



RHINEBECK, NY

Aug. 25-30, 2026



4-H powers Maddie Sartori

For Maddie Sartori, confidence has grown into success. She learned agility, rally, obedience, grooming and handling through her Top Dogs club. In addition to working with her dogs through 4-H, she has become a top Dock Diving dog handler. She has also received multiple purple ratings on her public presentations in 4-H.

See her story on pages 16-17

YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE SPECIAL

a supplement of

Southern Dutchess News

NORTHERN
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Coghlan Mullen: Becoming a leader

Coghlan Mullen is the newly elected president of the Pine Plains FFA. He has a long high school journey ahead of him, but he already knows that he wants to go to college and have a career in agriculture, specifically veterinary medicine.

See his story on pages 6-7



FFA feeds Micah's passion for learning

Micah Martinelli has participated in a range of competitions and activities throughout his time in FFA at John Jay High School. Rather than limiting himself to one area, he says he enjoys participating wherever he can, because every experience offers something new to learn.

See his story on pages 30-31



Youth in Agriculture Special

a supplement of the

Southern Dutchess News, Northern Dutchess News and Beacon Free Press
84 East Main St., Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
845.297.3723

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*We wish to thank all the clubs and organizations
that contributed content to this supplement.*

Golden Fleece youth prepare animals for Fair, Livestock Sale

The Golden Fleece 4-H Club includes Dutchess County youth ages 5 to 18, with hands-on opportunities to learn about sheep, animal care, and the responsibilities of raising livestock. The club continues to grow and welcomes new youth interested in exploring agriculture and the world of sheep.

Club members learn all aspects of sheep production, including daily care, feeding, health management, and preparing their animals for exhibition. Through their work with livestock, members develop responsibility, confidence, and valuable skills that

extend beyond the barn.

Many Golden Fleece members participate annually in the Dutchess County Fair, where they can showcase their hard work and knowledge. Members also take part in the Youth Livestock Sale, gaining experience in communication, record keeping, and the importance of agricultural education.

Be on the lookout for Golden Fleece 4-H members throughout Dutchess County, especially in conjunction with the Dutchess Sheep and Wool Growers Association.

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La-Togge-Nubi-Alpi-Saan: Growing confidence one step at a time

Everyone starts somewhere, and for some young exhibitors, that journey begins with the La-Togge-Nubi-Alpi-Saan 4-H Club. Made up primarily of Cloverbud members - 4-H youth ages 5 to 7 - the club introduces children to dairy goats while helping them discover something even more important: confidence in themselves.

Learning to care for an animal is a big responsibility, especially for young children. With the support of leaders, volunteers, parents and older 4-H members, these Cloverbuds learn how to feed, groom, and safely handle their goats while discovering the

importance of kindness, patience, and consistency. They quickly realize that success doesn't happen overnight. Every practice session and every trip around the show ring teaches them that new skills take time, effort, and determination.

Perhaps the greatest lesson these young members learn is that they are capable of more than they imagined. Standing in front of a judge, answering questions, and leading a dairy goat through the ring may seem like a small moment, but for a 5- or 6-year-old, it's a tremendous accomplishment. Each experience helps build confidence, encourages



La-Togge-Nubi-Alpi-Saan 4-H Club members include, from left in front, Connor Hartman and Adeline Miglio, 2nd row, Kelsey Bennett, Natalie Hartman, Jacquelyn Miglio and Zach Hartman, 3rd row leaders Pat Miglio, Deb Scannell and Katherine Mustello. *Photo by Curtis Schmidt*

independence, and reminds them that they can achieve great things when they're willing to keep trying.

The Dutchess County Fair gives these young exhibitors the chance to celebrate everything they've learned throughout the year. Visitors to the Dairy Goat Barn will see more than children showing goats—

they'll see future leaders taking their very first steps in 4-H.

Be sure to stop by and cheer on the members of La-Togge-Nubi-Alpi-Saan during the Fair. Their enthusiasm, determination, and smiling faces are a reminder that every confident exhibitor, skilled leader, and lifelong learner began with a single step.

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Blooming Kids focus on gardening, community service

The Blooming Kids 4-H Club is a community service-focused club with 15 members, two club leaders, and several project leaders who help youth explore gardening, nature, and environmental stewardship through hands-on learning.

Throughout the year, members care for community gardens, learning about plant science, teamwork, and the importance of giving back to their community. The club also hosts an annual wildflower seed fundraiser, encouraging the creation of pollinator-friendly habitats while supporting club activities.

In addition to gardening projects, Blooming Kids members participate in service opportunities that help beautify local spaces and build connections within their community. Whether tending a garden, planting flowers, or working alongside fellow members, youth develop leadership, responsibility, and practical life skills in a welcoming environment.

The Blooming Kids 4-H Club provides a place for 4-Hers to grow their knowledge of the natural world while making a positive impact close to home.



Whether tending a garden, planting flowers, or working alongside fellow members, Blooming Kids youth develop leadership, responsibility, and practical life skills in a welcoming environment. *Courtesy photo*

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Pine Plains FFA welcomes

By Matthew Fetzer

For Stissing Mountain High School's newly elected FFA president, Coghlan Mullen, agriculture has been a lifelong passion. Now a rising sophomore, Mullen has grown up around agriculture and has developed a strong interest in the field, a passion that has continued to grow through his involvement in the chapter.

Before joining FFA in just sixth grade, he had shown cows and pigs through 4-H and Eastern New York (ENY) Agriculture programs.

"I joined FFA when I was really young," said Mullen. "Before that, seeing them at the Dutchess County Fair and seeing them on social media, I thought, 'Oh, that seems like a

lot of fun, I really want to join.' Obviously, I was very involved in agriculture at the time, having cows of my own. I joined in sixth grade and participated in the Ag Fair. That was when I really knew that I loved it."

His family has deep roots in the Pine Plains chapter, as well. While they have owned cows of their own, his mother was a Pine Plains graduate and a member of FFA herself.

Mullen was elected chapter president in June at the end of his freshman year. After serving as vice president, he took the reins from former Pine Plains FFA president Hope Miller, who graduated this year.

continued on page 7



DUTCHESS COUNTY YOUTH LIVESTOCK SALE



**The Dutchess County Youth Livestock Sale will be held
Saturday, 8/29/2026 @ 4 pm**

**This sale highlights our youth involved in the 4H and FFA
organizations though out the county.**

The Sale will be held on Livestock Hill in the Show arena.

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new leader in Coghlan Mullen

"I'm going to start to lead the club a little more," he added. "This year I plan to take initiative and have members try new things and compete in contests, even if they're not really confident in all of it."

"Coghlan stands out because of his leadership potential and willingness to step up," said Pine Plains FFA advisor, Stephanie Rhoades.

One area where Mullen has found great success as the new president is promoting the chapter through social media. He regularly posts the chapter's meetings and events in new ways, under the handle pineplainsffa.students.

With Mullen leading the group, Pine Plains will continue competing and participating in many of its annual events.

Their Ag Fair is held every October, with various activities, such as the FFA Dairy Conformation and Showmanship event. In March, they hold their annual farm toy show. This past year marked the 32nd anniversary of the event. The chapter also competes in different district and statewide competitions.

Mullen still has a long high school FFA journey ahead of him, but he already knows that he wants to go to college and have a career in agriculture, specifically veterinary medicine.

"I look forward to seeing how Coghlan continues to grow and represent our chapter," said Rhoades. "I am proud to have him serve as our chapter president at such a

young age. I know he will continue to make an impact."

Pine Plains FFA will be at the Dutchess County Fair this year, talking to the public about the FFA mission and showcasing a little bit of what they do, as cows, goats, and pigs will be there.

"Agriculture is for everybody," he said. "There's a bunch of people from the city who will come to the fair and look at what we do. Even if they're from urban areas, they can see that there's still opportunities to put themselves out there in the agriculture world, and that all ages can get involved."



Coghlan Mullen, a rising sophomore at Stissing Mountain High School, is the newly elected president of the Pine Plains FFA. *Courtesy photos*



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Legacy Livestock carries on tradition through new name



Legacy Livestock is a new 4-H club resulting from a merger of former clubs, Got Goat Milk! and 3R's Livestock. *Courtesy photo*

By Matthew Fetzer

Newly named, multi-species 4-H club, Legacy Livestock, is a combination of former clubs, Got Goat Milk! and 3R's Livestock. Now under the leadership of Christel and Mike Clum, members voted on a new name which they felt represented all of the club's projects, as they work with meat goats, dairy goats and hogs.

The club does a multitude of activities, such as holding group meetings and participating in an educational topic. Some of this year's educational topics included showmanship, breeding, delivering babies, animal healthcare and vaccines. Members even learned identification methods such as tattooing, tagging, ear notching and microchipping. At meetings, they picked out project animals, completed

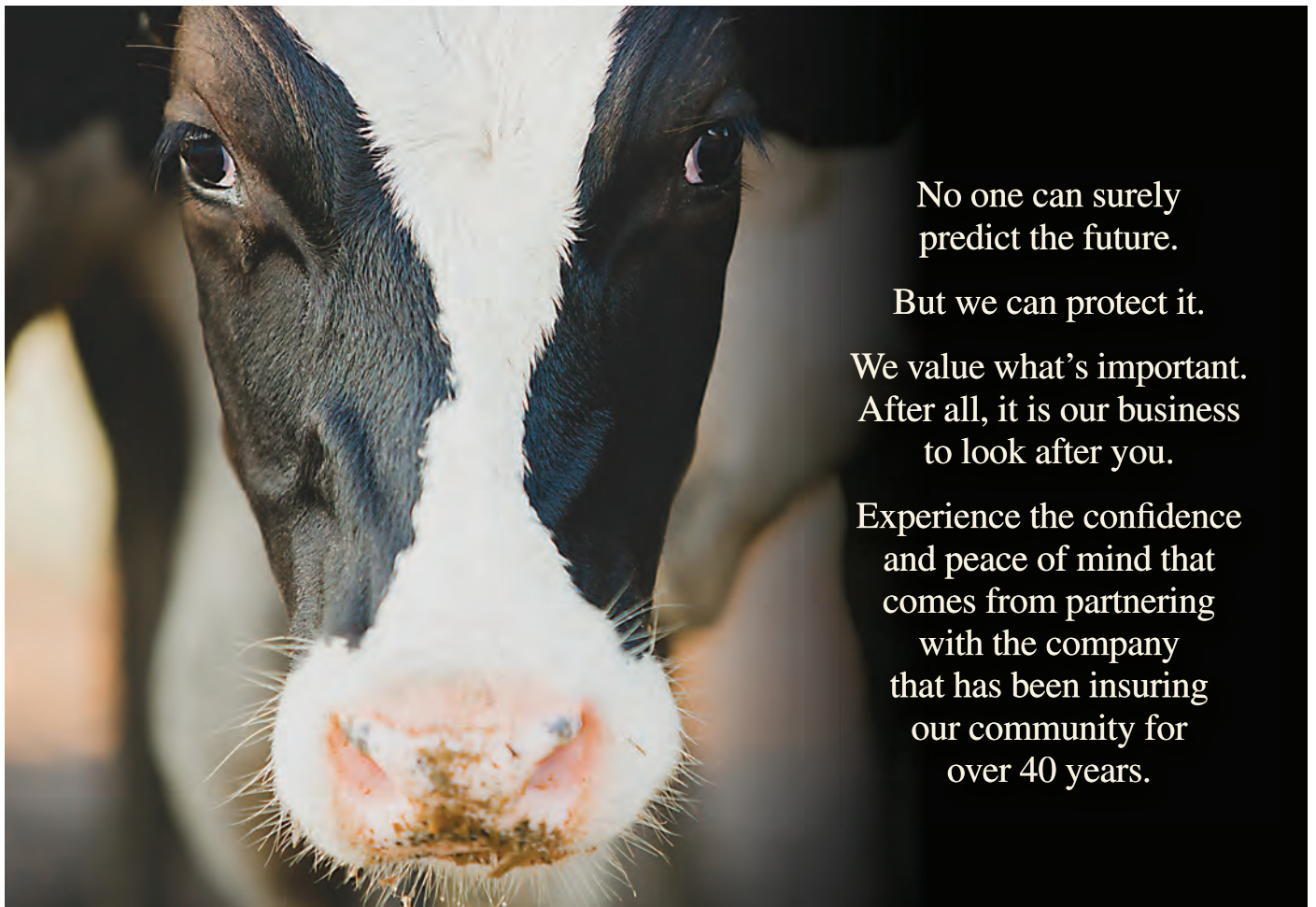
record books and gave public presentations.

