

**January 2026**

Hello! My name is Taylor Scott, and I'm the 4-H Urban Youth Educator. I was a former 4-H'er myself and participated in 4-H Youth CAN Club for three years during high school. I have a strong passion for leading and guiding youth as they grow into their best selves. Some things I enjoy are movies, coffee (mostly espresso), and animals. I'm excited and grateful to be a part of the team!

## **INTRODUCING OUR NEW 4-H STAFF!**

Hello 4-H-ers, my name is Nandini, the new Food Systems Educator. I work with youth in the City of Buffalo to understand food systems and build community projects that solve issues in the food system in their schools and communities. I love being outdoors, especially when I am climbing up a tree or observe the way the snow lies perfectly on branches making perfect lines. I pride myself in being a very creative and hands-on person who will go crazy for any crafting project – from crochet to ceramics to woodworking! I'm so excited to be part of this team working with youth to be leaders that are more connected with the world around themselves.



## **Table of Contents**

<b>Welcome to new staff members</b>	<b>Page 1</b>
<b>Public Presentation Information</b>	<b>Pages 2,3</b>
<b>Let's Connect – Food in the Community</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
<b>Hemlock Woolly Adelgid walk, Volunteer Reminder</b>	<b>Page 5</b>
<b>Fiber Fest</b>	<b>Page 6</b>
<b>Livestock Notes</b>	<b>Pages 7-11</b>
<b>Digital Pen Pal, National Civics Bee</b>	<b>Page 12</b>

# 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](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>

## **Public Presentation Q&A Sessions**

We will meet virtually from 6-7 PM to answer your questions about the trickier parts of public presentations. Mark your calendars for January 21, 2026, for our Q&A sessions. Please RSVP by emailing [cmr348@cornell.edu](mailto:cmr348@cornell.edu).

## **Public Presentation Pre-Game Party- 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](mailto: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](https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/publicpresentations2026_214)

**Register Here for Your Horse Communication:** [https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/HorseCommunications2026-2-2-2\\_214](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](mailto:tlk6@cornell.edu) or 716-652-5400 x 132) to be put on an interest list.

## **4-Hers - We need YOU to help during Public Presentations!**

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](mailto:erie4H@cornell.edu)

## **PEER EVALUATORS - 4-Hers 14 and up!**

### **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.

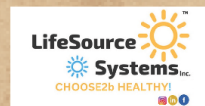
### **How do I sign up?**

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.



# 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](https://cornell.zoom.us/join/register/3eUk3eodShW_Zw0ZnKq4-w)



**Cornell Cooperative Extension | Erie County**

CCornell 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](mailto: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 26<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-8:00pm. Please sign up to get the meeting link here:

[https://cornell.zoom.us/join/register/3eUk3eodShW\\_Zw0ZnKq4-w](https://cornell.zoom.us/join/register/3eUk3eodShW_Zw0ZnKq4-w).

Questions? Contact [erie4h@cornell.edu](mailto:erie4h@cornell.edu)



# 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



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

**Cornell Cooperative Extension | Erie County**



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](https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/HemlockWoollyAdelgidHike_214)



