CHENANGO 4-H SNAPSHOT

ONCE UPON A FAIR!

This is this years 2026 4-H Chenango County Fair theme. Start planning ahead for your fair decorations. They will need to reflect this year fair theme. Be sure to vote for your favorite t-shirt design on facebook. The winning design will be your pick for this years t-shirt!

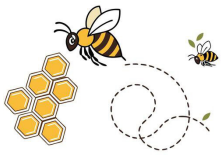
Be sure your 4-H enrollement is up to date if you plan on showing in any of the Chenango County Fair 4-H classes.

April / May / June 2026, Vol. 10, Issue 2

4-H Spotlights

4-H IS BUZZING WITH ACTIVITY

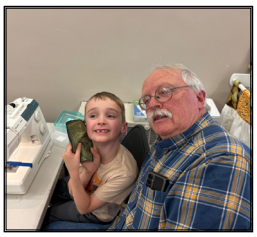
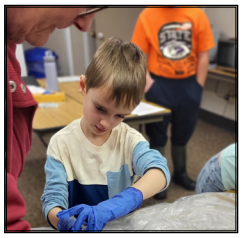
There has been a lot happening in 4-H! Stay tuned for more exciting programs coming your way!
If you have something fun you want to share please send in your articles and pictures. We would love to include you in our next edition.
Don't miss out make sure you are enrolled!



Send your articles and pictures to Rhonda at: rlt236@cornell.edu

4 LEAF CLOVERS

The 4 Leaf Clovers 4-H club got together one afternoon to work on a woodworking project. These kids had fun making these awesome stars! Nice job! A couple of the kids in their club took part in the Learn to sew program and one 4-H'er faithfully came Friday nights to study all things horse.

MARCH DOG MADNESS

Three Chenango County 4-H teens participated in March Dog Madness on Saturday, March 7th, a statewide NYS 4-H Animal Science Program event hosted at Cornell University. The program offered youth a full day of hands-on learning focused on canine care, behavior, and responsible dog ownership. The event began with a virtual presentation on Canine Nutrition by Dr. Nancy Dreschel, providing foundational knowledge on feeding and health management. Youth then attended a series of morning workshops covering:

- Canine Reproduction & Responsible Breeding Practices
- Your Dog, the Scholar
- Hunting & Sporting Dogs

In the afternoon, participants rotated through four additional learning stations designed to deepen practical skills and behavioral understanding:

- Green Eggs and Ham Agility
- Understanding Canine Body Language
- Pawsitive Learning Meeting
- Grooming for State Fair

OPEN CRAFT NIGHT

On January 23rd, 4-H hosted an Open Craft Night! 4-H youth had the opportunity to paint,decorate, and create. All participants opted to do a little bit of everything, from painting wooden boxes, to creating with origami. It was a great night of creativity for 4-H'ers!

SHOOTING SPORTS

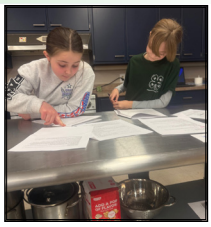
Shooting Sports has been going strong and continues to grow,thanks in part to the volunteers who successfully raised funds over the past few months to purchase much-needed equipment for the program, allowing them to serve even more youth. Although they took December off for the holidays and winter weather has reduced participation slightly, the dedicated members continue to show up consistently, and attendance is expected to rebound once activities can move back outdoors. The 4-H'ers are actively developing their marksmanship skills in archery, air rifles, .22s, and air pistols, all while our certified instructors maintain a strong emphasis on safety throughout ther entire program.

RABBIT and POULTRY CLINIC

4-H Educator Micaela held a rabbit clinic on Jan. 24th. Nineteen youth came to learn essential skills like proper handling and posing, how to prepare a rabbit for show and what attire is approapriate for showing. Some youth brought their own rabbits and were able to get some hands-ons practice. On Feb. 22nd, another animal clinic was held, this time it was poultry. APA judge Bill Post came to help the youth learn about the fundamentals of proper poultry husbandry. 4-H'er Jake B. gave a hand during this event. Great Job Jake!

