### March

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>4-H Club Secretary reports due</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Pheasant Chick orders due</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>“Connecting with Kids” Workshop, HCCC</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Regional Horse Bonanza-Horse Bowl, Hippology and Horse Communications, Morrisville</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Registration for Public Presentation due</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Vet Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>North Central District Dairy Quiz Bowl Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Vet Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>4-H Public Presentation Event, Mt. Markham</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Vet Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>4-H Public Presentation Event, Herkimer BOCES</td>
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<td>28-29</td>
<td>4-H Dairy Discovery</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>STARR registration due</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Cyber bullying &amp; Internet Safety Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Horse Showmanship Clinic, 1pm-3pm, Winding River Farm, West Winfield</td>
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### April

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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Vet Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Applications for Animal Crackers at Cornell University due to 4-H Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>4-H Club Secretary reports due</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Ag Literacy Day</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Applications for 4-H Career Exploration at Cornell University due to 4-H Office</td>
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<td>10-18</td>
<td>School Closed - Spring Recess</td>
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<td>Vet School Open House, Cornell University</td>
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<td>15-17</td>
<td>Tractor Safety Certification</td>
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<td>18-20</td>
<td>STARR - Teen Trip</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>NYS Horse Quiz Bowl, Cornell</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>NYS Dairy Quiz Bowl, Cornell</td>
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### May

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>“Connecting with Kids” Workshop, CCE Oneida County</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>4-H Club Secretary reports due</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>NYS Dairy Judging Clinic</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Animal Crackers, Cornell University</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Conservation Field Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Memorial Day observed, CCE closed</td>
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4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills.
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<td>4-H Nutrition/Textile Workshops</td>
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<td>Nanotechnology at Cornell University</td>
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<td>The Farmers’ Museum - Horse Clinic</td>
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<td>Bruce Field Award</td>
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<td>“ICE” (In Case of Emergency Campaign)</td>
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<td>4-H Cloverbud Activity</td>
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<td>Horse Showmanship Clinic</td>
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<td>It’s Maple Sugar Time! - Cross Word</td>
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<td>Celebrate Urban Birds</td>
<td>14-15</td>
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<td>4-H Oneida County Rabbit-Cavy Show</td>
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<td>Herkimer County 4-H Welcomes these 4-H Club Members and Cloverbud</td>
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<td>Veterinary &amp; Animal Science Exploration</td>
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**4-H Honor Secretaries**

Congratulations to the following 4-H Club Secretaries for turning in their January reports by February 5th:

- **Tim Livingston**, Barnyard Buddies 4-H Club;
- **Tess Hitchcock**, Cow Belles 4-H Club;
- **Stacy Collins**, Milk Shakers 4-H Club.

---

**ATTENTION 4-H MEMBERS!**

Please make sure you have given an updated email address to the 4-H office.

Email JoAnn at jcr12@cornell.edu with your new email address!

---

**TRACTOR SAFETY CERTIFICATION**  
**April 15-17**

We will be offering a Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program to youth and adults 14 and over on April 15-17. We invite and encourage all farm and non farm youth and adults who will be working on or around machinery to participate in the program.

On April 15 the program will be held at Clinton Tractor, April 16 it will be held at Whites Farm Supply and April 17 will be determined. The cost for 4-H members will be $10. For non-members the cost is $25.

Pre-registration is required by April 11 by calling the 4-H Office. For more information call or email Jenn.
### 4-H Public Presentation Reminder

**Wednesday, March 26, 5 – 7 PM,**  
Mt. Markham Central School  
**Thursday, March 27, 5-7 PM,**  
Herkimer BOCES

Please note demonstrations will begin at 5 pm until all are completed. Please arrive no later than 7 pm so we can plan on presenting certificates and being done no later than 8 pm since it is a school night.

Pre-registration is required so we can be sure to recruit enough evaluators. The deadline to register is **March 10**. When registering please indicate which location you will be attending.

### Cyber Bullying & Internet Safety Workshop

**March 29th @ 1:00pm**  
HCCC Cybersecurity Lab

"Cyber Bullying" has become a new buzz word in the lives of many children these days. To help identify and understand this subject a little more, the Starkville Champions will be holding a workshop in the Cybersecurity Lab at Herkimer County Community College on Saturday, March 29 at 1 pm.

