



CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF OTSEGO COUNTY

March 2020



***SHEEP & GOAT CLINIC***



4-H members participated in the Sheep & Goat Clinic coordinated by Ashley McFarland, CNY Livestock Specialist taught by Dr. Tatiana Stanton, Cornell University Small Ruminant Extension Specialist.  
(L-R: Winnie, Angel, Evie, Chase & Cameron)

**In this Issue**

	<i>Page</i>
<b>Hartwick 4-H Theatre Club</b> .....	2
<a href="#">Willie Wonka Performance</a>	
<b>4-H Calendar</b> .....	3
<b>4-H Club News</b> .....	4
<a href="#">The Sunset Riders, CVS Apple and Cherry Blossoms, Glimmerglass Gallopers &amp; 4-H Craft Day, Hartwick Theatre Club, Capital Days, STARR Otsego County</a> .....	5, 6, 7
<a href="#">4-H Camp Shankitunk, Ricky Parisian Scholarship, NYS 4-H Stem Camp, Muffin Tin Magic Cooking Clinic, Patti's "A Time for Every Season, Bee-keeping Essay Competition,</a>	
<b>Animal Science</b> .....	8, 9, 10
<a href="#">Dairy Bowl, Dairy Ownership, Dog Obedience, SUNY Cobleskill Block &amp; Bridle Livestock Judging Clinic, Livestock Techniques Workshop, Guernsey Calf Scholarship, 840 RFID Tags, Animal Crackers, Pheasant Chicks, Cornell Vet College Open House, New Zealand Adventure</a>	
<b>Information &amp; Registration Form</b> .....	11
<b>Power of YOUTH Advertisers</b> .....	12

 **4-H GROWS HERE**

4-H helps youth grow into competent, caring, contributing members of society.

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Schoharie & Otsego Counties  
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**4-H Youth Development Mission Statement**

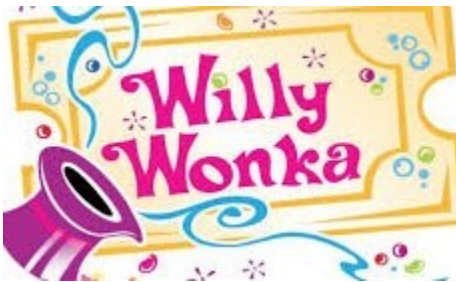
The mission of Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development is to build youth adult partnerships to enable youth to become fully engaged in their learning process. New York State 4-H is a leader in enabling youth to develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and abilities to become productive citizens and is a catalyst for positive change to meet the needs of a diverse and changing society.

**Through 4-H Youth Development, youth will:**

- Practice effective problem-solving and decision-making skills
- Possess positive work attitudes and skills
- Value diversity
- Accept community and social responsibility
- Contribute to positive relationships with families, peers and community
- Demonstrate communication and leadership skills
- Value lifelong learning

**Cornell Cooperative Extension values**

- 4-H Youth development as the focus of all youth development activities
- Partnerships for supporting, conducting and extending the program
- Volunteerism as a cornerstone of the program
- Diversity and the strengths it brings to Cornell Cooperative Extension programs



**Willy Wonka comes to Hartwick!!**

Come see a chocolate river, a singing candy man, squirrel factory workers and Oompa Loompas at the Hartwick 4-H Theatre Guild's performance of Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory! Performance dates are Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> (7pm) and Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> (2pm & 6pm) at the Hartwick Community Center.



For ticket information please visit our Facebook page at Hartwick 4H Theatre Guild:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Community-Organization/Hartwick-4H-Theatre-Guild-240567513197412/>

Tickets are FREE but must be reserved since we will likely fill the theatre!

**Get a Goat!**

I have a goat I'm trying to find a home for. No papers, grade animal, about 3-years old, female, never been bred. I'd love to give her to a 4-H'er. Interested? Call Stacie Connors: 1-315-368-7626.