In June, several members got to attend the American Dairy Goat Association (ADGA) National Show in West Springfield, Mass.

While the club goes by a new name, they will still hang their Got Goat Milk! sign at the fair, in memory of club founder Patti Smith, who passed away this past spring.

"Her love of children and helping the community will live on within our club, as we regularly complete community service activities," said Clum.

The club typically meets on the third Thursday of each month at the Grange in Red Hook, where they often pack snack bags, socks and other supplies for the homeless. Prospective members can visit the Dutchess County 4-H website to learn more about how to get involved.



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Ag in Education Program grows with new lessons, reaches more students

By Francesca Oliva

The Dutchess County Agricultural Society's (DCAS) Ag in Education program continued its expansion this year, bringing hands-on lessons about farming and local agriculture to classrooms throughout the county.

Monthly classroom visits allowed students from kindergarten through high school to participate in agriculture-based lessons geared towards their grade level. These lessons helped them understand the role agriculture plays in their everyday lives.

"Typically, I have a theme each month, and we do lessons in accordance with that theme according to whatever grade level we're working with," said Cassie Messina-Rainbolt, Agricultural Educator for DCAS, "Something might be very different for a kindergarten class than it is for a high school class."

The program continues to grow, adding new lessons and reaching more students each year. During the past school year, participation numbers increased to 487 students, and an additional grade level was added. Students participated in a variety of lessons throughout the school year including topics such as pumpkins, Christmas tree farming and maple syrup production.

A newer component of the program was the introduction of the Agribusiness Project, where students created their own agriculture-related busi-

nesses. Participating classes selected an industry focus such as pork, beef or horticulture. Over the next few months, they received lessons centered around creating their business and ended the project with field trips to various farms.

Other lessons connected students to the local agricultural businesses and farms in their communities. Students learned about dairy farming through visits to Stormfield Swiss Farm and met different breeds of rabbits and livestock through classroom visits.

The program also incorporated statewide initiatives such as Ag Literacy Week, where students explored agriculture-themed books and activities. This year's lesson featured the book "Seasons on the Farm" by Chelsea Tornetto, which introduced students to the seasonal work involved in farming.

To help and improve the program, Messina-Rainbolt asks for feedback from teachers at the end of the year. The responses to the past year of programming were overwhelmingly positive.

"Students always love hands on learning, and the field trips to the dairy and horse farms are the highlight of the year," said one teacher.

Through partnerships with local farms, agricultural organizations and schools, the program hopes to continue strengthening the connection between students and the world of agriculture.



Jason Lawrence illustrates the instructional milking buckets, which are used during student visits. *Courtesy photo.* Below: Jim Lawrence holds "Sweet Treat" the calf while children from South Avenue Elementary School in Beacon visit the Stormfield Swiss Farm as part of the Adopt A Calf program of the Dutchess County Agricultural Society. *Photo by Curtis Schmidt*



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Livestock Hill Schedule

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25

8:30 AM Youth Horse Show, Show Ring 62

9:00 AM 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Showmanship, Barn 26

9:00 AM 4-H Poultry Breed Standard Show, Barn 31

9:30 AM Junior Goat Show, Barn 28

10:00 AM 4-H Dairy Showmanship & 4-H Dairy Breed Show, Show Ring 34

1:00 PM Open Meat Goat Show, Barn 28

4:00 PM 4-H Hog Showmanship, Market Show, Barn 38

4:00 PM 4-H Canine Agility, Rally & Costume, Tent 20

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

8:30 AM English Horse Show, Show Ring 62

9:00 AM Junior Dairy Show, Show Ring 34

9:30 AM Open Goat Show, Barn 28

9:30 AM 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Breed

Show (Rabbit Livestock Sale Class), Barn 26

10:00 AM 4-H Sheep Show (Lamb Livestock Sale Class), Barn 38

2:00 PM Junior Beef Show, Show Ring 34

4:00 PM Beef Livestock Sale Class, Show Ring 34

5:00 PM 4-H Beef Showmanship, Show Ring 34

6:00 PM 4-H Gilt Show (Hog Livestock Sale Class), Barn 38

6:30 PM Jackpot Heifer Show, Show Ring 34

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

8:30 AM English Horse Show, Show Ring 62

9:00 AM Open Dairy: Jersey, Show Ring 34

10:00 AM 4-H Grooming and Handling, Tent 20

10:00 AM 4-H Canine Obedience and Costume Class, Tent 20

10:00 AM Open Sheep Show: Meat Breeds, Barn 38

11:30 AM Open Dairy - Brown

Swiss, Show Ring 34

1:00 PM 4-H Meat Goat Show (Goat Livestock Sale Class), Barn 28

1:00 PM Rabbit & Cavy Costume Class, Barn 28

1:00 PM Cavy Award Ceremony, Barn 28

2:00 PM Open Dairy - Guernsey, Show Ring 34

3:00 PM Open Dairy - Ayrshire, Show Ring 34

5:00 PM 4-H Beef Steer & Heifer Show, Show Ring 34

7:00 PM Sheep Costume Class, Barn 38

7:00 PM Goat Costume Class, Barn 28

7:00 PM Open Jackpot Steer Show, Show Ring 34

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

8:30 AM English Horse Show, Show Ring 62

9:00 AM Open Holstein, Show Ring 34

9:00 AM 4-H Dairy Goat Show, Barn 28

9:00 AM 4-H Dairy Goat Showmanship, Barn 28

10:00 AM Open Sheep Show: Wool & Natural Colored Breeds, Barn 38

1:00 PM Poultry Costume Class, Barn 31

2:00 PM Open Dairy Heritage Breed, Show Ring 34

2:00 PM Beef Youth Showmanship, Show Ring 34

2:30 PM Open Beef Show, Show Ring 34

4:00 PM Wool Garments & Lead line Classes, Barn 38

5:00 PM Open Swine Show, Barn 38

7:00 PM Dairy Showmanship Demonstration, Show Ring 34

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

9:00 AM Little Britches Showmanship, Show Ring 34

9:00 AM Dairy Youth Showmanship, Show Ring 34

continued on page 12

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Southern Dutchess Dairy youth learn about animal care, teamwork

The Southern Dutchess Dairy 4-H Club provides their youth with opportunities to learn about dairy cattle, agriculture, and the importance of teamwork through hands-on experiences.

With 13 members, two club leaders, and a passion for the dairy industry, the club helps youth develop skills in animal care, showmanship, and leadership.

Members participate in a variety of community shows and educational events throughout the year, including the ENY Black & White Show and crossover events with the New York Holstein Association Junior contests. These experiences allow youth

to showcase their hard work while learning from other dairy exhibitors and industry members.

The club has also participated in events such as the UConn 4-H Beef and Dairy event and collaborates with other Dutchess County 4-H Dairy Clubs, creating opportunities for members to build connections and expand their knowledge of the dairy industry.

Through dedication, education, and teamwork, the Southern Dutchess Dairy 4-H Club continues to support youth as they develop confidence, agricultural skills, and a lifelong appreciation for dairy cattle.

Livestock Hill Schedule

continued from page 11

9:30 AM Open Driving Show, Show Ring 62

10:00 AM Dairy Youth Showmanship, Show Ring 34

10:00 AM 4-H Goat Obstacle Course, Barn 28

11:00 AM NYS Pony Pull, Show Ring 62

11:00 AM Parade of Sheep Breeds, Barn 38

12:00 PM Western Horse Show, Show Ring 62

1:00 PM Dairy & Beef Cow Costume Class, Show Ring 34

4:00 PM Youth Livestock Sale, Show Ring 34

10:00 AM Blacksmith Contest, Show Ring 62

10:00 AM Master Showmanship, Show Ring 34

10:00 AM Fleece to Shawl Contest, Barn 38

Noon Hog Costume Class, Show Ring 34

Noon 4-H Elite Showmanship, Barn 28

Noon Horse Pull Contest, Show Ring 62

12:30 PM Grand Champion Costume (All Breeds), Show Ring 34

2:00 PM Parade of Dairy Champions, Show Ring 34

2:00 PM Beef and Dairy Herdsman Awards, Show Ring 34

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

9:00 AM Gymkhana, Show Ring 62

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(except where noted)

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Hilby the Skinny German Juggle Boy (Map #3) - 2, 4 & 6:30 p.m.

Pawstar's Frisbee Dogs
(Map #47) - Noon, 3 & 6:30 p.m.

Two by Two Animal Haven

(Map #48) - 12:30, 3:30 & 7 p.m.

Dock Dogs (Map #49) - Tues.-Thurs., 3-6 p.m.; Fri.-Sun., 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Off Axis Stunt Show (Map #56) - TBA

Roaring Riptides (Map #55) - TBA

Mad Science (Bldg. E) - Noon, 2 & 5 p.m. 2 & 5 p.m.

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Clover Crew: Creativity takes center stage

*By Brooke Tibbetts
4-H Program Coordinator*

Creativity, confidence, and countless hours of hard work come together each year through the Clover Crew 4-H Club's clothing and textile projects. Whether members are sewing garments from scratch, redesigning thrifted finds, or creating wearable art inspired by their favorite characters, every project tells a unique story.

This year's 4-H Fashion Show, held in May, showcased an incredible variety of designs under the whimsical

theme of "Wonderland Tea Party." While the event embraced the theme, members had the freedom to create garments that reflected their own interests and creativity. The results were as diverse as the youth themselves. One member crafted a detailed Padawan robe inspired by "Star Wars," while another designed an elegant floor-length satin two-piece gown. Other participants gave secondhand clothing new life by transforming thrift store finds into one-of-a-kind creations through upcycling, proving that fashion can be both creative and sustainable.