There is no fee for this workshop which is open to anyone wanting to know about it ~ students, parents, anyone exposed to text messages, email, face book, etc. For additional information or to sign up to attend, please contact 4-H volunteer Jackie Snyder at 518-993-5173 or email her at snyderl@frontiernet.net.

### Non-Owned Project Animal

4-H members interested in participating in one of the various large animal projects but do not own an animal have an option. Members can participate with a non-owned animal. The "non-ownership" program enables 4-H members to experience the responsibility of caring for and showing an animal that might not have been available to them. "Non-ownership" is not available to all 4-Her’s:

- Non-ownership is NOT AVAILABLE to youth already owning an animal of that species.
- Youth are limited to ONE non-owned animal per species.
- Non-owned animals must meet all regulations, such as registration, health papers, etc.
- 4-H members showing non-owned animals must complete a non-ownership certificate (which is available at the 4-H office) and submit it to the 4-H office by **June 1**.
- 4-H Members are expected to work with their non-owned animals during the whole year and not just during the week of the show.

If you do not own a cow, lamb, pig, goat, etc. this is a perfect opportunity for you to be able to care for a 4-H project animal and show it at the County Fair or the Farmers’ Museum Junior Livestock Show. Call or email Jenn for more information.

### Reminder

4-H Club Secretary and Cloverbud Club Leaders Monthly Report forms are available online at  
http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/herkimer/4-h.htm  
Just click on 4h, then scroll to the bottom of the page and click on whichever form you need. Be sure to email your forms to JoAnn at jcr12@cornell.edu by the 5th of each month for inclusion in our 4-H Facts Newsletter.

4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills.
On January 21st (Martin Luther King Jr. Day) the **Country Cousins** 4-H Club had a meeting and talked about him a little bit. Also we did some projects about him like on a piece of paper we wrote some things down what were different and the same about us. We started the meeting at 6:00 and ended the meeting at 6:44. Before we started we said the pledge, and after that we talked about some new business and some old business. Our next meeting is February 11th at 6:00, and since Valentines Day is that week, Serenity is going to bring some kind of Valentine snack. We have also gotten a new member named Kyle. He will be a cloverbud for right now. He joined us at our last meeting.

In December the **Cow Belles** 4-H Club held a regular meeting and made cookies to share with senior citizens. On January 1 they had a regular meeting to discuss their shopping trip, dairy judging and the Food and Nutrition / sewing workshop.

During the month of January, the **Foxy Trotters** did an activity with scrap booking. We had our monthly business meeting and reviewed upcoming events and the Horse Bowl team has started practicing. The Foxy Trotters are looking forward to sewing aprons in the month of February.

The **Horse’n Around** 4-H Club made pasta in January.

The **Milkshakers** 4-H club didn’t have a meeting in January due to the weather. It was supposed to be a sledding party but the weather wasn’t permitting. They did however have a dairy judging clinic held at Ainslie’s farm.

Members of the **Schuyler Hillbillies** 4-H Club interested in Dairy Judging on February 9 include **Dan Upson, Andy Chlus, Kayla Windecker** and **Bryce Windecker**; Dairy Bowl on March 15 **Dan Upson, Bryce Windecker, Andy Chlus, Kayla Windecker, Kory Bray** and **Jordan Upson**; Nutrition-Food and Sewing Workshop on February 21 **Jordan Upson, Kerry Bray, Kory Bray, Kacey Sperry, Dan Upson, Kayla Windecker, Bryce Windecker** and **Rebecca Ules**. The meeting was held at the home of **Rebecca Ules**. We had lunch, a business meeting, and made homemade root beer.

The **Starkville Champions** 4-H Club recently gathered pet toys, kitty litter, and canned dog food to donate to the Herkimer County Humane Society. The club used money from their fall fundraisers to pay for the donations. Alec and Kristopher Snyder delivered the donated items and took time to socialize and exercise a few of the dogs.

