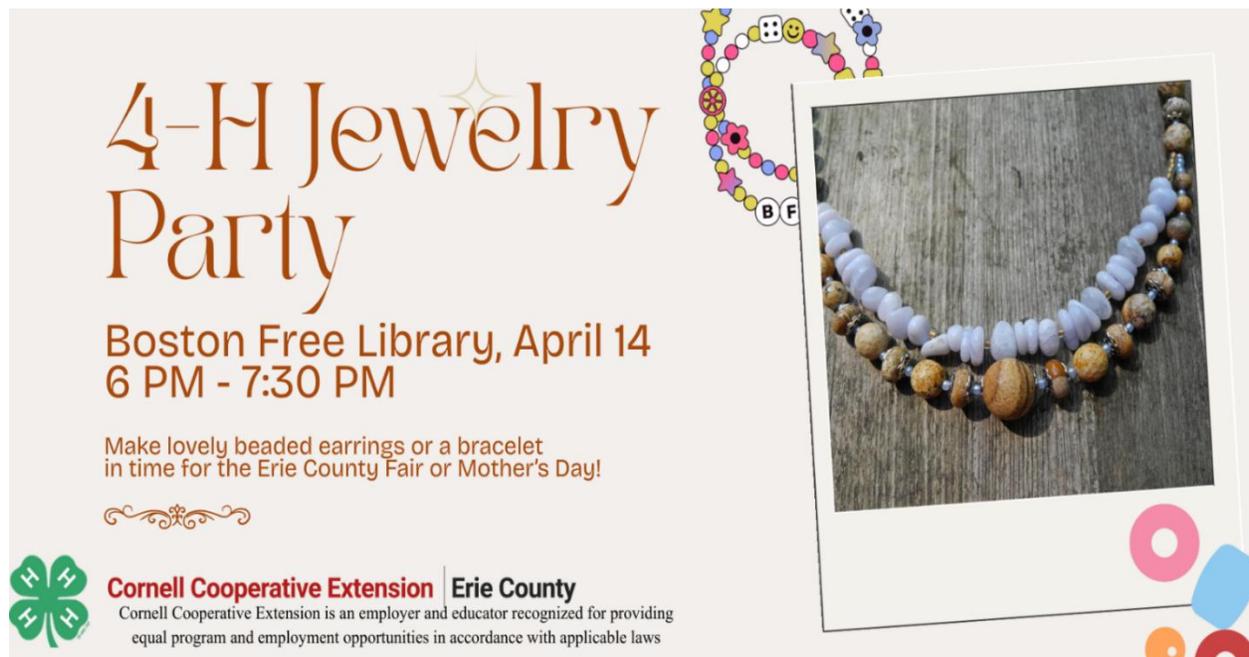
- August 8- 4-H Project Evaluation Day at the Erie County Fairgrounds
- August 12-23- Erie County Fair
- August 26-September 7- New York State Fair

**\*-Details provided in later pages**



Erie County 4-H club leaders and senior volunteers affiliated with clubs are encouraged to attend our 4-H Spring Leader Meeting happening on March 26<sup>th</sup>. We'll talk about upcoming events across Erie County, how to build healthy youth-adult partnerships, and about the 2026 Erie County Fair!

If you would like, you may request one physical copy of the 2026 Erie County Fair premium book for your club. Please reach out to us at [erie4h@cornell.edu](mailto:erie4h@cornell.edu) so we know to print and deliver the book to you at the meeting.