<https://www.facebook.com/otsegocounty4H>



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# 4-H Calendar Events 2019 - 2020



## MARCH

- Photo Clinic, TBA
- 4 4-H Fair Superintendents, 6 p.m. Milford Central School
- 4 Issue Committee Meetings, 7 p.m., Milford Central School
- 7 Public Presentations, 9 a.m. - noon, Milford Central School
- 14 District 4-H Dairy/Horse Quiz Bowl, Binghamton
- 15 Capital Days Nominations
- 16-20 Ag Literacy Week, "Right this Very Minute: A table-to farm book by Lisl H. Detlefsen
- 17 4-H Camp Shankitunk Scholarship Deadline
- 17 St. Patrick's Day! Watch out for the Leprechauns
- 21 Muffin Tin Magic, Food Clinic, Gilbertsville Baptist Church, 9:30 - noon
- 24 Livestock Techniques, Cooperstown, 5:30 - 7 p.m., limited registration
- 27-28 Dairy Discovery, Cornell University
- 28 District Public Presentations, Broome County

## APRIL

- TBA Dairy Challenge
- 3 Willie Wonka performed by Hartwick 4-H Theater Guild, 7 p.m., Hartwick Community Center
- 4 4-H Auction Clinic, Milford Central School, 9 a.m. - noon
- 4 Willie Wonka by the Hartwick 4-H Theater Guild, 2 & 6 p.m., Hartwick Community Center
- 12 Easter Sunday
- 18 Veterinary College Open House, Cornell, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- 25 State Dairy Bowl, Cornell
- 24-26 State Teen Action Rep. Retreat (STARR) NYS Fairgrounds, Syracuse
- April 29-May 10 4-H Paper Clovers, Tractor Supply, Oneonta

## MAY

- 2 Animal Crackers at Cornell - Species: Dairy & Swine, Sheep
- 6 4-H Fair Superintendents, 6 p.m., Milford Central School
- 6 4-H Issue Committees, 7 p.m., Milford Central School
- 10 Mother's Day, Remember your MOM!
- 16 4-H Dairy Clinic, Morris Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.
- 17 4-H Calf Sale, Morris Fairgrounds
- 17-19 Capital Days, Albany
- 25 Memorial Day, CCE Offices closed
- 29 4-H Career Ex Application DEADLINE
- 30-31 4-H Horse Camp, Morris Fairgrounds
- 31 **DEADLINE, NEW 4-H members to enroll for full benefits (County Fair & year completion)**



# 4-H Club News



Reins & lead ropes.

**Sunset Riders** reports in our meeting we talked a little bit about our trip to horse world expo at the end of the month. Then for the rest of the meeting we did our reins and lead ropes. One of our very nice members taught us how to make them. Thank you, Carly. They are made out of paracord string. At first, we had a little bit of trouble because the string was very long and we did not want the bottoms to get in a knot. But for the rest of the time we did not have any problems. After we were done with the lead ropes, we had a little snack break. Then we went straight back to work.

**CV-S Apple and Cherry Blossoms 4-H Club** learned how to decorate a glass using water and spray paint or nail polish. We talked about density and adhesion properties. Each member got to create their own colorful drinking glass!



Making a colorful drinking glass

**Hartwick Theatre Guild 4-H Club** reports in the month of January they met weekly and had Drama practice, Loompas begin costumes, and had committee signups to elect officers.



## 4-H Craft Day – February 15

New 4-H Leaders, Krista Curpier, Sarah Mellor, and Kevin Segit, hosted a Saturday afternoon 4-H Craft Day at Milford Central School. 4-H members and their friends made: Horseshoe Picture Frames, Inspirational Horseshoes, and Horseshoe Dreamcatchers.



4-H Craft Day – beautiful Horseshoe creations!!

The new 4-H Leaders will be re-starting the **Glimmerglass Gallopers 4-H Club**. For information contact Krista Curpier, [curpierk@gmail.com](mailto:curpierk@gmail.com).