We started our club back in November and we have had a hard time recruiting members and getting a place to meet. Finally we have a place to meet, Community Cafe’ in Dolgeville. It’s great, we have heat, snacks which we buy from the cafe’ and a computer to look up facts. Now we just need more members.

We have learned about different breeds of rabbits (62) and cavies (13). We have been taught how to show a rabbit and a pig (cavy). Officers have been elected: President Cheyenne Knuth, Vice President Madaline Pierce, Secretary Madeline Pierce, Treasurer Kasey Daley and News Reporter Christopher Wilson. We have 2 people who come from Syracuse 2 times a month who visit, Andrew Wild who wants to be a non-owned animal member and Tyler O’Niel who owns a pig. Today we talked about presentations and fund raisers.

The Oneida County rabbit and cavy show on May 31 will be our first show. We are ordering our seeds for the Farmers’ Museum and are very excited to show our plants. We are also choosing our presentation subjects.

Submitted by News Reporter Ellen Perkins of the Cow Belles 4-H Club.

On February 21, 2008, the Cow Belles 4-H Club went to the Herkimer BOCES for the 4-H Food & Nutrition Expo and Sewing Workshop. We were split into two groups. Some of us went with Mrs. Richards to make healthy apple cinnamon toast and the other half learned about colors for making tie dye T-shirts. Our instructor taught us how to use rubber bands to hold our t-shirts together and how to apply the colors. We were all able to dye a t-shirt with instructions to rinse and wash it out the next day at home. After lunch, we cut up vegetables and bread and tasted the yogurt dips. In attendance for the Cow Belles were Tess Hitchcock, Stephanie Treadwell, Victoria Treadwell, Kristy Hammont, Wasayla Mower, Michayla Mower, Milleta Oldick and Ellen Perkins.

Seated: Victoria Treadwell, Michayla Mower; Middle Row: Miletta Oldick, Stephanie Treadwell; Back Row: Kristy Hammont, Tess Hitchcock, Ellen Perkins, Wasayla Mower

2008 Animal Crackers

Species focus will be rabbits and dairy cattle. Saturday, May 3. There is more information on the web at www.ansci.cornell.edu/4H/crackers/index.html.

Pre-registration with $5 per person (youth and adults) due to the 4-H office by April 8.
IMPORTANT TIDBITS ON 4-H PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

- Research your topic. Include interesting information and facts. Start with a 4-H project.
- Use your visual aids as an outline to keep your presentation on track. Elaborate from the FEW words you put on your poster. Say more than you show.
- If giving a speech visual aids, props and costumes should not be used. Notes may be used to assist with the delivery of the speech, but should be inconspicuous.
- Focus your eyes on the back third of the audience because this will keep your head up and help you project your voice.
- Words on posters and charts should be easy to read. Lettering should be at least 1 1/2 inches in height. Leave at least an inch between lines of text and an inch between words.
- Clothing should be neat, clean and appropriate for the presentation being given.
- Work from one side of your workspace to the other. Keeping the center workspace clean.
- Trays on each side of your workplace help keep you organized. One tray should be for items you still need and the other for items you are finished using.
- Make a checklist of supplies. You don’t want to forget to bring anything.
- Product labels should be limited to generic names and product names should be covered. For example a container of glue should have the Elmer’s covered and just say “GLUE”. Use clear containers when possible. Be sure to loosen or remove container lids before starting.
- Practice standing straight and tall on both feet. If you get tired shift your weight from the back to front of your feet and back again instead of from side to side. Shifting your weight from side to side gives the appearance that you are swaying.
- Tape a paper lunch bag to the back of the table for garbage during your presentation.
- A damp cloth or sponge to wipe spills and fingers is a must.
- Describe your motions and procedures. Tell why something is being done.
- Be sure to give sources of information.
- SMILE! Evaluators are really nice people and they know exactly how you feel.
- No matter what award you receive, try again next year. Evaluators’ comments are to help you, not criticize you. It’s a great experience and it gets a little easier each year.

TIE DYE KITS AVAILABLE FOR LOAN OUT

The 4-H office has supplies left over from our textiles workshop for anyone who would like to borrow a tie dye kit to do this as a club (or individual) project. If interested, contact JoAnn.