**REMINDER to all Erie County Leaders & Volunteers!**

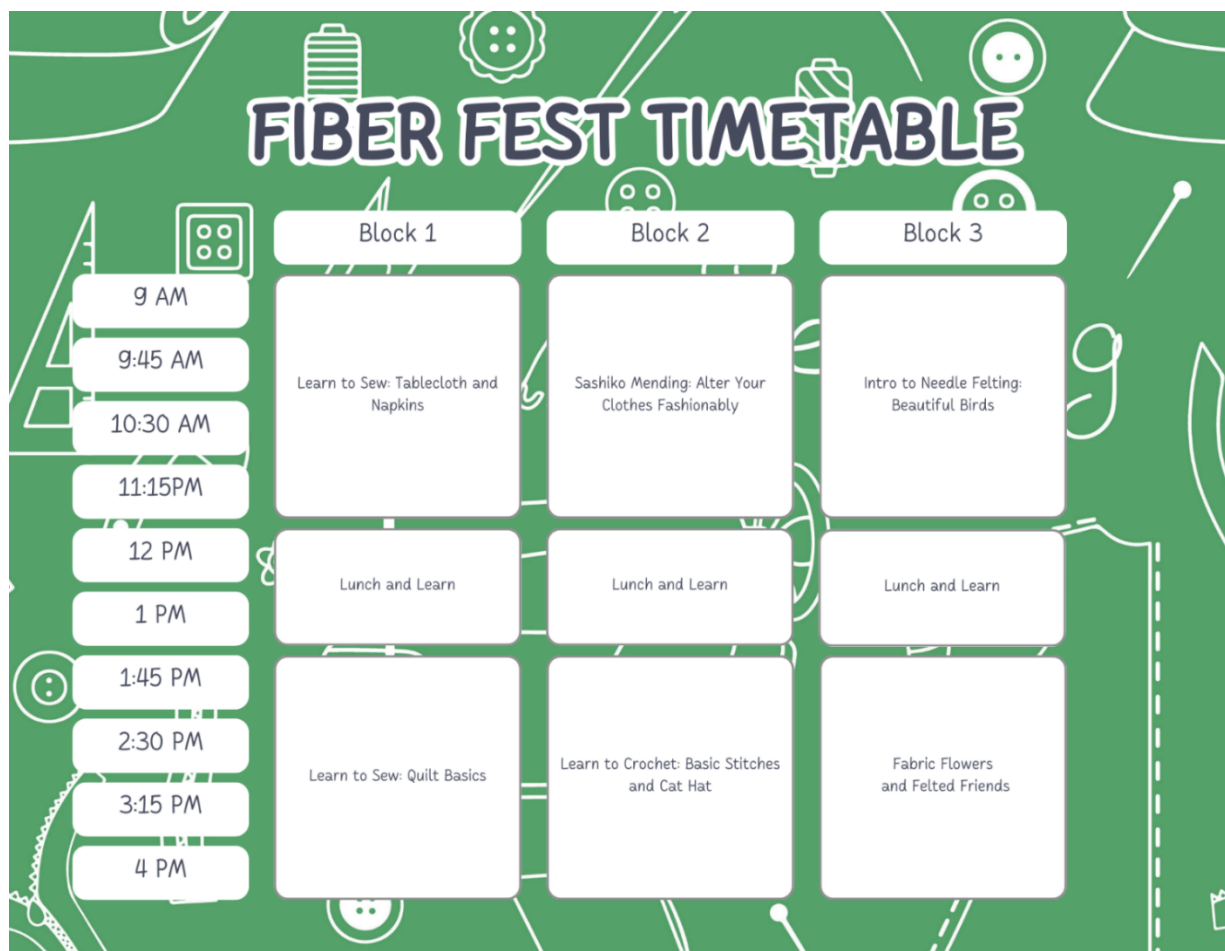
**Reminder that the Sexual Harassment Training MUST be done every year!**

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](mailto: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>YouthDevelopment/4-HFormsandHandouts).

## 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 18<sup>th</sup>** 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](https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/4HFebruaryFiberFest_214)

A timetable for the Fiber Fest event. It has a green background with white line art of sewing-related items. The timetable is organized into three blocks (1, 2, and 3) across the top, with time slots listed on the left. Each block contains a sequence of activities: a morning workshop, a lunch break, and an afternoon workshop.

	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			



## January 2026 – Livestock Notes

Here we go, 2026 is off to a fast start and I am hoping it will be a wonderful year for each of you. I look forward to watching you learn as we try to offer new learning opportunities.

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 as we are about to kick off public presentations, meetings, and projects. 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.:

Marketing #1 – Wednesday, January 28,

Marketing #2 - Tuesday, February 17

Marketing #3 – Monday, March 16

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 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year members will continue to build the skills to solicit bidders, but we will also have a little spin 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 expected for all members selling in the auction as it is a friendly environment to connect with the bidders you invite. 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.