## 4-H Capital Days

May 17-19, 2020

4-H Capital Days gives teens the opportunity to meet and interact with legislators to tell their 4-H story, create an awareness of career opportunities in New York State government, understand state government, and connect with 4-H delegates from New York State. Each county is invited to send two teen (age 14+) delegates. In Otsego County a 4-H leader or an active adult submits an application to nominate a 4-H member. The nomination form and further information may be obtained from the 4-H office or visit our site at

<http://cceschoharie-otsego.org/events/2020/02/01/4-h-capital-days-nominations-2020-due>

**Nominations are due March 15.**



## STARR 2020 April 24-26

The State Teen Action Representative Retreat (STARR) is a three-day, fun-filled event where 4-H teens participate in a variety of workshops and activities meant to challenge, excite and further develop life skills. The event is planned by teens and adults serving on the youth/adult STARR planning committee and is held at the NYS Fairgrounds in Syracuse, NY. STARR is open to all NYS 4-H Teens. Cost: \$110. Need based scholarships available.

# 4-H Otsego County



## 4-H CAMP SHANKITUNK

### Cabin Fever!?!?

### Time for 4-H Camp Shankitunk 2020!

Open to girls & boys ages 8 to 16. Campers must turn 8-years old by Jan. 1

#### CAMP WEEK

Week 1 - July 5 - July 10: Out of This World

Week 2 - July 12 - July 17: Arabian Nights

Week 3 - July 19 - July 24: Mystery

Week 4 - July 26 - July 31: FairyLand

Week 5 - August 2 - August 7: Olympics

Click here for complete details and to register for 4-H Camp Shankitunk:

<https://campshankitunk.org/register/overnight-camp>

### 4-H Camp Scholarship Application

Camp fills up quick! Camp fees are up for 2020, don't miss out on the **\$100** 4-H Scholarships from the Parisian Campership Fund.



## Time for some MAGIC!!!

### Muffin Tin Magic Cooking Clinic

March 21, 9:30 a.m. - Noon  
Gilbertsville Baptist Church

Cooking and photography, WOO-HOO!

Come to cook, or take pictures for a photo story, start a recipe collection...or do all three!

We will make four different recipes on-site with extra recipes to take home. Explore the many tasty muffin tin possibilities!

This clinic is free.

## Ricky J. Parisian Camp Shankitunk Scholarship Otsego County Information & Application

The Parisian family provides 15 - \$100 scholarships to the 4-H members of Otsego County. To receive the 4-H Camp Shankitunk Scholarship a 4-H member simply meet the criteria and submit an application (see below).

### 4-H Camp Scholarship Otsego County Information & Application

To apply for the Ricky J. Parisian Camp Shankitunk Scholarship:

- ◆ Youth must be currently enrolled as an Otsego County 4-H member.
- ◆ Submit a copy of your Camp Shankitunk application Send a short answer to **“Why I want to go to 4-H Camp Shankitunk”**.
- ◆ **Open to ALL Otsego County 4-H campers**
- ◆ 4-H Camp Scholarship Application is due to the Otsego County 4-H Office by **3.17.20**

2020 Scholarship link: <http://cceschoharie-otsego.org/4-h-youth-development/otsego-county-4-h/4-h-camp-shankitunk-scholarship>

## NYS 4-H STEM Camp

June 19 - 21, 2020

### 4-H Camp Shankitunk, Delaware County

The NYS 4-H STEM Camp at 4-H Camp Shankitunk in Delaware County is open for registrations for youth ages 10 and older. \$75/person. This is a VERY popular event. SIGN UP soon!! Online [registration can be found here](#). 2020 Courses offered:

**Ag-citing Science of Fiber Food & Farms** - Take a look at the science of fiber, food and farms!

**Code Explorers** - Do you like to code or want to learn how? Have fun exploring computer programming during this course.

**GPS/Geocaching** - Do you like to hunt for treasure? Do you like to go on Scavenger Hunts?

**Microorganisms** - The good, the bad, and the ugly. Exciting experiments, and grow your own culture!

**Pollinator Power** – The perfect place to “bee” for hands-on activities to create a bee friendly backyard!

**Rocketry I & II** - Build and launch a rocket that will fly over 400' into the air! Be an aerospace engineer.

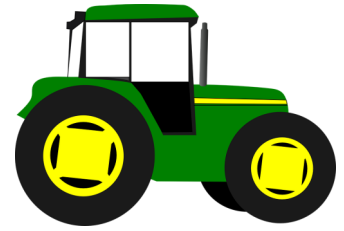
Rocketry I = Beginners;

Rocketry II = must have taken Rocketry I.