“THE FAMERS’ MUSEUM SUGARING OFF SUNDAYS”

Every Sunday in March from 9 am - 2 pm there will be an educational component including tapping the trees, gathering sap, how native Americans boiled down the sap to form sugar, how it was done in the 1840’s, and how it is done in modern day.

Also there will be oxen or horse rides, the schoolhouse will be open with hands on activities for children, the carousel will be open from 10am to 1pm with $.50 rides. For more information, Visit the farmersmuseum.org website.
A few easy steps . . .

Step One: WHAT is the subject matter you wish to present? Select a subject in which YOU are interested and would like to teach others.

Step Two: NARROW DOWN the subject to a specific topic or process, i.e. types of seams or steps for a natural wood finish.

Step Three: WHO is your intended audience: adults, teens, primary members, experts or novices, etc.?

Step Four: RESEARCH your topic. Find out the most accurate and recent information on your topic. Consult your project leader, member guide, magazines, books, web sites or encyclopedias.

Step Five: WHY are you giving the presentation-to inform, teach facts, motivate to action, to stimulate thought, to show a process? Write out in one sentence what you would like your audience to be able to do as a result of watching your presentation.

Step Six: DECIDE YOUR CONCLUSION FIRST. Every piece tells the story. If a part does not fit the story objective, take it out.

Step Seven: HOW WILL YOU DO your presentation? Develop an outline of your presentation. State your purpose. Write out your title. Divide your outline into the introduction, body and conclusion.

- **INTRODUCTION:** Use an opening device to create interest in your topic. Then present the main idea which can be the purpose of your presentation, thesis or topic sentence. Then preview the main points you intend to cover in the body of your presentation.

- **BODY:** Tell them and show them. Tell them the three main points of your talk. For example: “Three common poisonous plants are: 1) poison oak, 2) stinging nettle, 3) oleander.” Show the plants as you talk. 1) Three types of poison oak are:” 2) Three characteristics of nettles are:"

- **CONCLUSION:** Include a summary of the body’s main points and use a closing device to make your presentation memorable. For example: “Three Poisonous plants are. . .”

Step Eight: DEVELOP A TITLE which is an attention getter, summarizes your purpose and is short and to the point. For example “Leaf These Plants Alone”.

Step Nine: PREPARE YOUR MATERIALS for the presentation

- Use poster board or other material to illustrate the main points of your presentation
- Use your outline to serve as the text of your poster board illustrations
- Select models and hand-held objects to be used in the presentation.

Step Ten: PRACTICE your presentation. How will you set up your workspace? How will you handle the materials as you show them? Where will you place them when you put them down?

Step Eleven: Try to anticipate questions that may come up and find answers to those questions.

Step Twelve: PRACTICE your presentation again and again and again! While practicing, try not to memorize your presentation word for word. Keep your delivery fresh and exciting.
4-H NUTRITION & TEXTILES WORKSHOPS

On Thursday, February 21, thirty-three 4-H members and volunteers from seven 4-H clubs participated in 4-H Textiles and Nutrition workshops at Herkimer BOCES. The textiles session was conducted by volunteer Jody Balash demonstrating how to make tie dyed t-shirts. The nutrition component was facilitated by 4-H Program Educator JoAnn Richards consisting of cinnamon apple toast, fresh vegetables and bread boat activities from the Pyramid of Snacks 4-H project.

Learning about fabrics, fibers, colors, food safety, to choose healthy foods and prepare simple snacks are life skills our members learn in 4-H textiles and nutrition projects. Each club was entitled to a free copy of *A Pyramid of Snacks* and *Adventures in Clothing* 4-H project guides. We hope this encourages clubs to enter their textiles and food exhibits in the Herkimer County Fair.