**4-H Jewelry Party**

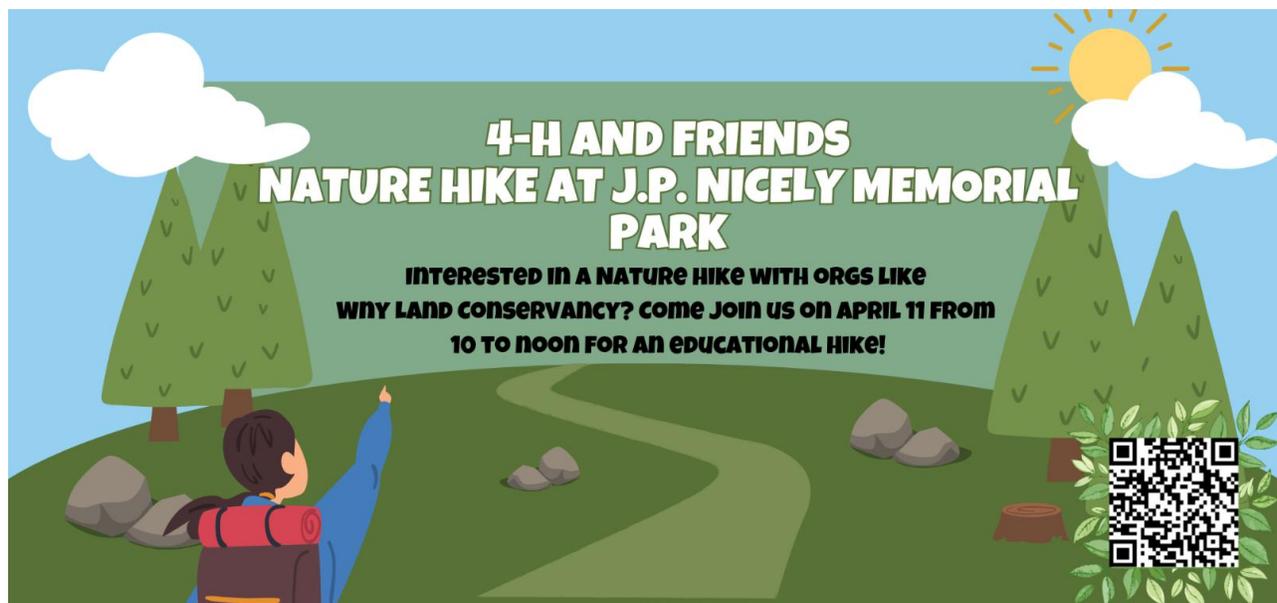
**Boston Free Library, April 14  
6 PM - 7:30 PM**

Make lovely beaded earrings or a bracelet  
in time for the Erie County Fair or Mother's Day!

 **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

Jewelry Party: Beginners and experienced crafters alike can join us for a night of jewelry making at the Boston Free Public Library on April 14, 2026. We will start at 6 PM, and crafty 4-H members will have the chance to make beaded jewelry. We will have supplies for earrings, bracelets, and depending on supply, attendees may make a set! This would not only be a great fair project, but a great Mother's Day gift, too.

Jewelry party: [https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/4HJewelryMakingParty\\_214](https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/4HJewelryMakingParty_214)



**4-H AND FRIENDS  
NATURE HIKE AT J.P. NICELY MEMORIAL  
PARK**

**INTERESTED IN A NATURE HIKE WITH ORGS LIKE  
WHY LAND CONSERVANCY? COME JOIN US ON APRIL 11 FROM  
10 TO NOON FOR AN EDUCATIONAL HIKE!**



We invite 4-Hers to join us and other community partners on a nature hike at J.P. Nicely Memorial Park in West Falls on **April 11 from 10:00 am to Noon**. We will observe the transition from winter to spring and look for any damage from invasive species such as HWA on our hike. If you joined us for the January HWA hike, this is a great opportunity to add more observations to your nature hike journal. You will also learn about citizen science, and the impact you can make by reporting invasive species.

Nicely hike: [https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/4HandFriendsJPNicelyHike\\_214](https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/4HandFriendsJPNicelyHike_214)



## **Erie County 4-H Textile Craft Mentoring**

Are you working on a textile and fiber project, and stumped on a difficult or new technique? The 4-H Office and our volunteers are here to help!

If you are in need of assistance, we can help you connect with volunteers with experience in your specific craft. Whether it is sewing, knitting, crocheting or more, we would love to help you.

Please reach out to Caitlin at [cmr348@cornell.edu](mailto:cmr348@cornell.edu), and provide a detailed explanation of what support you need to help you with your project.