# 4-H Otsego County

## 4-H Tractor Safety Certification Course

A Three-Day Series  
Monday, March 23, 5 - 9 p.m.  
Monday, March 30, 5 - 9 p.m.  
Saturday, April 4, 9 - 4 p.m.



**Curtis Mott Building, SUNY Cobleskill**  
**Must attend all classes**

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schoharie and Otsego Counties will be offering the Safe Tractor and Machinery Operator's Certification Course in cooperation with SUNY Cobleskill's Agriculture Engineering Department.

This safety course is available to youth ages 14 and up. Any youth under the age of 16 must complete this program in order to receive a Certificate of Exemption for farm equipment and tractor operation. **Classroom and driving skill instruction included.**

Fee is \$20. Class is limited to 15 students.

Registration **Deadline March 13**

Contact Teresa Adell, [tla47@cornell.edu](mailto:tla47@cornell.edu) or 518-234-4303

## 4-H Leaders Lunch 2020

The annual 4-H Leaders Lunch was held at the 4-H favorite, Brooks' BBQ, The Roost Banquet Room on Saturday, February 1, 2020. The Special Speaker was Clyde Van Dyke, National 4-H Youth in Action Winner 2019. This event is held to recognize the contributions 4-H Leaders make in local 4-H Clubs, County 4-H Committees, and their Community. Otsego County Dairy Promotion Dairy Ambassador(s): Madisyn, McKenna were on hand to serve a dairy delicious milk punch with maple syrup.

Special **THANKS** to Farm Credit East, Rob Yurkewecz, Branch Manager for the financial support of 4-H Leaders Lunch.

Special Presentations to 4-H Club Leaders/Volunteers follows:

Year 1 - Tammy & Luke, Homesteaders; Amy Doody, Mike Wolfe, Springfield High Meadows; Sharla Woodrow, Milford Round'em Up Ranchers; Katie Gale, Sunset Riders

Year 5 or 6 – Bridgette Shepardson, America's Funniest 4-H Club; April Erkson, CV Springfield Apple Blossoms; Nicole VanDewerker; Officer Training, Whatever Floats your Goat; Carol Ainslie, Fields & Flats

Year 15 – Beth Bartlett; Public Presentation Coordinator; Kathy Scalisi, Horse Committee/Supt.

**NEW Leaders**

Hartwick 4-H Theater Guild: Julie Adelman, Nancy Layton, and Jennifer Dibble; Glimmerglass Gallopers: Krista Kuiper and Kevin Segit; Forces of Morris: Holly Peterson and Lisa LaLonde

4-H Leaders Lunch 2020



*New 4-H Leaders: l-r, rear: Clyde, Nancy, Krista, Kevin;  
front: Jen, Julie, Holly*

# 4-H Otsego County

## A Time for Every Season

Dear 4-H Community,

In the 60's the folk band, the Byrds, had a hit... “

**“To everything ...turn, turn turn; there is a season...turn, turn turn;  
and a time to every purpose under heaven.”**

I am announcing that my season as a 4-H Educator is coming to an end. I will be retiring at the end of April. This is my 9<sup>th</sup> year in Otsego County. Altogether, I have completed 25 years as a 4-H Educator. Imagine.... 25 County & State Fairs!

Although my retirement may seem like a surprise, it's a new season for me. For those of you who didn't know, I am an Ordained Elder in the Free Methodist Church. I am returning to a call to ministry and will be serving full time as an Associate Pastor at New Life Oneonta, Free Methodist Church.

I am happy to share plans that Teresa Adell will be the 4-H Educator for Otsego County 4-H Program. The anticipated start date for Teresa is the beginning of May. It's a new season for the Otsego County 4-H Program!

Thank you for your dedication to the 4-H members of Otsego County and the privilege I've had to work with you through the seasons and over the years.

**“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.” Ecclesiastics 3:1**

With a grateful heart,  
Patti



## **2020 National 4-H Beekeeping Essay Competition: Call for Entries**

**Submission Deadline: March 10, 2020**

### **Essay Topic: Overwintering: Bee Survival through the Cold Season**

Honey bees have developed special skills to overwinter in the United States. Please discuss one of these skills and then include a discussion about what you do to prepare your hives for winter. Include a photo of one of your hives, either using infrared technology or showing winter wrap, hay bales, special feeders, etc. to demonstrate how you prepare your hives for winter.