Participants for the day included from the Country Cousins 4-H Club: Dylan Shaver and Rachel Shaver; Cow Belles 4-H Club: Kristy Hammont, Tess Hitchcock, Michelle Hitchcock, Michayla Mower, Wasayla Mower, Miletta Oldick, Ellen Perkins, Stephanie Perkins, Stephanie Treadwell and Victoria Treadwell; Little Falls Cloverbuds: Abby Mosher and Beth Mosher; Little Falls Friends 4-H Club: Philip Mosher; Schuyler Hillbillies 4-H Club: Rebecca Ules and Linda Shaheen; Smart Clover Wheelers Cloverbud 4-H Club: Kyle Brewer and Hayden Shaver; West Canada Lucky Clovers 4-H Club: Judy Conover, Mariah Conover, Tracey Conover, Tyler Conover, Jamie Crawford, Nathan Lyga, Chloe Murphy, Hailey Phillips and Lauren Phillips; West Canada Lucky Cloverbuds: Madelyn Conover, Alissa Lyga, Kelsey Lyga, Erica Phillips and Valerie Lyga.
4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills.

Erica and Hailey Phillips preparing cauliflower.

4-H volunteers Tracey and Judy Conover assisting West Canada Lucky Clovers with carrots.

Country Cousins and Smart Clover Wheelers members Kyle Brewer, Hayden Shaver, Dylan Shaver and Rachel Shaver

JoAnn Richards demonstrating how to clean peppers to Tyler Conover, Nathan Lyga and Dylan Shaver

4-H NUTRITION WORKSHOP PHOTOS
### AG Literacy Day 2008

New York Agriculture in the Classroom is pleased to announce the second annual NY Ag Literacy Day in support of its mission of fostering awareness, understanding, and appreciation of agriculture and the food and fiber system.

On April 8, National Ag Day, volunteers throughout the state will go into classrooms to read a book with an agricultural theme and talk to students about agriculture. The book will be donated to the school library with a special bookplate recognizing the donor and NY Ag Literacy Day.

Last year, nearly 1,000 books were read and donated, and thousands of second-grade students participated in fun and educational activities.

NYAITC's 2008 Book of the Year is *Sugarbush Spring* by Marsha Wilson Chall.

The 4-H Office will again be coordinating the efforts here in Herkimer County. If you are interested in volunteering to read to a 2nd grade class in any of the schools in the county, please call Jenn.

### Nanotechnology at Cornell University

- **Date:** March 30, 2008
- **Time:** 11:00 am - 5:00 pm

NanoDay at Cornell is a day long event, open to the public, designed to introduce students of all ages to the research taking place at Cornell and the Ithaca region. There will be a series of hands on activities designed to explore the world of nanotechnology; middle & high school laboratory experiences; a family friendly lecture series; and much more. In this one day, you will have the opportunity to see the diversity in nanotechnology as well as the impact of nanotechnology on your everyday life.

NanoDay at Cornell is centered in Duffield Hall, on the Cornell University campus. Duffield Hall is one of the country's most sophisticated research and teaching facilities for nanoscale science and engineering. Take this opportunity to explore this world-class facility, to talk with researchers in the field of nanotechnology, and to have a peek in the clean room.

Please note: Children under age 18 must be supervised while attending the event. No drop-offs are allowed.

Campus tours are available at 1pm, for more information contact Jennifer Weil at (607) 254-5371.
The Farmers’ Museum is pleased to offer a limited number scholarships to interested, qualified equestrians to participate in the clinic. Mr. Conroy is a talented and experienced teacher who has trained many successful ponies and junior hunters. In addition to being a top trainer, he is an “R” rated judge and has officiated at all the major indoor shows. Mr. Conroy lives in Wellington, Florida and is the owner of Leo Conroy Stables.

Interested riders should write an essay approximately 250 words or less, using the following criteria:

- Why you are interested in participating in the clinic.
- What are three things you would like to get out of the clinic.
- Why you feel you are deserving of the scholarship.
- What is your experience level, please include fence height you are comfortable jumping: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced.

Participation in The Farmers’ Museum Horse Show the next day June 8\textsuperscript{th} is recommended, but not mandatory.