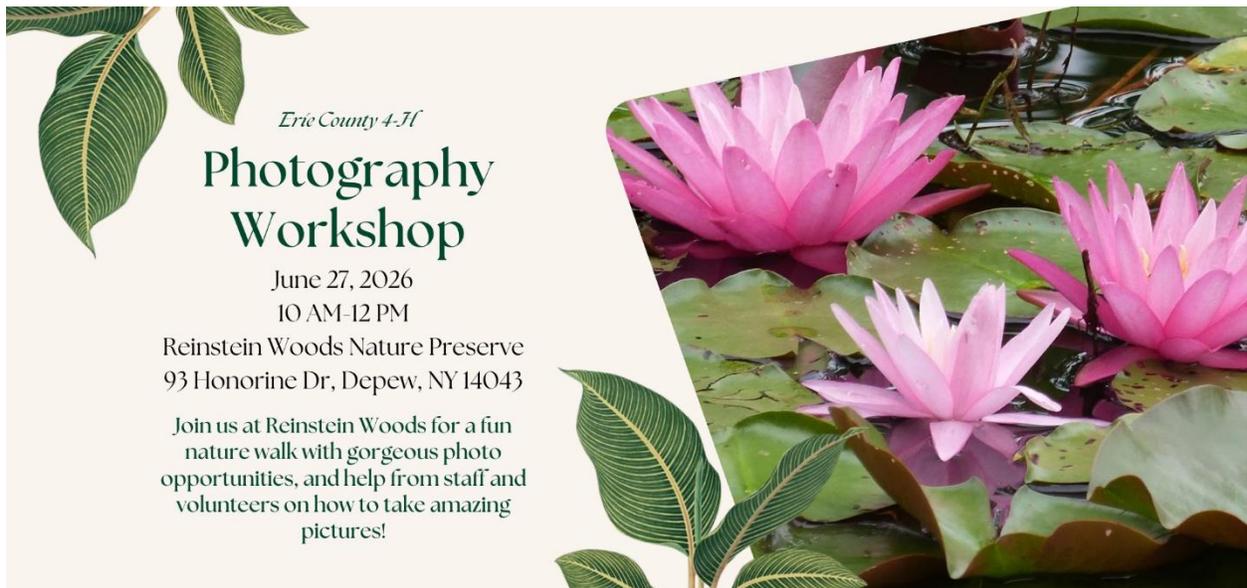


## **2026 Erie County Textile Revue**

We invite all 4-Hers across Erie County who have completed or nearly finished a textile project to come to the 2026 Erie County 4-H Textile Revue on May 15, at the East Aurora Power House. We'll begin at 6 PM and have our attendees rotate through different stations; we'll have textile evaluators give you feedback on how to have a blue-ribbon ready project, help you learn how to model, and we'll put together a community service project for a local organization.

There will be refreshments available, and if your family wishes to bring a snack, we would love that! Please be sure if you bring anything to list any allergens.

Register here: <https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/20264HTextileRevue> 214



## **Erie County 4-H Photography Workshop and Nature Walk**

On June 27, join us on a warm summer morning from 10 AM to 12 PM for a hike around parts of the Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve. We will have the opportunity to observe and capture in photos the beauty of Reinstein Woods, which is home to a wide variety of animal and plant species.

During our walk, the water lilies will be in bloom- they bloom starting around 9 AM. You are encouraged to take pictures of one of the highlights at Reinstein Woods.

We will have 4-H staff and volunteers that can help you take the best photos possible during the walk. You may submit your best photos as fair projects!

Above is a link to an HWA reporting site- we recommend checking it out before the hike. You can create exhibits about your participation in citizen science projects like HWA reporting for the Erie County Fair.



## **The National 4-H Beekeeping Essay Competition is Open!!!**

Active 4-H Members who are interested in or keep bees are welcome to submit a 750 to 1,000 word essay answering the below questions:

- How is pollen important to bees?
- Has pollen been changing in plants and in our landscapes? If so, are those changes affecting bees?
- When do you observe the most and least pollen in your colonies and how does that impact their temperament and productivity?

### **Essays entered must encompass the designated topic only. There will be no exceptions.**

**Essay Requirements:** 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 "sources" or "bibliography."

Essays will be judged on (a) scope of research, 40%; (b) accuracy, 30%; (c) creativity, 10%; (d) conciseness, 10%; and (e) logical development of the topic, 10%.

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

**New this year: The statement "I verify that AI was not used to create this essay" must also be included at the bottom of the essay and signed.**

Contact Caitlin ([cmr348@cornell.edu](mailto:cmr348@cornell.edu)) at the Erie County 4-H Office to submit your essay by April 13, 2026:

#### **Awards:**

Three cash prizes will be awarded in the 2026 National 4-H Beekeeping Essay Competition.

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

The three national prize-winning essays will be published in the ABF Quarterly, the magazine of the American Beekeeping Federation as well as the national trade magazines. Authors of the three prize-winning essays will be given a complimentary registration to the next ABF annual conference. All authors of essays submitted to the national competition will receive a relevant book on honey bees, beekeeping, or honey.



# Scholarship Central

Your corner for upcoming scholarship opportunities!