Put on Your Thinking Cap!

An essential judging criterion is the scope of research you put forth in developing the ideas behind your essay—accounting for 40% of your score. The number of sources consulted, the authority of the sources and the variety of the sources are all evaluated. Personal interviews with beekeepers and others familiar with the subject are valued sources of information and should be documented. Note that “honey bee” is properly spelled as two words, even though many otherwise authoritative references spell it as one word.

### Eligibility:

The 2020 National 4-H Beekeeping Essay Competition is open to active 4-H Club members only. The three prize-winning essays will be published in ABF Quarterly, the magazine of the American Beekeeping Federation. All authors of essays submitted to the national competition will receive a relevant book on honey bees, beekeeping or honey.

Questions? Contact Molly Sausaman, Executive Director, Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, at 720.616.4145 or [msausaman@abfnet.org](mailto:msausaman@abfnet.org).

Compete details available from the 4-H Office

County Entries are to be mailed or emailed to Patti Zellmer before **March 10, 2020**.

# Animal Science

## Dairy Bowl 2020

The South Central Dairy Bowl will be held Saturday, March 14 in Broome County. Otsego County will be sending five teams!

Beginners: Owen Pullis & Kristina Barringer – Coach Becky Barringer  
Junior A: Maxwell Pullis, Braeden Johnson, Xander Johnson – Coach Janette Johnson  
Junior B: Evelyn Kersmanc, Elyza Schoeberl, Ethan Hill – Coach Jennifer Kersmanc  
Senior A: Sean Kersmanc, Gavin Bonczkowski, Aidan Ainslie, Dalton Proskine – Coach Amy Proskine  
Senior B: Abbie Ainslie, Hannah Bonczkowski, Garrett Proskine – Coaches Sandy Bonczkowski, Brad Ainslie

**BEST WISHES for LOTS of BUZZING!!!**

### Dairy Ownership – Report from the State Dairy Committee

Fall 4-H Dairy Advisory meeting and passed a rule change to **allow** dual ownership between siblings WITH specific requirements to meet eligibility.

**NEW Exception: Dual ownership** between siblings will be allowed as long as all of the following criteria are met:

- A) They are bona fide siblings (sister, brother, step-sister/brother, half-sister/brother, adopted)
- B) All siblings on registration paper of animal(s) are of 4-H age and regular members as of Jan 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. Cloverbuds are not eligible. For NY State Fair entries entered through FFA or endorsed by a breed organization representative will need to follow 4-H rules on age also for the Dairy Youth Show
- C) One sibling has to designate the animal as their project animal for the project year by June 15<sup>th</sup> of current year by filing and completing animal identification form.
- D) Completed animal identification form(s) needs to be filed with appropriate organization (4-H Extension, FFA or Breed Organization) to state youth designation by June 15<sup>th</sup>. A copy of this form also needs to accompany State Fair Dairy Youth Entry form being mail to Dairy Youth Superintendent along with the other required documents stated on entry form.
- E) Designation cannot change during the program year and animal must be shown and exhibited by designated sibling.
- F) Bred and owned recognition can be given to designated youth as long as dual ownership is a current and legal partnership filed with breed organization.

The complete list of **4-H and Dairy Youth Show Eligibility for NY State Fair Dairy Youth Show 2020** is available from the 4-H Office.

### 4-H Dog Obedience – Spring Training!!

Spring Dog Training Session is almost here!

Anticipated start date

Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> (weather permitting)

New handlers welcome

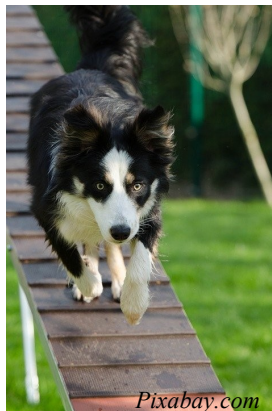
Experienced class: 1 - 2:30 p.m.

Beginners class: 2:30 - 4 p.m.

\$40/handler & dog team.