For many members, the Fashion Show is just the beginning. During the Dutchess County Fair, these talented youth will once again showcase the garments they've spent months creating. Join us on Wednesday at 6 p.m. in Tent 28 for the 4-H Fashion Show, where members will model their handmade creations on the runway. Then return on Friday at 5 p.m. in the Horticulture Building for Mannequin Modeling, where the garments are judged for fit, construction and presentation in a more formal setting. Both events highlight the

creativity, craftsmanship and dedication of our talented 4-H members.

The Clover Crew program teaches far more than sewing skills. Members learn problem-solving, patience, design principles, budgeting and public speaking, while gaining the confidence to present their work before an audience. Be sure to stop by during the Fashion Revue at the Dutchess County Fair to celebrate the creativity and dedication of our talented 4-H members; you may even leave inspired to start your own project!



Watch for details!

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Students in BOCES' animal and plant sciences

*By Rebecca
Star nee Cossa
Agriculture Teacher FFA
Advisor, Dutchess BOCES*

Students in Dutchess BOCES Careers in Animal and Plant Sciences program contribute to the school and larger community in many ways throughout the two-year, state-certified career and technical education program, which incorporates the National Future Farmers of America (FFA) leadership focus.

This past year, students in the program planned, facilitated and participated in a wide range of events and activities at Dutchess BOCES. This included the Autumn Festival, Winter Festival, St Patrick's Day Event, Spring Egg Hunt, a Mental Health Awareness Event, and FFA Monthly Chapter meetings. Additionally, FFA members designed, created, and sold products including winter holiday arrangements, Valentine's Day Rose and Bouquets, and Mother's Day hanging baskets. The program raises bees, and our chickens are back! As usual, honey and egg products sold out fast.

FFA officers play a special role in representing the pro-

gram. In February, they traveled to Albany with the Farm Bureau as part of Lobby Day to push for increased agricultural education funding and meet with legislators. In April, they attended the Dutchess County Agricultural Breakfast to celebrate a year of local agriculture accomplishments with farmers, business owners, regional organizations, government officials, and community leaders.

Students engage with the community in a variety of ways. They designed and created centerpieces for public occasions, including the Dutchess BOCES Distinguished Graduate Recognition Breakfast, read a book and conducted an activity for Agriculture Literacy Week to elementary students, and participated in the New York FFA Convention. In the Teach Another event, program students teach other students, teachers, and administrators at the Career and Technical Institute how to make boutonnieres.

Seniors of the program participate in work placements for career experience and skill development. This year students worked at the Dutchess SPCA, Rivendale Riding



There are many facets to Dutchess BOCES Careers in Animal and Plant Sciences program, from horticulture (above) to public speaking opportunities (opposite page). *Courtesy photos*

Academy, Pleasant Valley Animal Hospital, HVARs, and Mark Adams Greenhouses in Poughkeepsie. In their senior year, students design and conduct an in-depth, full-year research experiment project. Seven research projects were completed in the 2025-2026 and the annual Dutchess BOCES Agriscience Fair had excellent attendance with principals, teachers, and guidance counselors coming from homeschools, family members, parents, community members, industry leaders, and student's peers.

The achievements and successes of both juniors and seniors of the program were acknowledged in several

instances within the BOCES agency as well as the surrounding community through recognition events, gifted awards, and financial scholarships.

The Program

Students in the program are responsible for maintaining the program's bees, chickens, rats and snails as well as a year-round greenhouse. Last year, students conducted the program's second honey harvest and bottled the honey to sell as part of an FFA fundraiser.

The rigorous program emphasizes head/heart/hands-on learning experiences and provides students with opportunities to customize their

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program explore a myriad of opportunities

learning. It includes math, English and science credits. Articulation agreements are in place with SUNY Cobleskill, Morrisville and Dutchess Community College.

During the first year, students cultivate an understanding of the diverse and profitable fields of agriculture. Units include: Landscape Architecture, Veterinary Sciences, Floral Design, Wildlife Management, Research and Technology, Animal Production, Agribusiness, Animal Behavior, Arboriculture & Tree Climbing, and Plant Production. To supplement classroom experiences, students go on monthly field trips. Last year, a trip to

Westminster Dog Show was reinstated and there were also trips to the Philadelphia Flower Show, colleges, and local businesses and organizations. These trips help demonstrate the relevance, accessibility and real-world viability of featured careers.

In their second year, students write college essays, complete applications and apply for financial aid in time for early deadlines. Students gain and demonstrate industry knowledge and skills through weekly work-based learning placements, which also act as FFA supervised agricultural experiences.

The Dutchess BOCES Careers in Animal and Plant Sciences Program recruits



creative, deep-thinking, open-minded students that want to explore plant and animal topics to inspire their interests and abilities, as well

as a desire to improve their leadership skills. For information or questions, email rebecca.cossa@dcbooces.org.



**"Good Luck to
ALL 4-H and
FFA Members
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Through 4-H - confidence grows

By Kaeleigh Banda

While most people think of cattle, horses, chickens and other traditional farm animals when they think of 4-H, senior Maddie Sartori found her 4-H passion through working with dogs. Maddie joined Top Dogs when she was 9 years old and has worked with dogs ever since. Even though 4-H has only one dog club, Maddie has advocated for dog training while also excelling in her individual work.

Ann Sartori, Maddie's mom, said that Maddie joined 4-H because she got lucky and happened to pass by a Top Dogs table at a local store and spoke to the member and her mom. From that day forward, Maddie was sold.

"To say Maddie has a passion for dogs is an understatement," Ann said. "She is always training or at a trial. 4-H has shown her where she has a passion."

Maddie got a yellow lab, Willow, when she first began training dogs. Since then, she and Willow have competed in shows across the country. She then added a black lab, Rocco, and a golden retriever, Millie, to her training family, who have earned titles in dock diving and fast car competitions. Most recently, she got another yellow lab puppy, Sunny. At the Dutchess County Fair, Maddie shows Willow and Millie.

When Maddie first joined her club, she was shy. Cathie Morton, Top Dogs Club



Maddie Sartori works with one of her dogs during a competitive event. She started with the Top Dogs 4-H club at age nine and became club president. *Courtesy photo*

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into success for Maddie Sartori

Leader, said that, at first, Maddie lacked confidence.

"Seeing her today, you would never guess she was the young girl who started out with Top Dogs," Morton said. "Over the years, that has completely changed – so much so that she became our club president, leading meetings and keeping conversations on task to ensure we got through the agenda."

For Maddie, confidence grew into success. She learned agility, rally, obedience, grooming and handling through her club. In addition to working with Willow at 4-H, she also became one of the country's top Dock Diving handlers as a junior handler. She has also received multiple purple ratings on her public

presentations, which Morton said can be attributed to her increased self-confidence and strong public speaking.

With her increased confidence, Maddie used her voice to advocate for Top Dogs and share her passion for it with others.

"I saw over the years how the dog 4-H has been pushed to the side," Maddie said. "But now, we have our own tent at the fair. We don't have to share it with the cows and the sheep. I spoke up because I wanted better for my club in specific, but also 4-H as a whole."

This past spring, Maddie graduated from high school, making 2026 her last fair season as a club member. As she got older and new members

joined Top Dogs, Maddie became a mentor to younger members.

"Her laid-back attitude mixed with her perseverance and dedication serves to inspire other members," Morton said. "She can share her story and how she got to where she is today with our newer members, who sometimes question their abilities. She helps them develop confidence as they learn how to handle their dogs and participate in club activities."

Maddie's passion for 4-H

extends into her future aspirations. She is working on getting her dog training certification and works at a breeding and training facility in Germantown called "On the Bluff Labradors."

"I really love 4-H," Maddie said. "Now that I'm aging out this year, I want to continue to do stuff in 4-H. It's taught me a lot of responsibility and that I have to really stay on top of what I'm doing with my dogs to be the best I can be. It's taught me that I can be whoever I want to be."



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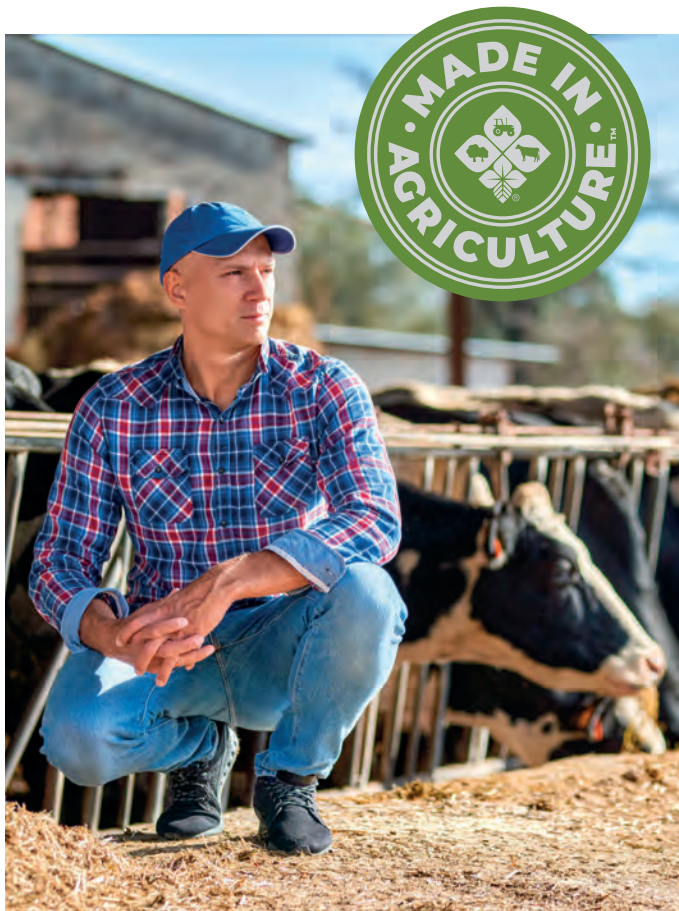
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Cool Critters 4-H shines with skill building & service



In addition to showmanship training and learning about their animals, Cool Critters members participate in community service projects to help the community. Members assembled Halloween treat bags and collected pet food donations for the Fishkill Food Pantry, helping support local families and animals. *Courtesy photo*

By Francesca Oliva

Formed over 30 years ago, the Cool Critters 4-H club has helped young people develop leadership skills and animal care knowledge with hands-on experiences. Focused on guinea pigs and rabbits, the club has 15 members ranging in age from 5 to 19.

Members spent the past year learning about the care, health and breeding of their animals while also participating in educational programs. Many Cool Critters members went to the Dutchess County Fairgrounds for a Multi Species Showmanship Clinic alongside other 4-H clubs in the area.

Skill building is a major component of 4-H, with members completing an annual

public presentation to build their confidence and communication abilities.

"Public speaking is a skill that you'll take for life with you," said club leader Debbie Scannell.

In addition to showmanship training and learning about their animals, club members participate in community service projects to help the community. Members assembled Halloween treat bags and collected pet food donations for the Fishkill Food Pantry, helping support local families and animals.

At this year's Dutchess County Fair, all 15 members will be showing their animals while showcasing the knowledge and confidence they have built through participating in 4-H.