## [Master Gardener Scholarship- DEADLINE MARCH 26th](#)

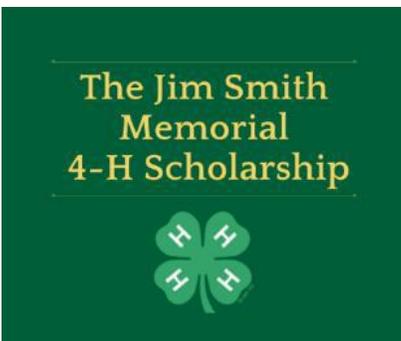


This year the CCE Erie Master Gardener Volunteer Program plans to award a \$2,000 college scholarship to a graduating high school/ home school senior who resides in Erie County.

The student must be accepted by a recognized, accredited college or university to study horticulture, botany or a related field. A person may receive the scholarship only once.

Link: [Master Gardener On-Line Scholarship](#)

## [Jim Smith Memorial Scholarship- DEADLINE APRIL 2<sup>nd</sup>](#)



Applications are now being accepted by the Erie County Extension Foundation for the Jim Smith Memorial Scholarships for those students furthering their education at college, University, technical or vocational schools. Jim was an avid supporter of 4-H youth programs and the Erie County Fair livestock auctions. Scholarships are available to 4-H or FFA graduating seniors and continuing college students registering for the Fall semester. Several scholarships are expected to be awarded.

Link: [Scholarship | Erie County Extension Foundation](#)

## [Erie County Agricultural Society Scholarships- DEADLINE APRIL 15](#)



Erie County Agricultural Society & Erie County Fair Scholarships

Information and application are available here: [Scholarships](#)

(<https://www.ecfair.org/p/other/scholarships>)

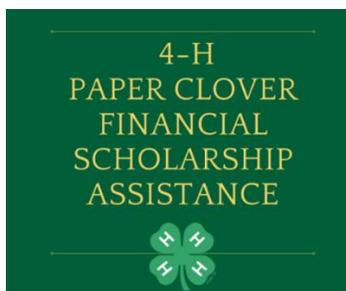
### 4-H General Scholarship- DEADLINE APRIL 17th



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.

Link: [4-H General Scholarship Information and Application](#)

### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OPPORTUNITIES



### Paper Clover Financial Assistance Scholarships

The purpose of the Erie County 4-H Paper Clover Scholarship is to provide financial assistance for 4-H leadership opportunities outside of Erie County for 4-H members who exhibit commitment to the Erie County 4-H Program and an interest in sharing their leadership experience with the 4-H community.

Only complete applications will be considered.

A complete application must include ONE letter of recommendation from an adult leader. This person may be a 4-H leader, teacher, coach, or other adult. It may NOT be an Erie County 4-H Educator or a family member.

Letters of recommendation may be completed online or turned in to the 4-H office separately.

Scholarships will be awarded at the discretion of the scholarship selection committee. The scholarship amount will be determined based on the number of qualified applicants.

*Examples of leadership opportunities for which funds may be used:*

STARR

4-H STEM Camp

Career Explorations

Shooting Sports Training—June

ABC at SUNY Cobleskill-TBD

Animal Crackers: May

Paper Clover Scholarship: [https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_exQWUIMdZHghz8](https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_exQWUIMdZHghz8)

Paper Clover recommendation: [https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9MHjbNdKL56W8n4](https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9MHjbNdKL56W8n4)

**It is scholarship “season”, please visit our website ([erie.cce.cornell.edu](http://erie.cce.cornell.edu))  
for different opportunities that may pop up over the next few months.**

**<https://erie.cce.cornell.edu/4-h-youth-development/scholarships-financial-assistance-opportunities>**

# VIRTUAL PEN-PAL MEETING

Join us in our first meeting of the year for our Virtual Pen-Pal Program. We invite teens from urban, suburban, and rural communities to come together to build relationships. In this meeting we will be discussing ideas on what you would like to learn about each others' communities.

Teens will get to know each other through small group chats and also through in-person field trips in different parts of Erie County.



## DETAILS



### Date

April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026



### Time

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm



## JOIN



- <https://cornell.zoom.us/j/93240513942?pwd=LCfDk5PzVddeCYQP1J37JBVfQH27WS.1>



If you are interested in joining the Virtual Pen-Pal Program initial meet up on Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 7-8pm, join us using this Zoom link. <https://cornell.zoom.us/j/93240513942?pwd=LCfDk5PzVddeCYQP1J37JBVfQH27WS.1>