**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 fair is planning to have the 2026 fair books posted by February 1. Once they are up, you will want to read the sections over. 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.

**Livestock Bowl is coming to NYS!** 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.



**Livestock Summit:** You may choose to participate in the Livestock Summit workshop opportunities. If you do, to receive credit, please submit a short report of at least 5 sentences about what you learned within 5 business days of the zoom. Example: you do the zoom on February 4<sup>th</sup>, I need the report by February 11<sup>th</sup>. Each workshop will be worth 50 Project Points for the species you share it is for. 1 species per report.

<https://cornell.zoom.us/meeting/register/7lDowvFdTpaPO0dQeuxBEQ>

**Did you submit your Market Steer Registration Forms?** They were due in the 4-H office on Monday, January 5 for all 2026 Market Steer Projects – but my binder is looking low on paperwork. If you missed the deadline, you need to contact me as soon as possible. When submitting your paperwork 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 deliver to the office, there is a drop box outside our office door if you come before/after business hours and the building is always open.

**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 and breeding heifers may not be shown in the market heifer 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 Discovery Workshop** – Friday/Saturday – March 27 & 28 at Cornell, need details, contact Tammi.

**Dairy Bowl Practice sessions** began on January 8 at 7 pm at the Langford Firehall, it's not too late to get involved, please contact Carl Niefergold at [carlniefergold1368@gmail.com](mailto:carlniefergold1368@gmail.com) Practice sessions will be held every Thursday evening until March 5. **Regional Dairy Bowl** will be held Saturday, March 7 at Pioneer School hosted by Wyoming County.

**Goats - 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.

**Poultry** – Our 1<sup>st</sup> 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 at the meeting; this year chickens will be \$2.70 each and turkeys will be \$6.50 each with payment due when you place the order. Orders will promptly close at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, February 20 with payment. I have been talking with Herman Weber and there will be a change to the number of birds that will be processed on the day we send our market birds as he can only accommodate a specific number each day. We will discuss this at the poultry meeting.

**Rooster Crowing Contest:** I am pleased to announce that we are bringing back the “Rooster Crowing Contest” at the fair. Stay tuned for more information.

**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, February 19 from 6-7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, West Falls and the topic of the meeting will be breeds and continue to get 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. The January meeting was cancelled due to weather; a zoom make up meeting will be held to cover the topic of record keeping. Watch your email for the details.

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

**Sheep and Swine** – Your producers are now busy welcoming your 2026 projects into their barns. We do not have any meetings scheduled yet but remember that first Livestock Marketing meeting is coming up on Wednesday, January 28 at the ADC building at the Erie County Fairgrounds at 6:30 p.m. Remember to register for your Public Presentations that take place 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.

**Sheep – Leadline Contest at the Fair:** Attention all market lamb and breeding sheep participants, have you ever thought about participating in the Leadline Contest at the fair? Perhaps you do not know what it is? To be honest it is a fun and simple contest that is used to educate our spectators about how wool can be used in so many ways. Why not give it a try, and right now is the perfect time to begin preparing. What will you need: an article of clothing that is made out of at least 60% wool. Not a person who sews? Well stop in at the Goodwill store or consignment shop during the winter and grab 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 pick up some items that you can accessorize your outfit with. You could also needle felt a design, to jazz up a sweater. We will be holding a meeting in the spring to help you, we even have a bunch of 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. Watch the February news for the date of the workshop.

Here is the description in the fair book: *Leadline Contest – The Lead Line contest is a show intended to demonstrate the relationship between the shepherd and the wool products made from sheep (clothing products). The competitor leads a sheep on halter while wearing an outfit made from wool, either sewn, knitted, crocheted, felted or repurposed. Garments should contain a fiber of 100% wool or wool blend (minimum 60% wool or specialty fiber). The contestant is judged on the handling of the sheep, as well as the outfit and poise. Each participant will complete a short biography that is read while leading the sheep and modeling the garment. Open to both breeding sheep and market lamb exhibitors. Prizes will be awarded*

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



## Horse

Upcoming Opportunities: Watch your email for more information.