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Craft Quilters: Stitching creativity into every project

By Brooke Tibbetts
4-H Program Coordinator

The Craft Quilters 4-H Club proves that every stitch tells a story. Throughout the year, members explore the art of sewing, quilting and textile design while creating projects that showcase both creativity and craftsmanship. Whether they're learning a new technique for the first time or building on years of experience, each project helps members develop patience, problem-solving skills and confidence.

This year's projects included handmade Christmas stockings, giving members the opportunity to practice meas-

uring, cutting, piecing and finishing techniques while creating something both beautiful and practical. One of the club's favorite traditions is designing and making a new quilt each year. Working on a quilt allows members to combine creativity with precision as they select fabrics, plan patterns and carefully assemble each piece into a finished work of art.

Although many Craft Quilters members spend their fair week supporting other 4-H projects or enjoying the Fair with their families, their hard work will still be on display for everyone to enjoy. Visitors to the 4-H Exhibit Hall can admire the quilts, stockings and other sewing projects that

members have spent months creating. Each exhibit represents hours of dedication and highlights the skills members have developed throughout the year.

The Craft Quilters Club is about much more than learning to sew. Members build friendships, express their cre-

ativity and gain lifelong skills they can use for years to come. As you explore the 4-H Exhibit Hall during the Dutchess County Fair, be sure to stop and appreciate the incredible talent displayed in the club's exhibits. You may even be inspired to pick up a needle and thread yourself!

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Equine Explorers bring horse education to Dutchess County



Members of the Equine Explorers enjoy field trips and educational events. *Courtesy photo*

By Matthew Fetzer

The Equine Explorers are the only horse-based 4-H club in the entirety of Dutchess County. This is the club's first year under new leader Tina Kamrowski, with a concentration on learning all about horses.

As this is a non-riding club, meaning members don't have to own horses or know how to ride them, they predominantly do field trips and educational events. This included trips to local horse breeding grounds, where members could observe horses and foals, as well as equine hospitals. To prepare for the fair, members learn about different breeds, coat colors, conformation and horse health.

While many other groups perform in showmanship classes, there is none for the 4-H horse group. Instead, the Equine Explorers will be

participating in the model horse show at the fair. Members will get entered into different "divisions" where they will be awarded ribbons based on the care of their models, their creativity and their knowledge on which model belongs in which category.

Some members will be working in the "Horse Shed," educating the public on how to properly care for horses and showcasing the skills that they have learned over the course of their time in the club. There will be a mock grooming station and various items of tack for people to see.

Local youth who want to learn more about horses are welcome to join. Monthly meetings are held at the Cornell Cooperative Extension in Millbrook. For more information, or to get on the club's interest list, visit the Dutchess County 4-H website.

Here Comes the Beef showcases passion for beef cattle

By Matthew Fetzer

Here Comes the Beef 4-H Club is all about beef cattle. With 13 members representing the club, their primary focus is on raising and showing different breeds of beef cattle. While club leader Amanda Skuza has led the club since 2021, Here Comes the Beef was actually formed over 40 years ago!

The club holds monthly business meetings where they discuss various educational topics related to beef cattle. Quizzes are used to help cover the different equipment used with show and commercial beef cows. Cattle raisers will also speak to members at meetings about artificial insemination, breeding cycles and reproduction.

Members also get their beef cows ready, as many already have their steer projects for next year. Last September, Here Comes the Beef competed in the Eastern States Exposition, which is the largest agricultural fair in the Northeast. Here, president Riley Mahaffey earned Reserve Champion Steer,



Members of the Here Comes the Beef 4-H Club participate in a variety of community service projects. *Courtesy photo*

Reserve Overall Showman, and the Sportsmanship Award. Vice President Henry Skuza won Overall Heifer, Overall Simmental Heifer, and placed third in Showmanship.

Recently, Here Comes the Beef has partnered with another Dutchess County 4-H club,

Cattle Crew, where they meet once a week and go to local beef farms. The farms put together two to three different groups of cattle, where the kids will judge and place them. The club demonstrated this activity at the Ulster County Fair, which took place in early

August.

Those looking to get involved can sign up for the club's interest list through the Dutchess County 4-H website. Additional information can be found on the Here Comes the Beef Facebook page.



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Members learn all aspects of swine care, including feeding, health management, handling, and daily animal care. Through working with their pigs, youth gain an understanding of commitment,

record keeping, and the responsibility that comes with caring for livestock.

The club also provides members with opportunities to develop confidence through showing and exhibiting their animals. Many members take the time throughout the year to attend the required weigh-in events, and jackpot shows held in and out of Dutchess County.

Be sure to stop by the hog barn at the 2027 Dutchess County Fair and meet a PigsRUs 4-H member!

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Little Paws: Small animals, big hearts

*By Brooke Tibbetts
4-H Program Coordinator*

The Little Paws 4-H Club proves that even the smallest animals can make a big impact. Focusing on rabbits and cavy (guinea pigs), club members spend the year learning proper animal care, handling, nutrition, grooming and showmanship while developing responsibility and compassion for the animals they raise.

What truly sets Little Paws apart is its commitment to community service. Club members believe that caring for animals goes hand in hand with caring for their community. Throughout the year, they participate in service projects, educational activities and outreach efforts that help spread awareness about responsible rabbit and cavy ownership while giving back to local organizations and families. Whether they're sharing their knowledge with others or volunteering their time, members are always looking for ways to make a positive difference.

The Dutchess County Fair is

one of the highlights of the year for Little Paws. Members proudly exhibit their rabbits and cavy, demonstrate the skills they've practiced all year, and enjoy talking with visitors about their animals. From discussing different breeds to explaining daily care routines, members are eager to answer questions and introduce fairgoers to the rewarding world of raising small animals.

Being part of Little Paws is about much more than preparing for a show. Members build friendships, develop leadership skills, practice public speaking and learn the importance of kindness, responsibility and service. Their dedication to both their animals and their community reflects the values that make 4-H such a meaningful experience.

If you're visiting the Dutchess County Fair this year, be sure to stop by Barn 26 to meet the members of Little Paws, learn more about rabbits and cavy, and see firsthand how these young exhibitors are making a difference – one small paw at a time.

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Legen-Dairy Moo Crew completes successful first year

By Francesca Oliva

The Legen-Dairy Moo Crew may be one of Dutchess County 4-H's newest clubs, but its members have already accomplished a great deal in their first year. Formed after another local club disbanded, the Legen-Dairy Moo Crew was created to give young dairy enthusiasts a place to learn and grow their passion for agriculture.

Led by Amanda Zick and Stacey Burlingame, the club now has nine members between the ages of 7 and 13

who spend the season learning about dairy cattle and preparing for the Dutchess County Fair.

"This first year has been great," said co-leader Zick. "We had a group of kids that didn't have a place to go, so we stepped up and formed a new club. It's been exciting to see older kids become role models for younger members and build those relationships across age groups."

Throughout the year, members participated in the Southeast Regional 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl, where the two

members of the club's novice team earned first- and second-place finishes. In May, the Legen-Dairy Moo Crew joined three other Dutchess County dairy clubs for a dairy nutrition demonstration at Hackett Farm Supply. They learned about cattle nutrition and ruminant digestion through interactive, hands-on activities.

Club meetings have featured dairy trivia and cow anatomy lessons, with most members serving in leadership roles and helping lead meetings. At the fair, six members will exhibit

dairy cattle, many of them working with sponsor farms to learn how to feed, groom and show their animals.

Visitors to the dairy barns will have the opportunity to see the Legen-Dairy Moo Crew show their dairy cows, displaying the skills and knowledge they have learned in their first year as a club. While the club may be new, its members are already building confidence in their agricultural skills and making friendships that will serve them well for years to come.

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Pigs for Kids: Twice the opportunity to learn

By Brooke Tibbetts
4-H Program Coordinator

The Pigs for Kids 4-H Club has grown into a unique livestock club that offers members the opportunity to work with not just one, but two exciting project areas. While the club has a long history of raising and exhibiting hogs, members can now also choose to work with dairy goats – or even both species. This variety allows youth to explore different aspects of animal agriculture while discovering the projects that interest them most.

Throughout the year, members learn the daily responsibilities that come with caring

for livestock. From feeding and grooming to monitoring animal health and preparing for competition, every day brings new opportunities to build responsibility, patience and confidence. Whether they're working with a curious dairy goat or a market hog, members develop practical skills that extend far beyond the barn.

The Dutchess County Fair is where months of hard work come to life. Visitors can find Pigs for Kids members exhibiting their hogs in the Swine Barn and their dairy goats in the Dairy Goat Barn, where they'll compete in breed and showmanship classes

while sharing their knowledge with fairgoers. Members are always happy to answer questions about their animals, explain what they've learned throughout the year, and introduce visitors to the rewarding world of livestock projects.

Pigs for Kids is about more than ribbons and competition. It's about building friendships, learning responsibility and

developing a lifelong appreciation for agriculture and animal care. Whether you stop by the Swine Barn, the Dairy Goat Barn, or both, you'll find enthusiastic 4-H members who are proud to share the results of their hard work. Be sure to say hello during your visit to the Dutchess County Fair and discover all that this growing club has to offer!

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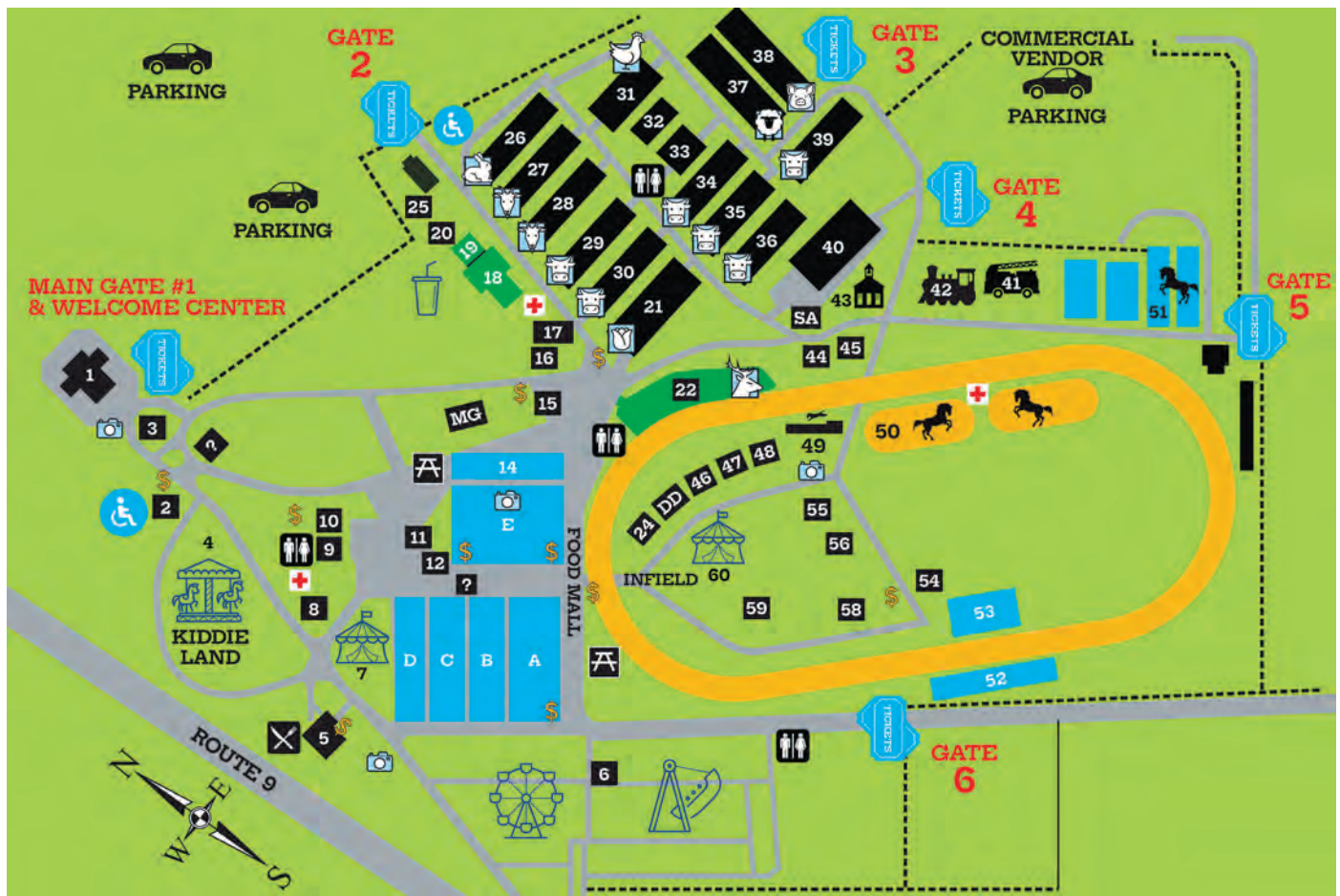
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Dutchess County Fair Map