SKILL-A-THON

A group of Chenango County 4-H'ers continue to prepare for the Regional Livestock Skill-a-thon competition. This competition will take place on April 17th. These kids will need to know a variety of livestock topics, covering beef cattle, sheep, meat goats, and swine. At this competition youth will be asked about any topic from identifying breeds to meat cuts. The 4-h'ers have been studying on Friday nights in order to prepare for this event.



DAIRY BOWL

Our Chenango County 4-H Dairy Bowl youth did an incredible job on Saturday at the regional competition! Everyone gave it their all, supported each other, and had a great time. We are so proud of every participant!
Huge congratulations to our state qualifiers:

- Elizabeth V. - 1st Place Senior Individual
- Margaret G. - 1st Place Beginner Individual
- Leland E. - 3rd Place Beginner Individual

They will all be moving on to the State Dairy Bowl Contest!
Additional congratulations to our state alternates:

- Thomas H. - 5th place Senior Individual
- Rinoa B. - 6th Place Junior Individual

We also want to recognize the rest of our amazing youth competitors; nearly all placed within the top 10 of their divisions, an outstanding achievement for our youth!
A special shout-out to the dedicated parents and volunteers who helped throughout the day. Thank you for making this event possible!

HIPPOLOGY/HORSE BOWL

Saturday March 21st, was a big day for the Chenango County Horse Bowl and Hippology Program as Chenango swept the team competition at the Novice, Junior, and Senior levels! Fantastic performances by all of the participants resulted in numerous qualifications for states in both disciplines. The success of the Novice and Cloverbud participants bodes well for the continued success of the program in the future. Congratulations to Maria, Noah, Sophie, Shaelan, Makayla, Abbi-Lynn, Katie, Anthony, Kahlea, Maggie, Beth, Kaye, and our cheerleader Olivia on a job well done!

CAKE DECORATING

On January 14th 4-H was joined with a very special guest Kelly Banks, owner and head pastry chef of Kelly Banks Cakes. Kelly has over 20 years of experience hand-crafting delicious, beautifully presented cakes and baked goods and was thrilled to share her expertise with 4-H youth! Each participant learned about the art of frosting, pipetting, and making roses. Afterwards, they brought their beautiful creations home with them. This was a big hit and very popular program!

BREAKFAST FOR DINNER

On February 4th, 4-H celebrated National Blueberry Pancake Day. Youth learned how to make delicious homemade blueberry pancakes from scratch while practicing basic cooking skills like measuring, mixing, and safely using kitchen tools. Of course, they finished by enjoying our tasty creations together!

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

On Saturday, February 28 we did our 4-H public presentations, and we had a fabulous turnout. We had about 40 youth showcase their skills some were first timers doing a public presentation and some were seasoned. The youth had a great time and have 9 youth that qualified to move on to the regional competition.

VALENTINE'S DAY CRAFT NIGHT

Feb 13 Valentine's Day Craft Night was a big hit! 4-H'ers practiced their painting skills while decorating magnetic wooden hearts, picture frames, and door hangers. They also had the opportunity to create homemade cards for their friends and family. Programs like this give youth a chance to explore their creativity, express themselves through art, and take home thoughtful, handmade gifts to share with loved ones.

STRALIGHT ACRES FARM TOUR

On Sunday, a group of our 4-H youth braved the weather to tour Starlight Acres Farm and learn all about their sheep solar grazing business. The youth explored what makes hair sheep unique, discovered how sheep help manage vegetation on solar fields, and even got to snuggle some of the new spring lambs!

EQUINE SHOWMANSHIP CLINIC

On March 8th, six 4-H youth participated in an engaging, hands-on Equine Showmanship Clinic hosted at Hidden Ponds Stables. This clinic provided an excellent opportunity for youth to strengthen their horsemanship skills and build confidence in preparation for the upcoming show season. Participants practiced a variety of showmanship patterns, learned the expectations for presenting both themselves and their horses in the show ring, and benefited from individualized guidance throughout the session. Youth also had the opportunity to ask questions and receive direct feedback to support their continued growth in equine handling and showmanship. We extend our appreciation to Hidden Ponds Stables for providing a supportive learning environment and for generously hosting the event. Special thanks to Katelyn Brandt for leading the clinic and sharing her expertise.