Obedience, Rally, Agility, Showmanship, and so much more!

Please contact Sonja Galley for more details (rules, what to bring, location, resources, etc) [galley94@vt.edu](mailto:galley94@vt.edu),



### SUNY Cobleskill Block and Bridle Livestock Judging Clinic

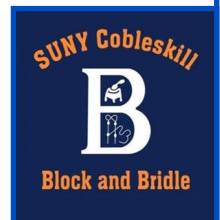
Saturday, April 25  
SUNY Cobleskill

Registration deadline April 3  
Cost \$40/youth

#### CLINIC EVENTS INCLUDE:

- Judging Basics
  - o Cattle
  - o Sheep
  - o Goats
  - o Swine
- Practice Evaluation Classes
- Mini Judging Contest
- Oral Reasons with Individual Feedback
- Campus Tour

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GsBJCJz4I2UDEBrhzQ0fo3dA2zV1\\_sZo/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GsBJCJz4I2UDEBrhzQ0fo3dA2zV1_sZo/view) - Registration form  
<https://drive.google.com/open?id=15MypTSDDIhgNsGcwu5MLDFQGzxxSjmh> - Photo release





# Animal Science

## **Livestock Techniques Workshop for Youth** **March 24, 2020, 5:30 - 7 p.m.** **CCE Education Center, Cooperstown**

4-H youth are welcome to come join Ashley McFarland, Area Livestock Specialist with the Central New York Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team, for a hands-on workshop focusing on management practices for livestock. She will be teaching participants the proper ways to administer vaccinations, ear tagging, ear notching, castration and proper restraint and safety while working with animals.

Class limit: 12 youth - 8 spots are available

**The cost** is \$10 per youth by **March 17** or when class is filled. First come, first served **WITH** payment. Reimbursement for the cost of the workshop will be made to 4-H Auction youth that are accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Please call Ashley at 315.866.7920 if you have any questions.

## **Guernsey Calf Scholarship 2020**

The 2020 New York State Calf Scholarship Award Program is ready to launch one again.

We are in our 21<sup>st</sup> year and could not be more excited about what this program has done for the kids of New York State providing them with the possibility of being awarded a purebred Guernsey Calf.

If you have any questions about the program, feel free to contact me via email or phone.

*Blessings~*

*Christel Axtell*

*New York State Guernsey Youth Advisor*

Phone: 607.761.9443; Email: [axtell7@juno.com](mailto:axtell7@juno.com)

The current application is available at the 4-H Office or <http://cceschoharie-otsego.org/4-h-youth-development/otsego-county-4-h/new-york-state-guernsey-calf-scholarship-award-program>

Deadline: March 1

## **NY Ag & Markets** update – 2.4.2020

840 RFID tags are **RECOMMENDED**; however, will **NOT** be required at fairs in 2020. The 4-H Office has a limited supply of RFID tags available at no cost to 4-H members.

### 2020 County and State Fair ID Changes

- Applies to all NY county fairs and the NY State Fair
- Proposed regulations apply to **CATTLE** and **SWINE**
- **WHAT?**



Cattle not currently identified with an 840 eartag will need an 840 RFID tag (or 840 equivalent if from another country) in their ear upon entry to the fairs. Cattle with 840 Visual tags will be exempt through 12/31/2022.



- Swine not currently identified with an 840 ear tag will need an 840 RFID tag (or 840 equivalent if from another country) in their ear upon entry to the fairs. Swine with 840 Visual tags will be exempt through 12/31/2022.
- Nursing piglets accompanying their sow to a fair are exempt from official ID provided that their sow must be in compliance with all applicable requirements.



## **SAVE THE DATE** **Animal Crackers 2020**

May 2, 2020

Bovine, Sheep and Swine - How Devine!

The Cornell University Department of Animal Science is pleased to announce Animal Crackers 2020, "Bovine, Sheep and Swine - How Devine!", on Saturday, May 2, 2020 on the Cornell University campus. This year's program will highlight dairy, beef, swine, and sheep topics. 4-H youth 9-12 years old or those with beginner to intermediate knowledge of the covered species are invited to participate.