01 Welcome Center – Main Gate
 02 Wheelchair & Motorized Scooter Rentals
 03 Welcome Center Stage – Hilby the Skinny German Juggler
 ? Information Station (TD)
 04 Kiddie Land & Children's Fun Zone
 05 Foster's at the Fair
 06 Powers Carnival & Guest Relations / Ride Redemption
 07 Specialty Beverage Tent
 08 Rock N' Rest & Safe Kids Place
+ First Aid
Restrooms
 09 State Police / Lost & Found
 10 State Police Dive Tank
 11 Administration Bldg
 12 Souvenir Booth
 ? Information Station (TD)
 14 Rest Area & Octoberfest Beer & Wine Garden
Restrooms
 15 Fairgrounds Café & Horticulture Crossroad

16 Think Differently Area (TD)
 17 AgriVenture & Hands on Horses
 18 4H Exhibit Hall
 19 A Fair Shake – Best Milkshakes Ever!
 20 Canine Tent
 21 Horticulture & Landscapes (TD)
MG Memorial Garden
+ First Aid
 24 Dessert Destination
 25 Wheelchair & motorized Scooter Rentals
 26 Rabbits & Cavies
 27 Goat Barn
 28 Goat Barn & Show Tent
 29 Dairy Cattle Barn
 30 Dairy Cattle Barn
 31 Poultry Barn
 32 Milk House
 33 Livestock Show Office & Restrooms (TD)
 34 Livestock Show Ring (TD)
 35 Dairy Cattle Barn
 36 Dairy Cattle Barn
 37 Sheep Barn & Wool Work Room

38 Sheep/Pig Barn & Show Ring
 39 Open Beef Barn
 40 Century Museum Antique Village
 41 Dutchess County Fireman's Museum
 42 Pleasant Valley Train Station
 43 One-Room Schoolhouse
 44 Cider Mill
 45 Maple Syrup & Sugar House
 46 AgriGolf
 47 Pawstar's Frisbee Dogs
 48 Two by Two Animal Haven
 49 Dock Dogs
 50 Horse Arenas (TD), Blacksmith Contest Sunday only
 51 Horse Barns
 52 Grandstand Seating
 53 Rhinebeck Bank Main Stage
 54 Grandstand Side Bar
 55 Roaring Riptides
 56 Off Axis Stunt Show
 58 Rosaire's Racing Pigs
 59 Commerford's Petting Zoo, Pony & Camel Rides
 60 Salute to Agriculture & Dairy

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Kids for Kids: Learning through dairy goats



Members of the Kids for Kids 4-H Goat club participated in a show at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds in July. Pictured above are, from left, Sienna Carpentieri, Juliette Gerstle, Jessa Carpentieri, Kendra Carpentieri, Savannah Bishop and Landon Mishk. In front is Hayden Agne and Noah White is in the back. *Courtesy photo*

*By Brooke Tibbetts
4-H Program Coordinator*

The Kids for Kids 4-H Club brings together youth who share a passion for dairy goats and a love of learning. Throughout the year, members gain hands-on experience caring for their animals while developing valuable life skills through 4-H. From feeding and daily care to fitting, showing and learning about dairy breeds, members discover just how much dedication goes into raising healthy, productive animals.

Working with dairy goats teaches far more than animal husbandry. Members develop responsibility by caring for their animals every day, build confidence as they compete in the show ring, and strengthen their communication skills by sharing what they've learned with judges and fair visitors. They also form lasting friendships with fellow exhibitors

who encourage one another throughout the year.

The Dutchess County Fair is one of the most exciting times for Kids for Kids members. It's an opportunity to showcase months of hard work, compete in breed and showmanship classes, and educate the public about dairy goats and the important role they play in agriculture. Visitors are always welcome to stop by the Dairy Goat Barn to meet the exhibitors, ask questions and learn more about the different breeds and how they are raised.

Whether you're interested in livestock, considering joining 4-H or simply want to meet some friendly goats, be sure to visit the Kids for Kids members during the Fair. Their enthusiasm, knowledge and dedication to their animals are sure to leave a lasting impression and show why 4-H continues to inspire the next generation of agricultural leaders.

Dutchess 4-H Junior Livestock Sale Committee explores new ways to educate prospective buyers

The 4-H Junior Livestock Sale Committee is a youth-led collaboration between Dutchess County 4-H and the Dutchess County Youth Livestock Sale Committee (DCYLS). The 2026 group hosts nine youth members representing the six species of livestock that are sold in the annual sale at the Dutchess County Fair.

Advised by Michelle Hicks (DCYLS Chairwoman), Jim Barey (Dutchess 4-H Program Manager), and Debbie Scannell (Dutchess 4-H Club Leader), the committee works throughout the year to prepare

4-H youth and educate the public about the annual sale. Members also explore the marketing efforts involved in raising and promoting livestock for the food supply.

In 2026, the committee explored new ways for the public and prospective buyers to view and learn about the top-ranked livestock exhibited at the Dutchess County Fair. Be sure to swing into the Red-Carpet Preview at the Dutchess County Youth Livestock Sale on Aug. 30. Committee members also assist in sharing sale updates and deadlines to 4-H and FFA

youth throughout the county leading up to the sale.

The junior committee also takes part in educational tours and meetings that allow them access to the local and national livestock industry. Past trips have included attending livestock sales for all species as well as touring restaurants specializing in farm-to-table outreach plans for a direct look at marketing within Dutchess County. Sessions like this allow committee members to develop leadership and marketing skills to use in their own livestock plans.

If you're out and about in

Dutchess County and want to learn more about the 4-H Junior Livestock Sale Committee, be sure to speak with a committee member or advisor and consider filling your freezer with locally raised meat purchased from a Dutchess County 4-H youth!

2026 Committee Members include: Beef Cattle - Emily Coon & Henry Skuza, Lambs - Katie Drum & Tavin Pennock, Poultry - Lyris Pennock, Meat Goats - Natalie Shultz & Roger Loughran III, Rabbits/Cavies - Hailey Brennan, Hogs - Jack Coon.

Dutchess County Agricultural Society Junior Fair Board

By Jenny Lang



Junior Fair Board members gathered at the DCAS Summer Dinner. In back are, from left, Marielle Mustello, Brendan Scoralick (holding Eleanor Scoralick), James Hicks, Jackson Crisp, Nathan Prezzano, Autumn Prezzano, and Jenny Lang. In front are, from left, Ashley Keck, Annette Prezzano, Jenna Lawrence, Faith Schultz, Paige Tegtmeier and Nicky the Fair Calf. Photo by Curtis Schmidt

The Dutchess County Agricultural Society's Junior Fair Board is a motivated group of young adults with not only a passion for agriculture, but for the fair industry as well. They serve under the mission and vision of the Ag Society, upholding the core values and principles of the Society. This group is eager to learn about the inner-workings of the Ag Society and the Dutchess County Fair.

The members helped to organize the Ag Society's Summer Dinner and took care of the set-up and clean-up by working as a team and enlisting other help. Leading up to the Fair, they will be volunteering their time to help in any way necessary to get the Fair up and running smoothly. Fair week, you can find them in their blue shirts. Members will be spending most of their time on Livestock Hill, tending to and showing their animals. You will also see them assisting with the Youth Livestock Sale and the Stick Pony Rodeo. As one of their advisors, I am honored to be a part of a group that works together cohesively, is eager to lend a hand, and can always find the humor in any situation.

What does 4-H offer my child?

Skills, responsibility & so much more

By Carolyn McGraw
4-H Program Leader
CCEDC

Families are busy - busier than ever, with no signs of slowing down. It is exhausting to consider all of the options today's children have available to them, not to mention the pressures to pick the "right" or the "best" program: sports, chorus, youth group, after-school jobs, extracurricular school clubs and teams, orchestra and more.

Which activities will increase their confidence and social skills? Which activities keep my kids away from dangerous, risky habits and environments? How will I get my kids there? How will our family afford this? What skills, activities and accomplishments do colleges and employers look for nowadays? It's an incredibly nuanced challenge that families constantly face in Dutchess County and across the country. What if there were a youth program that prepared youth for successful futures by checking off multiple boxes at a time? Welcome to Dutchess County 4-H.

4-H is the largest youth development organization in the country, operating out of the land grant institutions in each state through the vast Cooperative Extension system. Backed by research informed by community need, Extension and 4-H are specially equipped to integrate into community systems to support families in our fast-paced society. In Dutchess County, Cornell Cooperative Extension

(CCEDC) and Dutchess County 4-H are centrally housed in Millbrook at the Farm & Home Center on Route 44.

4-H clubs are youth-led to provide leadership opportunities to youth members in officer roles. Talented adult volunteers lead 4-H club activities chosen by club members, providing valuable mentorship and coaching to youth. The youth members learn parliamentary procedure, public speaking and record keeping all while meeting new friends, building social skills and developing healthy habits.

According to one Dutchess County 4-H alumnus, "4-H helped shape who I am. I learned leadership skills, responsibility and it gave me the confidence to become the person I am today."

Many families are interested in animals, large and small. Owning an animal is not a requirement; thanks to some very generous local farms, youth have opportunities to lease a sponsored animal. This exposes a new generation of youth to agriculture who otherwise might not have access or opportunity to do so. One parent and volunteer shared the following:

"One of the greatest rewards over the past eight years of Stony Ground 4-H Club has been watching our members grow. They come to the farm to learn about livestock, but they leave with something much greater - confidence, responsibility, perseverance and a deep appreciation for

continued on page 29



This page and opposite: Members of the Stony Ground 4-H Club are shown taking part in a variety of activities - all of which involve the attributes of building confidence and learning the value of responsibility, perseverance and a deep appreciation for agriculture. *Courtesy photos*



What does 4-H offer my child?

continued from page 28

agriculture. Those lessons stay with them throughout their lives.”