SOAP MAKING

On March 12th, 4-H youth got creative as they learned the basics of melt-and-pour soap making! They started by learning how to properly measure ingredients and then decided what kind of soap they wanted to create from scents to colors. After melting and pouring their mixtures, participants watched their soaps take shape and left with their own handmade bars to take home and enjoy. This fun, hands-on program introduced youth to the art of soap making while encouraging creativity and attention to detail.

CLOVERBUD LEARN TO SEW

On March 11th our Cloverbuds (5-7 year olds) kicked off our Learn to Sew program. Eleven Cloverbuds gathered to try their hand using sewing machines. They first learn safe sewing skills, parts of the sewing machine, and practice sewing straight lines and curves. These kids were awesome, thanks to the help of a fantastic group of volunteers. The second and third year Cloverbuds began a more difficult project that was very colorful patchwork fish. This group of 4-H'ers finished their projects on April 25th.

HEALTHY BAKING

4-H Healthy Baking continues to grow in popularity, with 11 bakers joining us this month! To accommodate everyone, we split into two groups and whipped up a delicious and healthy banana bread recipe. Along the way, 4-H'ers practiced important kitchen skills like measuring, mixing, and working together as a team. This fun, hands-on program helps youth build confidence in the kitchen while learning how to make nutritious and tasty treats.

4-H'ers STAYING ACTIVE

COMMUNTY SERVICE

ARTS AND CRAFTS

SHOOTING SPORTS

HORSEBOWL/HIPPOLOGY

DAIRY BOWL

BUG CLUB

KIDS IN THE KITCHEN

PRESENTATIONS

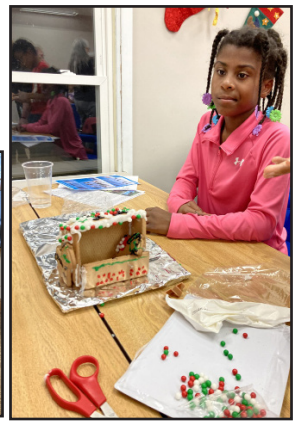
SEWING PROGRAM

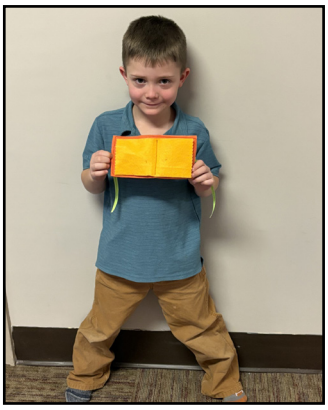
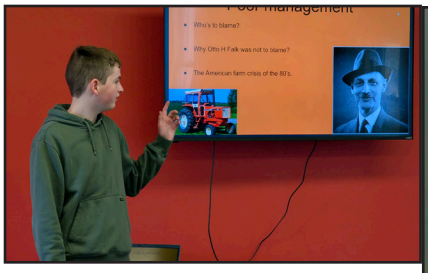
HIKING CLUB

ANIMAL PROJECTS

AND

MUCH MORE!





Who's to blame?
Why Otto H Falk was not to blame?
The American farm crisis of the 80's.

ERC

CAGEY BUSINE
Parakeets

4-H MARK YOUR CALENDARS

For more information about the following programs and to register - Email Nicole at nrs98@cornell.edu or visit our Facebook page: Chenango County 4-H Youth Development. Check each event for the correct contact information..

4-H ENROLLMENT

If you plan on showing at the Chenago County fair please be sure your 4-H enrollment is up to date for this year! We have a new enrollment form for youth and volunteers. So, if you know of youth or volunteers let them know they need to re-enroll. **Volunteers paper form only** and youth can enter on the 4-H online program or paper copy but be sure to upload your **consent forms**.

4-H INTRODUCTION TO SOAP MAKING April 7th, 4:30pm – 5:30pm

Our first soap making class was so popular we decided to offer it again! 4-H youth will measure ingredients, follow a recipe, and explore the process of melt-and-pour soap making using all-natural, earth-friendly materials. Participants will get creative with colors and scents and take home their own handmade bars of soap to use or share! Spots are limited!