## March 2026 – Livestock Notes

*Spring is just around the corner!*

### Livestock Program Dates at a Glance:

- ☘ Monday, March 16 – 6:30 pm - Livestock Marketing Workshop #3 – ADC at the fairgrounds
- ☘ \*Wednesday, March 18 – 5:30 p.m. Pheasant Orientation zoom, register online
- ☘ Thursday, March 19 – 6:00 pm – Flopper Hopper Meeting
- ☘ March 27/28 – Dairy Discovery at Cornell
- ☘ Monday, March 30 – 6-8 pm – Leadline Garment Workshop – Power House registration due March 23.
- ☘ \*Monday, April 6 – RSVP's due for the Bidder Dinner
- ☘ Monday, April 6 – 7 pm – zoom Generic Meeting #1 – NYS Health Requirements
- ☘ Wednesday, April 15 – Bidder Dinner – Grange Building at the fairgrounds
- ☘ Thursday, April 16 – 6:00 pm – Flopper Hopper meeting
- ☘ Friday, April 17 – Goat Bowl registration due to Tammi
- ☘ \*Saturday, April 18 – Western District Livestock Skillathon – contact Tammi for information.
- ☘ \*Week of April 20 – Turkeys arrive
- ☘ Saturday, April 25 – NYS Dairy Bowl at Cornell
- ☘ Saturday, April 25 – NYS Livestock Quiz Bowl at Cornell
- ☘ Saturday, May 2 – Animal Crackers at Cornell focusing on Horse, Sheep, Swine and Dogs
- ☘ \*Tuesday, May 5 – Public Presentation Make up #1 – contact Tammi for info
- ☘ \*Friday, May 8 – Plant Sale Delivery, CCE Property, 5600 Burton Rd., Orchard Park
- ☘ Saturday, May 9 – District Goat Bowl Contest at Wyoming County 4-H office
- ☘ \*Saturday, May 9 – Poultry Processing Clinic at HLW Acres – contact Tammi for info
- ☘ \*Tuesday, May 12 – Poultry Meeting 6:30 p.m. – Power House
- ☘ \*Wednesday, May 13 – Public Presentation Make up #2 – contact Tammi for info
- ☘ \*Week of June 1 – Chicken Delivery

- ☘ Monday, June 22 – 5-6 pm - Pullorum Testing – Power House – please register online
- ☘ \*Wednesday, July 1 – Livestock Interview Evening #1, Power House
- ☘ Wednesday, July 8 – Erie County Fair Entries close at 11:59 p.m.
- ☘ \*Thursday, July 9 – Livestock Interview Evening #2, Power House
- ☘ \*Friday, July 10 – Livestock Auction posters must be on display in the community.
- ☘ \*Monday, July 13 – Livestock Interview Evening #3, Power House
- ☘ \*Tuesday, July 21 – Livestock Interview Evening #4, Power House

\*DENOTES NEW TO SCHEDULE

**New members to 4-H:** Do you have a friend that would like to join 4-H – they have until May 1 to enroll but sooner is always better than later. Contact Tammi if you need an enrollment form.

**Livestock Marketing Meetings** will be held at the Ag Discovery Center at the Erie County Fairgrounds on the following dates from 6:30-8 p.m.: Are you planning to sell at the auction? You are required to attend 2 of the 3 workshops (but all 3 would be great). Do you have a conflict with a workshop 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.

- **Marketing #3 – Monday, March 16** – make-up date – Monday, March 23 at 7 pm. All participants should come to this last meeting prepared with your 2 minute sales pitch. Our 201 group will be working on them at the beginning of the meeting and then practicing at the end of the meeting. We have a lot of bidders lined up to come and listen to your pitches. Please come dressed appropriately in your show ring attire (clean jeans and a collared shirt are fine) Youth in the 302 group, please bring your final video clips to the meeting and watch your email for the link to the drop box to put your video clips in so we can put the video for the dinner together. Anyone want to help, let Tammi know.

**Bidder Dinner** will be held on **Wednesday, April 15, 2026**, at the Grange Building at the Erie County Fair. Participation in the dinner is expected for all members selling in the auction as it is a friendly environment to connect with the bidders you invite. RSVP is due online by Monday, April 6 for bidders and families. Invitations will be distributed at the last marketing meeting and are being sent to all our bidders from last year.

Bidder Dinner Schedule – Registration at 5:15 pm, Dinner at 6:00 p.m. and Interactive Program at 7:15 p.m.

**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](mailto: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. A list of volunteers created now will help to plan a great event.

**Fair Book:** The 2026 fair books were posted by February 1. Look at the sections and read them over. Here is the direct link to the livestock section: <https://www.ecfair.org/p/competitions/4-h--ffa/4h--ffa> It will also be a wonderful time to visit the YDB classes, perhaps you are doing something that could be exhibited there. Contact the 4-H office if you have any questions.