Essays should be sent to: Meg Preston, The Farmers’ Museum, PO Box 30, Cooperstown, NY 13326 and postmarked by April 18\textsuperscript{th}.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THE FARMERS' MUSEUM HORSE CLINIC</th>
<th>BRUCE FIELD AG AWARD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leo Conroy Hunter/Jumper Clinic</td>
<td>The Bruce Field Agriculture Award is sponsored annually by the Central New York Farm Progress Show, Inc. and offers $300 to a graduating senior boy and girl who reside in Herkimer County to be used to further their Agriculture education.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 7, 2008 Scholarship Program</td>
<td>Applications must be submitted to Cornell Cooperative Extension of Herkimer County by May 1\textsuperscript{st}.</td>
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<td>Applications are available:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• through local high school guidance offices</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• by calling Cornell Cooperative Extension at 866-7920</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• by emailing <a href="mailto:rjs86@cornell.edu">rjs86@cornell.edu</a>.</td>
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**“ICE” (IN CASE OF EMERGENCY) CAMPAIGN**

We all carry our mobile phones with names & numbers stored in its memory but nobody, other than ourselves, knows which of these numbers belong to our closest family or friends. If we were to be involved in an accident or were taken ill, the people attending us would have our mobile phone but wouldn’t know who to call. Hence this “ICE (In Case of Emergency) Campaign. The concept of “ICE” is catching on quickly. It is a method of contact during emergency situations. As cell phones are carried by the majority of the population, all you need to do is store the number of a contact person or persons who should be contacted during an emergency under the name “ICE” (In Case of Emergency). The idea was thought up by a paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents, there were always mobile phones with patients, but they didn’t know which number to call. For more than one contact name simply enter ICE1, ICE2, and ICE3, etc.
SPONGE PAINTED EGGS

Supplies

- Eggs
- Liquid Tempera Paint
- Small Pieces of Sponge
- Clear Acrylic Spray
- Paper Cups
- Clothes Pins
- Egg Cups

Procedure:

1) Place hard boiled eggs in egg cups.
2) Partially fill paper cups with different colors of paint.
3) Clip a piece of sponge to a clothespin.
4) Dip sponge into paint, using clothespin as a handle.
5) Lightly dab the sponge over top half of the egg.
6) Spray with acrylic spray for a permanent finish.

MARBLE EGGS

Supplies

- Eggs
- Vegetable Grater
- Empty Egg Carton
- Crayon Pieces
- Spoon
- Large Glass Jar
- Wax Paper
- Clear Acrylic Spray
- Hot Water

Procedure:

1) Grate peeled crayons over wax paper.
2) Fill jar with very hot water.
3) Drop bits of grated crayon into water.
4) Add hard boiled eggs to water as soon as crayon begins to melt.
5) Twirl egg in water with spoon. The wax should make a design on the egg.
6) Carefully remove the egg and set upside down in egg carton to dry.
7) Once dry, spray with clear acrylic.

HORSE SHOWMANSHIP CLINIC

Saturday, March 29
1-3pm
Winding River Farm
West Winfield

Come learn all you need to know about horse fitting and showmanship. Open to all 4-Her’s. You may bring your own horse if you would like but not necessary. Proof of rabies and Coggins required if you do.

Pre-registration due to 4-H office by March 21.
4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills.
Celebrate Urban Birds is an urban birds project from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology that invites families to go outside, describe their environment, look for 16 focal bird species, and report their observations to help scientists.

Beautiful posters in the free activity kits make bird identification appealing and easy and forms are provided for reporting data. While learning about birds and the importance of local habitat, families become more comfortable exploring the outdoors, getting hooked on birds, and local habitat improvement.

Celebrate Urban Birds gets people outdoors, and engages families through the arts, gardening (habitat improvement), and celebratory events of all sizes across the US. A Celebrate Urban Birds event might involve a mother and daughter watching birds on their front stoop or an entire community coming together at a park. Celebrate Urban Birds has already distributed over 12,000 kits across the continent and is partnered with thousands of organizations. Specific ideas for libraries, nature centers, schools and youth groups, community gardens, homeschool groups, and more are included in the website.

It's so simple -- to participate just register and let us know how many kits your organization needs. We'll send you the kits for free and suggest ideas for holding celebrations of all sizes. It's a ready-made project easy to drop into your programming or curriculum. It couldn't be easier or more fun. Real science. Real conservation awareness.

Celebrate Urban Birds is excited to announce:

**Free Workshop at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology**

Spring Celebrate Urban Birds Workshop at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, March 14th. [Download PDF Announcement](#).