4-H HEALTHY BAKING – APPLESAUCE BROWNIES April 9th, 5:30pm – 6:30pm , June 16th Buttermilk Scones 5:00-6:00pm Healthy Baking continues! Join us on April 9th to make delicious and nutritious Applesauce Brownies. 4-H'ers will discuss the importance of healthy eating, practice following a recipe, measure ingredients, and of course sample their creations! Then join us June 16th for Buttermilk Scones!

LEARN TO SEW - INT. I, II, & Advanced April 6th - 10th

This program is full! If you are a sencond year Int. I or II please bring any fair ribbons to complete one of your projects. If you don't have any, don't worry we will have some supplies here for you. First year Int.'s will have fun projects that do not involve ribbons. You will finish with some neat projects that you can show at the fair!
For more information contct Rhonda: rlt236@cornell.edu

OUTDOOR COOKING April 11th, May 9th, June 9th 10:00am – 12:00pm

Every second Saturday of the month – Ages 12+

4-H'ers, get your taste buds ready for another round of delicious Outdoor Cooking! Mr. Richard is breaking out the new recipes and heating up the cast iron for another outdoor cooking program. If you are interested in joining this program or would like more information, please **contact Richard: turrellr@protonmail.com.**

4-H PLANT APPRECIATION DAY April 13th, 4:30pm – 5:30pm

Come celebrate International Plant Appreciation Day on April 13th! 4-H youth will explore the life cycle of plants, learn what plants need to grow and thrive, and discover why they're so important to our world. Participants will then get hands-on by planting and growing their own flowers to take home and care for. It's a fun, educational way to welcome spring and nurture a love for gardening!

SHOOTING SPORTS April 19th, May17th, June 21 st 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Every third Sunday of the month – Ages 9+

The 4-H Shooting Sports program teaches youth the fundamentals of firearm safety using archery, air rifle and .22 rifles. Our newest instructors are now certified in air pistols so qualified youth will be able to add this to their experience. For more information or to sign-up, please **contact Richard: turrellr@protonmail.com.**

4-H KIDS IN THE KITCHEN April 14th, June 9th 5:30pm – 6:30pm

Cooking on zoom! We provide the food and youth cook a meal at home! Youth learn cooking basics and how to incorporate more veggies and fruits into their meals. Food will be provided! Pick-up instructions will be given prior to the zoom class. Adult supervision required. Please register as a family. If you have any further questions, feel free to email Whitney at: wdg43@cornell.edu

HIPPOLOGY April 24th, 6:00pm - 7:30pm

This will be the final Hippology meeting for all of the youth that came faithfully to our friday nights.
May 8th will be for those going on to the state competitions.
April 18th NYS Horsebowl competition (Cornell)
June 7th NYS Hippology competition (Cortland)

BUG CLUB April 21st, May 12th, June 17th, July 10th
"Interested in the world of entomology? Join Bug Club with Rhonda and entomologist Jen Caci! This exciting program is a great opportunity to learn about insects, their habitats, and their importance in our ecosystem. Participants will also begin building their own bug collection while developing observation and identification skills. Perfect for curious minds who love exploring the outdoors!" Our first meeting will be at CCE. May 12th, Galena Park in North Norwich, June 17th at Rogers Center, and July 10th at Jen's house. Please register on line or contact Rhonda for more information: rlt236@cronell.edu

EARTH DAY GARDEN CLEANUP April 22nd, 4:30pm – 5:30pm
Let's roll up our sleeves, throw on some gloves, and help clean up the raised garden beds at CCE! In celebration of Earth Day, youth will work together to prepare the garden for the growing season. This hands-on service project is a great way to give back, learn about caring for our environment, and get excited for another season of gardening! This event is open to the public thanks to the Chenango County Youth Bureau, so tell a friend!

4-H OWL PELLET DISSECTION W/ CHENANGO BIRD CLUB April 28th, 5:00pm – 6:00pm
Join members of the Chenango Bird Club for an exciting program all about the owls of New York! 4-H'ers will learn about these fascinating nighttime hunters and then become wildlife scientists by dissecting owl pellets to discover what owls eat. This hands-on activity is a fun way to explore local wildlife and science in action! This program will take place at Rogers Environmental Education Center's Bird Cabin.