**Animal Crackers - Saturday, May 2, 2026** - All Creatures Great and Small featuring Horse, Sheep, Swine, and Dog! The annual Animal Crackers program provides New York youth with fun, hands-on, science-oriented learning experiences on Animal Science topics. This workshop is for 4-H members interested in learning more about their favorite livestock, companion or pet animal species; emphasis on different species groupings and activities varies annually. Participants will learn about different aspects of animal care, interact and exchange information with faculty, staff, students, professional producers, industry experts, and more, utilizing the unique facilities of Cornell University. Hands-on workshops are planned for each species group. Each year an opening presentation kicks off the event with a welcoming statement or remarks related to the annual theme. Livestock production and companion animal themes are offered every year, Dairy topics in odd years, and Horse topics in even years. A noon-time demonstration and closing program is also typically featured. Workshop presenters and topics are selected by a planning committee that looks at trends and current issues. Youth input on topics is also solicited through statewide advisory committees and educator feedback. Examples of some of the fun things participants have experienced in the past: The holey cow, dog first aid basics, goat milk soap, wool felting, poop soup, chicken anatomy, farrier tools, and more! Want to attend? Register with Tammi at [tlk6@cornell.edu](mailto:tlk6@cornell.edu). The cost is \$30 per person (youth/chaperone) and covers lunch and t-shirt, due before I can register the participants.

**Livestock Summit:** It was great to receive reports about the Livestock Summit events that happened during the month of February. It sounds like they were interesting topics and those that participated learned at least 2 new things. Thank you for representing Erie County 4-H.

**Generic Meeting #1:** We will be holding a zoom meeting on Monday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m. that will focus on health requirements for the 2026 show season. NYS Veterinarian Katelyn Card will be our guest speaker who will go over the requirements for each species that is shown at the fair. If you are showing multiple species, this is a one stop shop opportunity as you will earn a meeting credit for each species you are showing. Please register by Wednesday, April 1, 2026, to receive the link to the zoom at [https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/Genericmeeting1\\_214](https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/Genericmeeting1_214)

**Beef - Halter breaking:** AS I look at the beef binder, I see that many of you are missing either a video or your paperwork signed off by a committee member showing that your calf is halter broke. If you have not yet submitted something, be sure to get it in by the end of March. 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.

**Dairy Discovery Workshop** – Friday/Saturday – March 27 & 28 at Cornell. Registration is now open for Dairy Discovery 2026. This year's focus is Milk and Milk Quality. Please follow the link below to register by March 23 and learn more about lodging accommodations in the area. This is an annual program for youth age 14 to 18 (not reached their 19th birthday by January 1) who have an interest in dairy and hands on learning.

Here is the link: <https://cals.cornell.edu/pro-dairy/our-expertise/youth/dairy-discovery-workshop>

**Regional Dairy Bowl** was held Saturday, March 7 at Pioneer School hosted by Wyoming County. Special thanks to Carl Niefergold for leading our teams and coordinating all the study sessions. Thank you also to Morgan DePue, Justin Mesch, Kristin Loomis, JoAnn DePue and Magdaline Gerst for coaching our members.

**Goats** - Goat Bowl will be hosted by Wyoming County 4-H on Saturday, May 9, 2026. If you are interested in participating in the district event, please register with Tammi by emailing [tlk6@cornell.edu](mailto:tlk6@cornell.edu) by April 17. Participating in goat bowl will earn you 100 project points.

**Swine Orientation** was held on Monday, March 9, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the Power House. Participation was a little low, but we covered information about the program and discussed program opportunities our members would like. One change to the swine project is that the date of birth has been backed up a little. The new DOB for hogs is 12-2-2025 and after. Remember your market hog must weigh between 220-290 on the day of weigh-in at the fair. We are hopeful that if you select an older pig, you will not have to push them as hard, which will allow them to produce a quality carcass for your customers.

**Sheep Orientation** was held on Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the Power House, 39 S. Grove St., East Aurora.