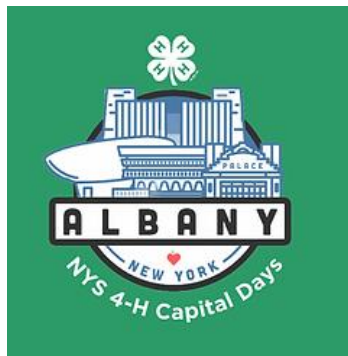
Mark your calendar for the following dates for upcoming events. \*=new

- 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
- \*Friday, February 20 – Hippology registration closes
- Saturday, February 21 - Horse Communications/Public Presentations at Revive Wesleyan
- Thursday, February 26 – Public Presentations at Global Concepts Charter School, Buffalo
- \*Saturday, March 7 – Hippology – St Paul’s Lutheran Church, West Falls
- Sunday, March 8 – Region 1 Model Horse Show and Equine Career Day, Niagara County
- 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
- \*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
- August – Erie County Fair and NYS Fair

**Hippology** is coming on Saturday, March 7, 2026 at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, West Falls. Please watch your email for a food sign up link. Use this link to register by February 20<sup>th</sup>.

[https://pub.cce.cornell.edu/event\\_registration/main/events\\_landing.cfm?event=County\\_Hippology3-2-2026-2-2\\_214](https://pub.cce.cornell.edu/event_registration/main/events_landing.cfm?event=County_Hippology3-2-2026-2-2_214)

**Training Show** – please note that the Training Show is currently being developed, stay tuned for further information.



**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.



NYS 4-H LIVESTOCK

# 2026 NYS 4-H LIVESTOCK SUMMIT

FEBRUARY 4TH TO FEBRUARY 25TH @ 7 P.M. VIA  
ZOOM

- February 4th - Hit the Ground Running: Start your Swine Project Strong!  
Katlyn Cain- Manager of Industry Relations- National Pork Board
- February 11th - Turning Livestock into Careers: Meat Science Opportunities!  
Ethan Scheffler, Meat Lab Manager, Dept of Animal Science at Ohio State
- February 18th - The G.O.A.T. Guide, Raising Goats 101!  
Jennifer Bassman, Owner, Heritage Haus Farm
- February 25th - Next-Level Show Calves: Skills, Strategy & Preparing for the Eastern Regional Angus Show  
Nicole Tommell, Junior Angus Association of NY Advisor and Board Member
- March 4th- More Than the Show Ring: NYS 4-H Livestock Opportunities and Brand New Quiz Bowl!  
Brian Aukema- NYS 4-H Livestock Specialist



To Register scan or visit link below:  
[https://cornell.zoom.us/j/92527463537?](https://cornell.zoom.us/j/92527463537?pwd=8dH3vyEeEGz7sk9ZFX4XmMTUTxn4b8.1)  
[pwd=8dH3vyEeEGz7sk9ZFX4XmMTUTxn4b8.1](https://cornell.zoom.us/j/92527463537?pwd=8dH3vyEeEGz7sk9ZFX4XmMTUTxn4b8.1)

For more information contact Brian Aukema at  
[bja14@cornell.edu](mailto:bja14@cornell.edu)



## ***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](mailto:tlk6@cornell.edu) We are hoping to get started right after the new year – I hope to hear from many of you soon.



## ***National Civic Bee Contest***

Calling all 6th, 7th, and 8th graders! You are invited to enter a four-paragraph essay proposing an idea for how they can improve their community into the National Civic Bee. The first round will determine invitations to the regional bee and winners advance on to the state finals. If you place at the state finals, 4-H members will advance onto a national bee held in Washington, DC. The deadline for essay submissions is **February 3, 2026**.

[Linked here](#) you will find the National Civics Bee educator toolkit for your review. New this year there are school prizes for winners in each state too!

Additional Application Guideline:

To make sure NYS 4-H is listed on your application:

- 1) Select “Youth Organization” for the “How did you hear about the National Civics Bee?” question.
- 2) Enter “NYS 4-H” or specific county association name for the “Which youth organization?” question.