HIKING CLUB May 2nd, June 6th Every first Saturday of the month.
Getting out to hike is a great way to stay active, build outdoor skills, and connect with the natural world one hike at a time! This month's hiking club is open to youth beyond 4-H, thanks to the Chenango County Youth Bureau, so bring a friend and help spread the word!
Registration is required.

4-H WILD EDIBLES W/ NICOLE May 5th, 4:30pm – 5:30pm – Ages 12+
Interested in learning about the food that surrounds us? Join Nicole for a 4-H Wild Edibles program to learn about common plants that can be safely foraged and enjoyed. Participants will explore the basics of identifying edible plants and discover how nature can provide a variety of tasty and useful foods right in our own backyards!

4-H MOTHER'S DAY CRAFT NIGHT – Flower Vases May 6th, 5:00pm – 6:00pm
Looking to make a special craft for Mother's Day? Join us on May 6th to create a unique flower vase for Mom, beautifully decorated with pressed flowers. 4-H youth will get creative while designing a thoughtful, handmade gift that's perfect for celebrating someone special.

IN THE GARDEN May 14th, 5:00pm – 6:00pm
Join us in the garden as we roll up our sleeves and get our hands dirty! Youth will help clean up the garden beds and transplant young plants, learning important gardening skills along the way. This hands-on program is a great opportunity to learn how plants grow while helping prepare the garden for a successful growing season. This event is open to the public thanks to the Chenango County Youth Bureau, so tell a friend!

MOUNTAIN BIKING 101 – RIDING SAFELY IN THE WOODS May 16th, 9:30am – 12:30pm, Rain Date March 17th
Join 4-H and mountain biking enthusiast and educator, Jason Miller, for a fun and educational introduction to mountain biking! Youth ages 5–18 will learn the basics of riding safely on wooded trails, including bike handling, trail awareness, and beginner riding techniques. This is a great opportunity to build confidence, learn new skills, and enjoy the outdoors! Breakfast and snacks included! This event is open to the public thanks to the Chenango County Youth Bureau. Please note that youth will need to have their own bike in working order, as well as a fitting helmet.

4-H OPEN CRAFT NIGHT May 22nd, 5:00pm – 6:00pm
We are hosting another Open Craft Night! Join Nicole and other 4-H youth to paint, decorate, and create. Whether you're painting a wooden craft, making some slime, or making a one-of-a-kind masterpiece, come enjoy a fun evening of crafting and imagination!

VISIT US AT THE YMCA HEALTHY KIDS DAY IN NORWICH! April 18th, 11:00am – 1:00pm
Healthy Kids Day is the Y's national initiative to improve the health and well-being of kids and families. This free community event is aimed to inspire kids and families to keep their minds and bodies active throughout the summer months and beyond. 4-H of Chenango County will be set up at this event, so come say Hello!

MORE AWESOME PROGRAMS COMING YOUR WAY!

DISCOVERING THE WORLD OF CASHMERE: 4-H TOUR OF KATO EN FARM Sunday, April 26, 2026, 11:00

4-H families are invited to explore the fascinating world of Cashmere goats during a special farm tour at Kato En Farm in South New Berlin. Guided by the farmers, participants will get a behind-the-scenes look at daily operations, gain insight into the challenges and rewards of raising fiber goats, and see demonstrations of Cashmere collection. This tour promises to be both educational and inspiring; a perfect outing for anyone interested in animal science, fiber arts, or learning more about the unique agricultural operations within our region. Registration is required. Email Micaela at mm3589@cornell.edu for more information.

4-H ASTRONOMY NIGHT-SCALING OUR SOLAR SYSTEM/CONSTELLATIONS May 28th, June 24th 5:00 –6:00

On May 28th, we're thrilled to welcome guest speaker Dr. Valerie Rapson for an out-of-this-world learning experience! 4-H'ers will explore the unique properties of the planets in our solar system while examining real images captured by space telescopes and satellites. This interactive program will spark curiosity, strengthen STEM skills, and bring space science to life in a fun and memorable way.

4-H WOLF MOUNTAIN OUTING – "Wolf Communication" May 30th, 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Join fellow 4-H'ers for a night of Wolf Communication! This exciting outing includes tours of wolf and coyote exhibits, along with discussions about the many ways wolves communicate—through scent marking, body language, and vocalizations. Youth will also learn why wolves howl and the different messages behind each type of howl. Free for 4-H members but spots are limited, so be sure to register early!