**Sheep – Leadline Garment Workshop:** Do you want some help in getting ready for the leadline contest at the fair? We will be holding a workshop on Monday, March 30 from 6-8 pm at the Power House. What will you need: an article of clothing that contains at least 60% wool. Not a person who sews? If you stop in at the Goodwill store or a consignment shop during the winter you should be able to find something that you can refurbish – an example might be a wool blazer that you embellish, a skirt or pants that you wear, a wool suit or a sweater. After you have a garment, you can change it up by needle felting a design, to jazz it up. We will have items that you can use to spruce up your outfit – felting wool, lace, beads, buttons and items that were donated to the program that can be used to spruce up the repurposed garment you are working on. If you are planning to attend this workshop, please register by emailing Tammi at [tlk6@cornell.edu](mailto:tlk6@cornell.edu) by Monday, March 23.

**Poultry** – We held our March poultry meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> and we focused on the breeds of chickens. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the Power House.

**Rooster Crowing Contest:** I am pleased to announce that we are bringing back the “Rooster Crowing Contest” at the fair. Check out the poultry fair book section available on the Erie County Fair website.

**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** – All rabbit participants that are exhibiting rabbits (either regular or market) at the fair are expected to attend at least 2 rabbit meetings. We will be holding a meeting specifically for market rabbit participants in June as well that will focus on showmanship and fair preparation.

**Upcoming Rabbit meetings:** Thursday –March 19, April 16 at 6:00 p.m.

**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.

**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](mailto:tlk6@cornell.edu) to be connected to our club leaders.

**Livestock Bowl is coming to NYS!** Who wants to give it a try??? The NYS Animal Science Team will be hosting a state event on April 25 at 2:00 p.m. after Dairy Bowl. This is a pilot program and in order for youth to qualify to attend, instead of a regional event for the first few years, Brian Aukema will be asking Educators if they have a youth interested and at this time we plan to have them (Youth) come to their office to take the test. Youth will be taking a written test, and the top 36 kids will be invited to participate. This opportunity will be for seniors only this year. (2026). Interested, let Tammi know so I can be sure to share information with you regarding taking the test here in our Erie County CCE office.

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

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

- ☘ Saturday, March 21 - Regional Horse Bowl – Cattaraugus Co.
- ☘ Saturday, March 28 – Regional Horse Communications – with District Presentations at ECC North Campus
- ☘ Monday, April 6 – Zoom – NYS Veterinarian – Health Requirements for the fair season
- ☘ Saturday, April 18 – NYS Horse Bowl - Cornell
- ☘ Saturday, April 25 - Regional Hippology – St. Paul’s Lutheran
- ☘ April – Evaluations – more info to come.
- ☘ Saturday, May 2 – Animal Crackers at Cornell focusing on Horse, Sheep, Swine & Dog
- ☘ Wednesday, May 13 - Horse Certificate, Rabies and Coggins Due to the 4-H office – all together in a packet
- ☘ May – Evaluations – more info to come.
- ☘ Saturday, May 16 - State Horse Communications – Cornell
- ☘ Saturday, May 23 – Training Show at Blakestone Stables
- ☘ Sunday, May 24 – Evaluations at Stagecoach with AHANEY show
- ☘ Saturday, June 6 – 2026 NYS Horse Judging and Hippology Contest, Cortland County (note this was held at NYS Fair in the past)
- ☘ Saturday, June 13 – Sardinia Saddlers 4-H Club Horse Show at Blakestone
- ☘ Saturday, June 27 – TriColor Equestrian 4-H Club Horse Show at Stagecoach
- ☘ 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.
- ☘ Sunday, July 12 – Wild Wind Riders 4-H Club Horse Show, Sammy Sacrilas, Brant
- ☘ Saturday, July 25 – Hillside Riders 4-H Club Show at Stagecoach
- ☘ August – Erie County Fair and NYS Fair

**Hippology** took place on Saturday, March 7. We had a great turnout with some 42 youth participating. Thank you to Bonnie Fryne for coordinating the event and to all our parents and volunteers that helped with overseeing stations, food and scoring. It was a great day. Those who placed in the top 10 are invited to move on to the regional contest that will be held on Saturday, April 25. Please contact Tammi if you wish to move on if you did not commit at the event.

**Training Show** –the Training Show is scheduled for Saturday, May 23 at Blakestone Stables, stay tuned for further information, so hold that date.

**A visit with the NYS Veterinarian:** We will be holding a zoom meeting on **Monday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m.** that will focus on health requirements for the 2026 show season. NYS Veterinarian Katelyn Card will be our guest speaker who will go over the requirements for each species that is shown at the fair. If you are showing multiple species, this is a one stop shop opportunity as you will earn a meeting credit for each species you are showing. Please register by Wednesday, April 1, 2026 to receive the link to the zoom at [https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/Genericmeeting1\\_214](https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/Genericmeeting1_214)

# BUFFALO BARKERS 4-H CLUB

The Buffalo Barkers recently completed a project for the Fair.