While many 4-H activities take place at the main office, nearly 30 4-H clubs are active across Dutchess County. Most clubs meet on average once a week year-round. The cost to join 4-H in Dutchess County is \$35/child, with discounts and scholarships available to help families facing financial hardships and families with multiple children. The age to become a member of 4-H is 5-18 years old, as of January 1st of the current year.

Families can join one or multiple 4-H clubs. Dutchess County 4-H offers 29 4-H clubs, meaning there is something for every family and every situation. Adult volunteers are always needed to increase what 4-H can offer. Anyone with a skill, talent or hobby that they’re willing to share can apply to be screened and trained as a 4-H volunteer. Volunteer positions can be short or long-term to accommodate busy schedules.

Dutchess County 4-H is also expanding its offerings by integrating into schools. Each spring, 4-H reaches over 100 classrooms in the county during Ag Literacy Week with the help of 4-H staff, volunteers and local legislators. 4-H staff are available for help implementing embryology and other in-school enrichment projects in the classroom, in addition to afterschool activities and programs. Reach out to CCEDC to talk with a 4-H staff member about adding 4-H to your classroom.

At the end of the day, 4-H is

for all and there is a place here for you and your busy family. We hope you’ll visit the 4-H Exhibit Hall and 4-H livestock shows at the 2026 Dutchess County Fair. To learn more about Dutchess County 4-H, call CCEDC at 845-677-8223 or email ccedc4-H@cornell.edu today.



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Micah Martinelli finds passion

By Francesca Oliva

When Micah Martinelli first joined the John Jay Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter as a freshman, finding a passion for agriculture wasn't necessarily the goal. Like many students entering high school, he was looking for new friends and finding a place to belong. Over the past four years, the decision to join FFA has led Micah to leadership opportunities, hands-on agricultural experiences and personal growth that has shaped his high school career.

"I had originally joined FFA because my friends had told me about it and I wanted to make a bunch of new friends," said Martinelli, "The community was really, really welcoming, and that just made me stick for the long run."

Now a rising senior, Martinelli has grown into one of the chapter's most involved members. He previously

served as chapter reporter during his sophomore year and will be the chapter historian starting this fall. Along the way, he earned his Greenhand Degree and will continue to work toward his Chapter Degree, taking every opportunity to grow as a leader within John Jay's FFA chapter.

Martinelli has participated in a range of competitions and activities throughout his time in FFA, with extemporaneous speaking being one of his favorites. Rather than limiting himself to one area, he says he enjoys participating wherever he can, because every experience offers something new to learn.

One experience that reaffirmed his commitment to FFA was attending his first New York State FFA Convention. Being surrounded by hundreds of members from across the state gave him a new perspective on the organization and its impact.



Micah Martinelli enjoys interacting with the community through events like Ag Literacy Week and John Jay High School's Winter Carnival. Sharing agriculture with others and creating positive experiences for the community are important factors to him. *Courtesy photo*

FAIR FAVORITES & EXTRAS

Salute to Agriculture, Dairy Birthing Tent (Map #60)

Agriventure & Hands on Horses (Map #17)

Commerford's Petting Zoo, Pony & Camel Rides (Map #59)

Century Museum Village, Antique Machinery & Blacksmith Shop (Closes at 9pm) (Map #40)

Bentley One Room Schoolhouse (Closes at 8pm) (Map # 43)

DC Firefighter's Museum (Closes at 8pm) (Map # 41)

Pleasant Valley Train Station (Closes at 8pm) (Map # 42)

Cider Mill & Maple Syrup & Sugar Shack (Map #44 & # 45)

Horticulture Building:

Featuring Landscape & Flower displays, Vegetables & Field Crops (Map # 21)

4-H Exhibit Hall (Map # 18)

4-H Canine Tent (Map #20)

Livestock Barns & Milking Parlor (Map #26 - 39)

State Police Dive Tank (Map # 10)

The Grandstand Sidebar (Map # 54)

Wildlife Area & First Bite Fishing Tank (Map # 22)

A Fair Shake - Best Shakes Ever! (Map # 19)

Powers Great American Midways & Guest Services (Map # 6)

Specialty Beverage Tent (Map # 7)

Beer & Wine Garden (Map #14)

"It made me feel like I was a part of something bigger than myself," recalled Martinelli, "That's when I knew FFA is something I wanted to do for the rest of my high school career."

Martinelli credits FFA with helping him develop into a more confident leader and communicator. While he describes himself as someone who has always enjoyed talking, he said FFA taught him how to channel that into effective public speaking. Through developing his public speaking

skills, he has been able to hold high positions within debate club and win competitions outside of FFA.

While volunteering for John Jay FFA's annual Spring Fest, an unexpected job opportunity presented itself. Someone had noticed how he worked around horses and offered him a job helping to care for them at her private farm. Although he had little experience at first, he learned quickly, and the position became a rewarding piece of his FFA journey.

"I wouldn't have gotten my

and new opportunities within FFA

job if it wasn't for FFA," Martinelli said.

Working with horses has taught Martinelli far more than just animal care. From maintaining the property and taking on physically demanding work, he says the experience gave him a greater appreciation for responsibility and the value of hard work. Agriculture was not originally a part of his career plans, but now he sees it as a field he could return to in the future.

"It helped me pin down a solid Plan B that I could always go back to agriculture," Martinelli said. "I like knowing what it's like on the ground level, so if I go into something like politics, I can represent the people."

At chapter outreach events,

Martinelli is a familiar face. He enjoys interacting with the community through events like Ag Literacy Week or John Jay High School's Winter Carnival. Sharing agriculture with others and creating positive experiences for the community is something that is important to him.

John Jay FFA advisor Mary Jane McFarland said that passion is one of Martinelli's defining qualities.

"It's been really amazing to see Micah go from this little freshman to now being a senior," McFarland said. "When we do Ag Literacy, Micah's face lights up. He's so happy to be there with the kids."

These interactions are what makes FFA special to Martinelli. Seeing others enjoy

themselves, whether they are learning about agriculture or stopping by an event brings him the same enjoyment that first drew him to the organization in his freshman year.

As he prepares for his senior year, Martinelli hopes more students will consider joining FFA, even if they don't envision a future in agriculture.

"It gives you so much experience, and it builds such a nice community," he said, "It feels so good to belong to something."

FFA has given Martinelli the opportunity to lead and embrace new experiences within agriculture and his community, something he will forever appreciate.

GRANDSTAND AT A GLANCE

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25

7:30 PM Chase Matthew

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

7:30 PM 38 Special

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

Noon & 4 PM Sheriff's K9

Demonstrations

7:30 PM Journey from the Heart

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

7:30 PM Almost Queen

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

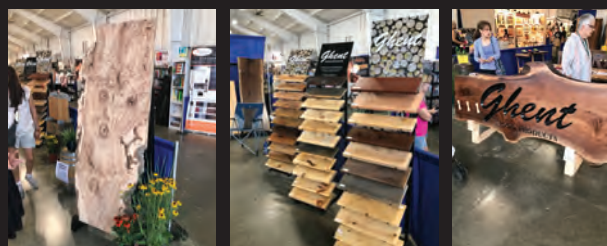
7:30 PM Tyler Braden

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

11:30 AM & 5 PM Painted Pony

Rodeo

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After 20-plus years in nonprofit fundraising and communications, Teresa Weber launched All Heart Baking Co. in the spring of 2023. She serves up joy with every bite of her melt-in-your-mouth shortbread in unique flavors – making you question what a cookie could – or should – be.

You can find her at fairs and festivals in the northeast, and online at www.allheartbakingco.com – AND this year, you can find her at the Dutchess County Fair in Building D, Booth 81 Specialty Foods.

When not baking, Teresa can be found soaking up the sights and sounds of New York City or enjoying the natural beauty of the Hudson Valley. Teresa lives in

Mount Vernon with her twin Shih Tzus Pippi and Eloise.

All Heart Baking Co. specializes in eclectic, pre-packaged shortbread cookies made with heart. With flavors you never knew you needed to try, like Guava and Love Bite (tart cherry, pistachio, black pepper), these soft shortbread are made with all-natural ingredients and feature NY State honey from ethical apiaries. Take your taste buds on a flavor adventure today!

- All Heart Baking Co. was featured on “The View” in December as a recommended holiday gift and recently appeared on RollingStone.com!

- Everything hand-made from scratch in New York

- There are 6 flavors that are always on the menu - the “Classic Collection” - Caramel Pretzel, Chipwich, Zinger (lemon, ginger), Guava, Love Bite (cherry, pistachio, black pepper) & The Queen (raspberry, almond, cardamom).

Don’t miss out on the best cookies at the Fair. All Heart Baking is all for you!

Don’t miss out on the best cookies at the Fair. All Heart Baking is all for you!



You can find Teresa Weber and her amazing All Heart cookies in Building D, Booth 81 Specialty Foods at this year’s Dutchess County Fair. She is featuring her summer collection, inspired by popular candies: Heathwave, Snickerbocker, Strawburst, and Teresaresa’s PB Cups. Can you guess which candy inspired each flavor? *Courtesy photo*

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DC Dairy Committee's milkshakes celebrating 51st year at 180th Fair

A Dutchess County Fair tradition that began back in 1973 is still going stronger than ever with the longest lines and happiest faces.

It's the Dutchess County Dairy Committee's Milkshake booth. Now called "The Fair Shake," everyone's favorite Fair treat has the main goal of providing scholarships to local youngsters wanting to further their education in the field of agriculture.

The members of Dairy Committee are celebrating the 51st year of providing their famous milkshakes at the Fair.

This year's scholarship was presented to Natalie Shultz from Dover High School.

The Fair Shake booth was renovated with a variety of sanitary upgrades in 2025. New ceilings and walls were installed, which can be easily sanitized each day. New water supply lines were also installed, along with new milkshake blenders.

Malted Milkshakes will again join the regular flavors of vanilla, chocolate and strawberry.

All members of the Dairy Committee are Dutchess County Dairy Farmers. The

current members are Harry Baldwin, Stephen Van Tassell, Tim Marshall, Jim McCarthy, Sam Simon, Jennifer Deforest, Amos Coon, Brian Donovan, John Jackson and Isaac Angell.

Baldwin noted that the Dairy Committee of today and the famed milkshake booth are outgrowths of the late Dave Tetor's Cornell Cooperative Extension Program Advisory Committee.

"Dave started as the Agricultural Agent in Dutchess County in 1973. Somewhere in the mid '70s, Dave came up with the idea of serving milkshakes at the Dutchess County Fair as a way to promote the Cooperative Extension here in Dutchess County," said Baldwin. "That first year we served them in a tent out back of the current 4-H building. Possibly the next year, it moved into the north end of the 4-H Snack Bar. In those early years, dairy farmers and family members manned the booth."

The original directors of the Dairy Committee included Vern Jackson, Albert Soukup, Timothy Marshall, Robert Perotti, plus Baldwin, Van Tassell and Tetor.