**Some need-based travel scholarships will be available.**

- Meet staff from the Lab of Ornithology
- Explore resources at the Lab
- Learn how to conduct bird observations useful to scientists
- Learn tips on leading groups in citizen science activities and holding Celebrations
- Learn about the 16 target species of urban birds (view skins, learn interesting facts, explore sounds)
- Learn how to integrate the arts into your Celebrate Urban Birds event
- Learn about gardening and the arts activities for groups
- Learn about gardening for the birds in containers
- Learn about how to promote your Celebrate Urban Birds event of any size

**Mini-Grants Available!**

- Celebrate Urban Birds invites organizations and educators to apply for mini-grants to hold Celebrate Urban Bird events across the US. Download PDF announcement and application. To qualify for a mini-grant applicants must:
  - Hold a Celebrate Urban Birds Event in 2008
  - introduce the public/students to birds (especially the sixteen focus species)
  - collect Celebrate Urban Birds data/inspire others to collect data
  - distribute Celebrate Urban Birds kits to participants/students
  - integrate the arts
  - get people outside

Continued on page 15
● Submit the attached request for funding application by February 29th, 2008

● Stay in contact with the Lab of Ornithology

● Agree to submit a post-event report indicating (# or participants, success of event, photos, information about activities/resources presented) within one month of your event

● Agree to have photos, videos, summary of events, and participant comments posted on the Celebrate Urban Birds web site to inspire others

**Artist Search!**
We are looking for exciting out-of-the-box ideas to be considered for our Wild Idea competition in both adult and youth categories. Download PDF Announcement. Great Prizes! We are seeking ideas that reconnect urban residents with nature and raise awareness of urban birds and greening through the arts. Ideas might include activities, music, dance, installations, masks, garden art, exhibits, messages, etc. These Wild Ideas should be something that can be part of a Celebrate Urban Birds event; something that will help attract and engage the public to "Celebrate Urban Birds". We'll share ideas with organizations planning their Celebrate Urban Birds events and post them on the Celebrate Urban Birds web site.

Please help us spread the word by posting or forwarding the PDF announcement to people you know who are good at coming up with "Wild Ideas".

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**4-H ONEIDA COUNTY RABBIT-CAVY SHOW**

Oneida County “Cottontails” invites 4-H’ers to their first Rabbit-Cavy Show

When: Saturday, May 31, 2008 at 10am

Where: CCE Oneida County, Farm & Home Center; 121 Second Street, Oriskany

For more information please call Heather Sweeney (hes7@cornell.edu) or Roger Cota (racota@aol.com)

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**HERKIMER COUNTY 4-H WELCOMES THESE NEW 4-H CLUBS, MEMBERS AND CLOVERBUDS**

Dolgeville Ears & Tails (Rabbit & Cavy)  
4-H Club

Christopher Wilson  Member  Dolgeville
Evan Wilson  Cloverbud  Dolgeville

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4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills.
The Veterinary & Animal Science Exploration (V.A.S.E.) program provides opportunities for youth to develop life-long skills while exploring the science behind the pets and animals in their lives. V.A.S.E. is a 3-tier program, with developmentally appropriate activities and curriculum at each level. In each tier, youth delve into “The Normal Animal”, “Diseases, Pests, and Problems”, and “Investigating Careers” with hands-on activities, group discussions, team activities, demonstrations/observations and visits to the Utica Zoo and a local veterinary clinic.

In 2008, Tier II will be offered—“All Systems Go” – targeted toward grades 6-8. This program is for youth who have animal experience, as well as those who are new to pet or animal ownership. Dates for 2008 V.A.S.E.—“All Systems Go” - March 12th, March 19th, March 26th, April 2nd, and April 12th (visit Cornell University Vet School Open House). The fee to participate in VASE is $7 for 4-Hers, $20 for non-4-H members to cover the cost of materials.

**Registration Deadline: March 5th**. Space is limited. Call Cornell Cooperative Extension of Herkimer County 4-H Office to register at (315) 866-7920 or for more information on this and other 4-H programs.

For more information please contact Jenn at the 4-H Office.