4-H CANDLE MAKING 101 W/ FOX TRAIL FARM June 1st, 5:00pm – 6:00pm - Ages 10+

Learn the art of candle making in this hands-on 4-H workshop with Fox Trail Farm! Youth ages 10+ will explore the basics of candle making and learn the art of measuring and melting to create their own custom candle to take home. This fun and creative program is a great way to build new skills while making something special! Spots are limited.

Kayaking 101 June 13th, 10:00am, Ages 8+

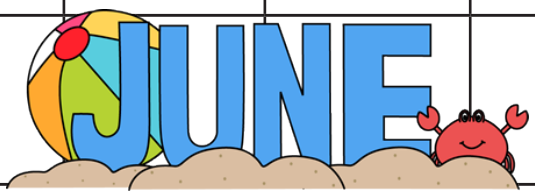
Join us Saturday, June 13th for a fun Kayak Outing! Youth will enjoy time on the water while learning basic kayaking skills, water safety, and proper paddling techniques. This guided outing is a great opportunity to explore the outdoors, build confidence on the water, and enjoy time with friends. This program is brought to you by Chenango County 4-H and the Chenango County Youth Bureau. Spots are limited.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Overflow Cloverbud Learn To Sew 4:30-5:30pm	2	3	4
5	6	7 Soap Making 4:30-5:30pm	8	9Healthy Baking 5:30-6:30pm	10	11 Outdoor Cooking 10am Regional Presentations
	Learn To Sew - Intermediate I, II, & Advanced 9:00-4:00pm					
12	13 Plant Appreciation 4:30-5:30pm	14 Kids in the Kitchen Zoom 5:30-6:30pm	15	16	17 Skill a Thon Broome County	18 NYS Horsebowl YMCA Healthy Kids Day
19 Shooting Sports 1:00pm	20	21 Bug Club 4:30-5:30pm CCE	22 Earth Day Garden Clean up 4:30-5:30pm	23	24 Hippology 6:00pm	25
26 Cashmere Goat Tour 1:00am	27	28 Owl Pellets Dissection 5:00-6:00pm	29	30		

*****PLEASE CHECK THE EVENTS SOME HAVE AGE LIMITS!**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Sewing Spectacular 6:00pm	2 Hiking Club 9:00-11:00am
3	4	5 Wild Edibles 4:30--5:30pm	6 Mothers Day Craft Night 5:00-6:00pm	7	8 Hippology 6:00pm	9 Outdoor Cooking 10:00am
10	11	12 Bug Club 4:30-5:30pm North Norwich	13	14 In the Garden 5:00-6:00pm	15	16 NYS Equine Presentations Mrn. Biking 101 9:30-12:30pm
17 Shooting Sports 1:00pm	18	19	20	21	22 Open Craft Night 5:00-6:00pm	23
24 31	25 CCE Closed	26	27	28 Astronomy Night 5:00-6:00pm	29Re-enrollment deadline in order to show at the fair	30 Wolf Mtn. Outing 7:00-9:00pm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Fair Animal Paperwork Due Candle Making 5:00-6:00pm	2	3	4	5	6 Hiking Club 9:00-11:00am
7 NYS Hippology Contest	8	9 Kids in the Kitchen Zoom 5:30-6:30pm	10	11	12	13 Oudoor Cooking 10:00am Kayaking 101
14	15	16	17 Bug Club 4:30-5:30pm Rogers Center	18	19	20
21 Shooting Sports 1:00pm	22	23	24 Astronomy Night 5:00-6:00pm	25	26	27
28	29	30				



If you have any questions about the events in this calendar, please contact Whitney at: wdg43@cornell.edu

Chenango County 4-H
99 North Broad Street
Norwich, NY 13815

Non-Profit Org
US Postage PD
Norwich, NY 13815
Permit #46

Miss Whitney, Miss Nicole, Miss Micaela, and Miss Rhonda will continue to work hard keeping ideas coming your way, so send photos, we would love to know what you are up to! Send pictures and your articles to Rhonda: rlt236@cornell.edu