They collected animal food bags and converted them into tote bags.

This recycling project had them measuring, cutting and sewing these bags into usable tote bags.



# Fun at February Fiber Fest!



A little bit of sewing, felting and crocheting were all part of Fiber Fest 2026.

It was a day-long event featuring many fiber crafts.

*We hope to see these crafts at the Fair!!*



# ERIE COUNTY 4-H



## Spring Hanging Basket & Geranium Flat Fundraiser Plant Sale

*More Information coming soon!*

**Orders will open on March 1, 2026 , Payment and complete orders due by April 1, 2026, Delivery Friday, May 8, 2026**

We are pleased to partner again with Zittel's Greenhouse to provide our clubs and independent members the opportunity to generate funds to support your 4-H projects.

### **Available Flowers :** Colors are grower choice for all hanging baskets.



**Million Bells**



**Sunpatiens**



**Roller Coaster Impatiens**



**Dragon Wing Begonia**



**Boston Fern**



**Combination Hanging Basket**  
(growers choice of plants)



**Solenia Begonia**



**4.5 inch potted Geraniums**  
Available in flats of Red, White or Pink or a combo flat

# Arbor Day Tree Expo

Where: Cazenovia Park Casino Building

When: Saturday, April 25th, 2026

10 AM - 1 PM

Join the WNY ReLeaf Committee and Buffalo Olmsted Parks to celebrate Arbor Day!

This is a free, student and family-friendly day with activities and demonstrations. Learn about the tree care industry — from planting and pruning, to climbing and the equipment used.

Guided tours will take you through the park to showcase live tree work in action!

Talk with local professionals about their work, ask questions, and find out about opportunities to join the industry.



... and many more.

*Interested in tabling or volunteering for the day?*

Visit <https://nysufc.org/r9-tree-care-expo-2026/> to register,

Or contact Nate Morey at 716-851-7048 / [nate.morey@dec.ny.gov](mailto:nate.morey@dec.ny.gov)

# Schedule:

- Registration 7:00AM – 7:45AM
- Shotgun Start – 8:00AM
- Scramble Format
- Lunch at the Turn
- Steak Dinner
- Theme Basket Raffles
- 50/50

# Entry Fees:

- \$120.00/person
- \$460.00/foursome
- Includes:*
- Greens Fee & Cart
- All golfers tee off and play
- Best ball to the hole
- Must use at least three (3) drives from each golfer
- Longest Drive
- Closest to the Pin
- Electronic Scoring Available

Erie County Extension Foundation was created in 2005. Each year, we provide multiple scholarships in memory of our former Board member, Jim Smith. These scholarships are available to high school seniors and college students to further their education at college, university, technical, or vocation schools. To date, \$61,450.00 has been awarded to 59 students.

Thank you for your generous support!



## Fundraiser for the Jim Smith Memorial Youth Scholarships



# Erie County Extension Foundation 14<sup>th</sup> Annual GOLF Tournament

Chestnut Hill Country Club  
1330 Broadway Darien Center NY  
14040



**Saturday, July 25, 2026  
8:00AM Shotgun Start!**

Chestnut Hill Country Club  
1330 Broadway, Darien Center, NY 14040  
Saturday, July 25, 2026

### PROMOTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Recognition of donations on the Course for donors.

1. RAFFLE PRIZE DONOR      Any Prize
2. HOLE SPONSOR              \$150.00

Business or name displayed.  
We gladly accept promotional items.

3. SUPPORTER                      \$650.00

Business Sign at the Tee  
Golf Foursome

4. SUPER SUPPORTER          \$850 or more

Business Sign at the Tee  
Golf Foursome

Questions?

Please Contact:

Rick Barber      716.462.3806

dib555@verizon.net

### Annual CCE Golf Tournament – Saturday, July 25, 2026

Proceeds to Benefit – **JIM SMITH MEMORIAL YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: NFS

And mail to: 3 Springbrook Shores,  
Elma NY 14059 – ATTN: Martha Filadora

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER PLAYERS IN FOURSOME (if applicable):

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Non-golfers attending Dinner:

\_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2026.**

NAME AS IT SHOULD APPEAR ON SIGN:

\_\_\_\_\_

You may register:

-Online on our website: [www.eriecoef.org](http://www.eriecoef.org)

-Email to [eriecountyextfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:eriecountyextfoundation@gmail.com) OR

-Mail this form with your check.