Now called "The Fair Shake," everyone's favorite Fair treat has the main goal of providing scholarships to local youngsters wanting to further their education in the field of agriculture. *Courtesy photos*



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Red Hook FFA members enjoy year of building community and leadership

The Red Hook FFA Chapter had a fun and busy 2025–2026 school year filled with opportunities to learn, grow, and give back to our community. Throughout the year, members participated in leadership activities, career development events, community service projects, chapter meetings, and hands-on agricultural experiences that helped us build new skills and become better leaders.

Our chapter was able to attend statewide FFA events where we met members from across New York, participated in workshops, and learned more about careers in agriculture and leadership. These experiences helped us grow our confidence and showed us all of the different opportunities that FFA has to offer.

At school and in our community, we stayed involved in several activities throughout the year. We participated in the annual Agriculture Breakfast, where we had the chance to connect with community members and share the importance of agriculture. We also

created floral bouquets for the Red Hook Boys Varsity Lacrosse Senior Night, which was a fun way to use the skills we've learned while giving back to our school. Another highlight was visiting the Criminal Justice Department, where we learned about different career opportunities and how agriculture connects with many other career fields.

Our members have worked hard all year, whether it was through competitions, leadership roles, community service, or chapter activities. Several of our members will also be participating in the Dutchess County Fair, where they'll be showing livestock, competing in different events, and representing both Red Hook FFA and our agricultural community.

We're so thankful to our advisors, families, school, and community for supporting us throughout the year. None of these opportunities would be possible without them, and we're grateful for everything they've done to help our chapter succeed.



Members of the Red Hook High School FFA joined others at the Agriculture Breakfast at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds in April. *Courtesy photo*

Outstanding FFA Student: Sarah Agate

Sarah Agate served as our Red Hook FFA Chapter President this year and has been an amazing leader for our chapter. She always made sure everyone felt included, helped organize meetings and activities, and encouraged members to get involved. Sarah represented our chapter with pride at school and statewide events and was always willing to help anyone who needed it. Her leadership, kindness, and dedication have made a huge impact on our chapter, and she's someone our members truly look up to.

Outstanding 4-H Student: Emily Coon

Emily Coon is a dedicated member of Dutchess County 4-H and currently serves as Vice President of the Red Hook FFA Chapter. She has spent years raising and showing livestock and is passionate about sharing agriculture with others. Emily will be exhibiting her animals at the Dutchess County Fair again this year and has earned numerous awards, including Senior Showmanship. Whether she's helping younger exhibitors, volunteering at agricultural events, or representing agriculture in her community, Emily always works hard and leads by example.

POWERS GREAT AMERICAN MIDWAYS

Powers Great American Midways offers a great lineup of midway rides. Powers was founded in Western New York in 1980. It began as a small regional carnival and has grown over the last 45 years to become one of the largest and well-respected family-owned amusement companies in the United States! There are three generations of the Powers family who continue to oversee every aspect of their midway on a day-to-day basis. It is with great pride that Powers continues to be the midway partner for the Dutchess Fair. *Archive photo by Curtis Schmidt*



John Jay FFA builds community surrounding agriculture

By Francesca Oliva

When visitors make their way through the Dutchess County Fair, they can expect to see Future Farmers of America (FFA) members walking around the fair in many different capacities. Some will be showing dairy cattle or poultry, while others will be welcoming visitors to their FFA booth in the AgriVentures area. For members of John Jay High School's FFA chapter, the fair serves as an opportunity to showcase all that they have learned and experienced throughout the past year.

Many students join FFA because they have an interest in animals or are curious about the iconic blue corduroy jackets. They soon discover that FFA offers much more than just agricultural education but also career exploration, competitions and leadership opportunities.

Maria Pires Falcao said she originally joined FFA after her friend recommended it to her.

"I was in the club for a few weeks or so and then I started to see what the club was actually about," said Pires Falcao. "We're always involved in something. We're never just sitting around; there is always something going on."

Throughout the year, members hear from local agricultural professionals and participate in hands-on learning experiences. The variety of activities keep members engaged year-round, offering opportunities to learn more about agriculture in and out of the classroom.

One of the year's highlights came in May 2026, when the 15 members traveled to Buffalo, N.Y., for the 101st New York State FFA Convention. There, students would participate in various competitions and take field trips in the surrounding Buffalo area. The state convention provides FFA members with the chance to discover new fields of agriculture such as food science, animal science or aquaculture.

For the first time in chapter history, FFA members participated in the aquaculture career development event. Team members were tasked with identifying fish species, and each had to take a written test.

"We had to identify tools and label fish," said Nicolette Argow, who competed in the event, "Even if we didn't win, it was still interesting and nice to try a new event."

While competitions challenged members, many of them felt the relationships they built while preparing for competitions and at the state convention were extremely rewarding.

"Everyone [who wasn't competing] would be there to help them out and support them," said Pires Falcao, who participated in the convention as a delegate for the John Jay FFA chapter, "We were always asking if they needed any help if something came up."

During convention, FFA chapters have plenty of time to build friendships with their fellow FFA members.

continued on page 36



Above: Nicolette Argow competed in the 101st New York State FFA Convention, held in May in Buffalo. Below: Maria Pires Falcao holds her Greenhand Degree and Yasmin Pedroso holds her Chapter Degree. *Courtesy photos*





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John Jay FFA

continued from page 35



Sonja Hull helps elementary school students during Ag Literacy Week.
Courtesy photo

Members attended a Buffalo Bisons baseball game, watched a fireworks show and spent time getting to know students from other chapters across New York State.

In preparation for the Dutchess County Fair, chapter members are excited to be able to display all that FFA has to offer youth in agriculture. FFA members Jenna Lawrence and Justin Lawrence will be showing dairy cows at the fair, and some students will also be participating in creating a display for the Horticulture building. Additionally, FFA members will volunteer their time at their chapter's booth in the AgriVenture building, helping

to educate visitors on FFA and its mission in agriculture.

"I'm excited to be able to talk to people at the fair this summer about FFA," said Gianna Tropea, John Jay FFA member.

Chapter treasurer Yasmin Pedroso hopes visitors leave with a broader understanding of what FFA has to offer.

"FFA is so much bigger than just Future Farmers of America," she said. "There's food science, aquaculture, hands-on experiences. I feel like it's so much more than people think it is. You're always meeting new people and building connections."

Stony Ground 4-H Club cultivates skills and community

By Matthew Fetzner

Stony Ground 4-H Club provides a wide range of project areas on which members can focus. Club members can participate in dairy, caring for rabbits/cavies, poultry, beekeeping and art. The club spends time “building relationships, honing their skills, increasing their knowledge, fundraising for various activities, and working to make sure that their project animals are well cared for,” under leaders Kim Pennock and Tim Stanley.

Stony Ground meets at Stony Kill Farm in Wappingers Falls, and throughout the 2025-2026 calendar year, the club has helped the farm tremendously. This includes helping the farm staff manage rotational grazing and even extracting honey from frames sourced from the Stony Kill apiary.

Members of this 4-H club have a choice of what they want to participate in. Outside of dairy or beekeeping on the farm, sheep members monitored lamb cams and took part

in regular check-ins on expectant ewes during the season. Members also learned sheep showmanship practices.

Members working with rabbits and cavies shared species knowledge and demonstrated proper rabbit-handling techniques. Poultry project members made protein-packed molting treats and learned how to evaluate meat birds through a hands-on multi-county poultry clinic. Finally, art members participated in different projects ranging from leatherwork to sunset silhouette painting.

The club is very centered around helping the community. This year, they teamed up with Fare Ground in Beacon to collect food and monetary donations for local families in need. Here, they filled an entire car with food and collected \$325. Their efforts were so successful that they will be doing another food drive in September.

Those interested in learning more can visit Dutchess County 4-H’s website and sign up for the club’s interest list.



Members of the Stony Ground 4-H Club participate in many activities, including monitoring lambs and hosting food drives. *Courtesy photos*



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Nature Scouts build connections through adventure

By Matthew Fetzer

Nature Scouts is a newly formed club, tailored to the youngest 4-H members. With June Glasson as its leader, the club's main focuses are on "exploring and deepening relationships with nature, the community, and others" as well as "getting outdoors, trying new things, doing something to help the community, building belonging, and having fun."

This general interest club offers a variety of activities throughout their calendar year. Hiking, farm visits, gardening and woodworking are just a few of the many that members can enjoy. Over the past few months, Nature Scouts has embarked on over a dozen "field trips" together.

The group hiked to Wappinger Creek, where they discussed a buddy system and had the kids navigate to the creek using a map. Additional

hikes and outdoor trips included hikes at Buttercup Audubon Preserve, Cary Institute and Bontecou Farm, along with visits to Millbrook Beef and Dairy Farm, Stonewood Farm and Millbrook Village Hall, just to name a few.

Under the aim of "helping the community" this 4-H group consistently donates and stocks food to the community fridge in Millbrook. On April 25, they held a fundraiser for the community fridge at the village-wide yard sale, where they raised over \$400 through their efforts. In May, they even hosted the community fridge for the entire month.

More activities are lined up after the fair ends, as new members are always welcome to join in on the excitement. Visit Dutchess County 4-H's website, <https://dutchesscounty4h.weebly.com/>, to learn more and to get on the club's interest list.



Nature Scouts is a 4-H general interest club that offers a variety of activities throughout their calendar year. Hiking, farm visits, gardening and woodworking are just a few of the many that members can enjoy. Over the past few months, Nature Scouts has embarked on over a dozen "field trips" together. The group also consistently donates and stocks food to the community fridge in Millbrook. *Courtesy photos*



Top Dogs: Putting their best paw forward

By Brooke Tibbetts
4-H Program Coordinator

The Top Dogs 4-H Club is where young people and their canine companions learn what it truly means to work as a team. Throughout the year, members build strong partnerships with their dogs while

developing skills in obedience, showmanship, grooming and responsible dog ownership. Patience, consistency and positive training techniques help both handler and dog gain confidence together.

Preparing for the Dutchess County Fair takes months of practice. Members spend

countless hours training with their dogs, perfecting everything from basic commands and ring etiquette to the finer details that make a successful showmanship performance. Along the way, they also learn about canine health, nutrition, safety and the lifelong commitment that comes with caring for a dog.

This year, fairgoers will have a brand-new place to cheer on these talented teams. The 4-H Dog Shows will be held in the new Canine Tent located just outside the 4-H Exhibit Hall. If you're entering through the 4-H Gate, you'll find the tent on your left before

reaching the building. The new location gives visitors an excellent opportunity to stop, watch the competitions and see the incredible bond between each youth and their dog.

Whether you're a lifelong dog lover or simply curious about what 4-H Dog projects involve, be sure to visit the Canine Tent during the Dutchess County Fair. You'll see firsthand the dedication, teamwork and sportsmanship that Top Dogs members demonstrate every time they step into the ring – and maybe even learn a new training tip or two along the way.