Interesting, educational, hands-on activities are planned to make Animal Crackers a memorable learning event. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about dairy or livestock care, biology, and management while having fun participating in a variety of interactive activities, with 4-H'ers from across NYS.

There is a \$15 per youth cost to attend the program - adult chaperones are free. Attendees are asked to bring their own lunch. Registration for the event must be done through the 4-H local Office. County Registrations are due April 17. All groups must have at least one chaperone per species track. Chaperones are asked to review the chaperone information sheet on the Animal Crackers website. Additional information about the event, as well as the Cornell University campus, can be found on the same website. Mark your calendars for one of the most exciting animal science programs of 2020!

# Animal Science

## Day-Old Pheasant Chicks



The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will distribute day-old pheasant chicks for rearing and release projects to qualified 4-H youth. This is a 4-H project with a great deal of responsibility and a substantial time commitment. Rearing pheasants is enjoyable, challenging and teaches responsible behavior.

The cost is \$3 per 25 chicks for 4-H members and \$4 per 25 chicks for non 4-H members.

Contact CCE to place your order. Chicks must be pre-ordered and PAID on or before **March 24**.

## Cornell Vet College Open House Saturday, April 18, 2020, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The students, faculty and staff of the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine invite you, your family and friends to our 53rd annual Open House.

Open House is our opportunity to share the joys of our profession with the community. Veterinary students and members of the faculty and staff host this annual event that provides a chance for those interested to get a closer look at veterinary medicine. We invite you to tour our college and learn more about our facilities, our equipment and what we do every day.

Students, faculty members and staff will be on hand to answer your questions about a career as a veterinarian, a veterinary technician or an animal care specialist. Careers in veterinary medicine have traditionally involved working with dogs, cats, cows, horses, sheep and pigs. However, this rapidly growing field also provides opportunities to work in the animal health industry, government, armed forces and with many other species in zoos, wildlife refuges and developing countries.

## New Zealand Adventures!

*By Aidan Ainslie*

This past November, I had the privilege of traveling to New Zealand with my parents to visit my sister Ellie who was studying abroad. From November 1<sup>st</sup> to November 10<sup>th</sup>, my mom, dad, sister and I toured numerous farms, saw countless fields of sheep and beef, and saw some of the most amazing scenery on earth.

Ellie had been there for nearly four months, staying with a family who owned a sheep dairy and helping out with chores on the farm while she attended Lincoln University in the exchange semester from Cornell University.

Farming in New Zealand is very different from the agricultural practices in the United States. Sheep, dairy, and beef cattle are on pasture all year round, grazing the many paddocks throughout the country. Because of the year round grazing, there aren't barns as we see dotted all across our country. In fact, most farms in New Zealand only have a parlor, or what they call a 'milking shed' on their entire farm. The majority of dairy cows we saw were Holstein-Jersey crosses, and farmers out there focus on breeding efficient, environmentally low-impact cows.

Much of the country is conscientious when it comes to the environment, focusing on recycling, composting and re-using whatever they can. With the environment in mind, farmers have specific rotational grazing schedules, utilizing a variety of legumes and grasses, not needing as much machinery. We had the opportunity to see hundreds of cows and several farms, all with their own milking sheds. I also had the chance to help milk a herd of 200 sheep, a very different experience compared to dairy farming.

In addition to the agriculture side of the vacation, my family and I hiked several mountains, all with incredible views at the top. Ellie and I also swam with dolphins off the coast of Kaikoura and had the awesome experience of skydiving in Abel Tasman. While known for bungee jumping, New Zealand has many other exhilarating activities to offer, fulfilling any thrill seeker's desires.

Traveling in general provides invaluable experiences - gaining perspective on others' cultures and everyday lives. From hiking in forests where Lord of the Rings was filmed, to milking sheep, to skydiving from 15,000 feet, New Zealand was truly a trip to remember and a bucket list destination.



*Aidan milking sheep*



# The Power of YOUth March 2020



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#### **April**

- \_\_\_ 3 Deadline - SUNY Cobleskill Livestock Judging Clinic

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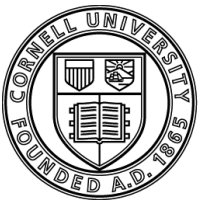
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