CENTURY MUSEUM VILLAGE



Above: Elizabeth Dill is framed in her work - the art of chair caning. Left: Volunteer historian Fred Widman gathers corn straw around a broom stick in the first step of the antique broom-making process. These are just two of more than 30 displays to be found in the Century Museum Village at the Fair. More than 60 volunteers will be exhibiting historic displays and educating fairgoers on the operation of each, which cover the time period 1870-1929 of rural life in the Hudson Valley. *Archive photos by Curtis Schmidt*



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Pine Plains FFA sees surge in student participation

*By Stephanie Rhoades
Agricultural
Science Teacher
Pine Plains FFA Advisor*

The Pine Plains FFA chapter is experiencing a wave of growth as more students choose to get involved in the organization's leadership, agricultural and community service opportunities. This year the chapter saw a membership increase of 17 new faces in grades 6-12!

Pine Plains FFA members are taking advantage of leadership experiences that extend beyond the classroom. Members participated in several leadership conferences, Career and Leadership Development Events, public speaking competitions and community service activities this school year. All while building skills that will benefit them in college, careers, and everyday life.

We had a record number of students compete in Career and Leadership Development Events or CDEs and LDEs. Many middle-school students stepped up to try out contests for the first time. Middle-school members competed in Junior People in Agriculture, where they prepared posters based on agriculture careers to present at district contests. Other middle schoolers competed in Junior Quiz Bowl, Junior Tool ID and Junior Food Science at the State Convention. High-school members and some middle-school members formed a parliamentary procedure team and competed at district contests. We had a Milk Quality



and Products team compete at SUNY Cobleskill. We also had a Senior Quiz Bowl team compete at the State Convention.

Addison Stapf competed in Senior Prepared Public Speaking. Addison worked to prepare a speech on a bacterial infection commonly referred to as CL that impacts goats. After researching and preparing the speech, she presented to a panel of judges and answered their questions. Addison placed and advanced to sub-state level competition after competing at the district level. Addison also competed at the state level in the Agricultural Education CDE, where she prepared a lesson about animal nutrition. She competed at the State Convention in Buffalo, NY in May. In Addison's lesson students created their own ration

with a farm simulation, featuring variables such as weather affecting crops or feed prices increasing. Addison placed 8th overall in the state for this competition. Great job and congrats to Addison!

Jaden Cotte was a state finalist, placing in the top six in NY for her LDE Senior People in Agriculture. For this contest, Jaden thoroughly researched the career of welding. She then interviewed two people within the profession and prepared a presentation to give to a panel of three judges. Placing as a finalist in the state is a huge accomplishment! Jaden competed first at the district level. Then she went on to sub-states and placed first, qualifying her to compete at the State Convention in Buffalo, NY in May, where she placed fourth overall.

Congratulations, Jaden!

Congratulations to all competitors for striving to build leadership and career skills by participating in LDEs and CDEs. Special shout out to Abigail Marino for coming back as an Alumni member to apply for her state degree. She received her Empire Degree at the State Convention. Degrees are based on hours worked and money earned or invested in an agricultural work experience. Abby's work at a canine training facility paid off and qualified her for this highest degree given to members at the state level. Congratulations, Abby!

In addition to CDEs and LDEs, members took advantage of regional and state leadership conferences, including SLE or the State Leaders Experience in Albany, NY, the

continued on page 41

Pine Plains FFA

continued from page 40

Ignite Leadership Conference hosted at Fonda-Fultonville, and the State Convention in Buffalo, NY. On the local level, the chapter hosted its annual Ag Fair in October and Farm Toy Show in March. Members visited Housatonic Valley FFA and helped with their annual wreath making. Members volunteered in town to set up for the annual Town Decorating Day for the holidays by putting up trees and extension cords. A float was decorated for the Parade of Lights, and members marched in the Memorial Day Parade. FFA officers visited the elementary schools three times; to promote the Ag Fair, to read for Ag Literacy Week, and to help serve food for the Cold Spring Ag Breakfast. These

are just some of the other great opportunities members took advantage of this year!

As the chapter continues to grow, the Pine Plains FFA plans to focus on developing the next generation of leaders through service, education and teamwork. We will continue to host our community events and participate in community service within Pine Plains. We will strive to build leadership skills through CDE and LDE continued participation, and we will take advantage of the opportunities offered. As the FFA mission statement says, FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.



Clockwise from above: Jaden Cotte placed first at Sub-state contests for Senior People in Agriculture. Abigail Marino with her State Degree. Addison Stapf placing in Prepared Public Speaking at Districts. Opposite page: Pine Plains FFA members gather at the NY State FFA Convention. *Courtesy photos*

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Twice the fun – Jeanette’s Fried Dough & Treats and John’s Famous French Fries

It’s going to be “twice the fun” at this year’s Dutchess County Fair as Peter of Jeannette’s Fried Dough & Fried Treats is also featuring his second booth - John’s Famous French Fries and Cheese Fries.

Peter says, “Come and show some love at this year’s Dutchess County Fair. Keep Calm and Fry on!”

Peter has been making and frying dough with the Fritz Family since he was 14 years young.

Jeanette’s Fried Dough has been working the upstate NY fair route for over 65 years, and this will be the third consecutive year at the Dutchess County Fair since the 1990s.

Over the last nine years, they have added 18 different specialty toppings to the menu - moreover, a variety of

fried goodies like the infamous fried Oreos, the fried cheesecake, fried peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, fried Twinkies and more! They fry it all!

And this year, you can get the “Best French Fries in the Land” at John’s Famous French Fries; and just wait ‘til you try Famous and tasty Cheese Fries!

Cotton candy and various cold drinks like iced tea, iced coffee, fruit punch and soda are also on the menu. Come show some love at Jeannette’s Fried Dough & Fried Treats John’s Famous French Fries, located at L-0 on the fair map.

Keep Calm and Fry on – at Jeannette’s Fried Dough & Fried Treats and John’s Famous French Fries. *Courtesy photos*



ThinkDIFFERENTLY Thursday’ offers welcoming Fair experience for all on Aug. 27

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and Dutchess County Fairgrounds President Andy Imperati invite individuals and families with physical and developmental disabilities to enjoy “Think DIFFERENTLY Thursday” at the Dutchess County Fair on Thursday, Aug. 27. The special day offers a quieter, more relaxed Fair experience with early admission, sensory-friendly carnival hours and activities designed to help everyone enjoy one of Dutchess County’s favorite summer traditions. Inclusive programming and accessibility features will also be available throughout Fair week.

On “ThinkDIFFERENTLY

Thursday,” individuals with physical and developmental disabilities and their families are invited to enter the Fair beginning at 9 a.m., one hour before the general public. The early opening provides extra time to visit Livestock Hill, the Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County 4H Exhibit Hall and other areas before the Fair becomes busier, making it easier for guests to explore in a calm, comfortable setting.

The Powers Great American Midway will open select rides at 9:30 a.m., with sensory-friendly hours continuing until noon. During that time, flashing lights, music and other ride sounds will be reduced or

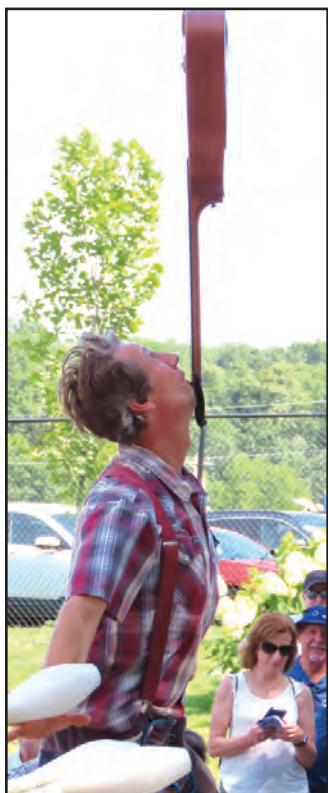
turned off to create a more enjoyable experience for guests with sensory sensitivities. The earlier opening also means shorter lines and more room to enjoy the rides.

Special events on “ThinkDIFFERENTLY Thursday” include the Dutchess County Fair’s ThinkDIFFERENTLY Horse Showcase at noon in the Horse Show Arena. Throughout the week, fairgoers can also explore ThinkDIFFERENTLY exhibits featuring artwork, horticulture and other projects created by individuals with disabilities, including the popular GrowDIFFERENTLY recycled garden art display in the Horticulture Building.

The Dutchess County Department of Mental Health and the County’s Think DIFFERENTLY team invite families who need a quiet break during their visit can stop by their tent on Livestock Hill (No. 16 on map), which will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. throughout the Fair. Visitors looking for sensory resources or assistance can also visit the Information Booth near the Fair souvenir stand.

On “ThinkDIFFERENTLY Thursday,” guests taking advantage of the early opening should enter through the Fair’s main entrance at the Welcome Center, located near accessible parking.

A DC Fair favorite: Hilby dazzles everyone with juggling, wacky comedy



Hilby, the Skinny German Juggle Boy, balances a guitar on his chin during a performance at the Dutchess County Fair. *Photo by Curtis Schmidt*

He has been one of the most popular performers at the Dutchess County Fair for over 20 years. He even has his own performing stage near the main gate.

Hilby, the Skinny German Juggle Boy dazzles audiences with his incredible juggling talents and amusing and funny jokes – many of which are of the impromptu nature.

Performing at theaters, colleges, on cruise ships and at fairgrounds from Canada to Australia, Hilby brings his highly professional and excruciatingly funny show for all to enjoy.

One cannot help but be charmed by his impeccable timing and extreme circus skills. You can find Hilby on top of unicycles of all shapes and sizes and juggling objects ranging from bowling balls to hedge trimmers. His acts are a powerful and spellbinding collage of superb technical skill and wacky comedy in the tradition of vaudeville.

If you have seen him before, you know he is not to be missed. He is one of the most sought-after performers at venues around the world.

OFF AXIS GROUND SHOW



This high-energy performance includes a variety of exciting acts combined into one 20-30 minute show. The show features Off Axis' biggest stage acts BMX ramps and Trampwall, along with additional acts such as teeterboard or Trampwall Slam Dunk, parkour and hilarious comedy scenes. *Courtesy photo*



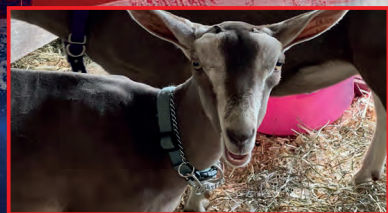
HORTICULTURE TREASURES

Visit the Thomas J. Odak Horticulture Building to see the winning flower displays in an incredible array of categories – all from area gardening enthusiasts. *Archive photo by Curtis Schmidt*

THE 180TH DUTCHESS COUNTY FAIR AUGUST 25-30, 2026

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**CHASE
MATTHEW**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 25
7:30 PM**

CONCERT & ADMISSION COMBO - \$45



**FRIDAY, AUGUST 28
7:30 PM**

INCLUDED WITH PAID ADMISSION



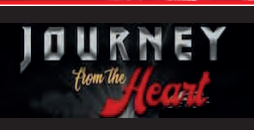
**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26
7:30 PM**

CONCERT & ADMISSION COMBO - \$45

Tyler Braden

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 29
7:30 PM**

INCLUDED WITH PAID ADMISSION



**THURSDAY
AUGUST 27 • 7:30 PM**
INCLUDED WITH PAID ADMISSION



**SUNDAY, AUGUST 30
11:30 AM & 5:00 PM**
INCLUDED WITH PAID ADMISSION

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