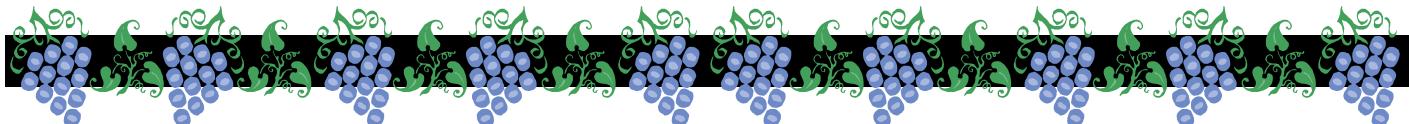


www.warren4-h.org

Family Grapevine
 Information for 4-H families
 January/February 2026



NJ 4-H Leadership for Life Program



From the Desk of
 the Agent



Modules 1, 2, and 3 will be offered in Warren County in 2026!

New Jersey 4-H members in grades 9-12 who are members in good standing are invited to participate in a multi-level leadership program called the NJ 4-H Leadership for Life Program.

Adapted from Ireland's youth development program Foróige, the Leadership for Life Program is based on theories and principles of youth work, leadership development, and leadership styles.

Offered in three sequential modules, this program aims to equip young people to explore their vision and passion, and to develop key skills such as planning, decision-making, critical thinking, goal setting, and problem-solving.

Members must complete Modules 1 and 2 before they are eligible to complete Module 3. The Advanced Module is held during a 9-day travel experience to the Foróige Leadership for Life Conference at the University of Ireland in Maynooth, Ireland.

The *Leadership for Life* Program will be offered on the following dates during 2026. **Modules 1-3 will be held in Warren County at the Wayne Dumont Administration Building located at 165 County Route 519S in Belvidere.**



Module 1: January 24, 2026 \$75.00

Module 2: February 21, 2026 \$75.00

Module 3: March 21, 2026 \$40.00

Module 4: Summer 2027, University of Ireland at Maynooth

Information and registration for all of the NJ 4-H Leadership for Life Program Modules are available on the NJ 4-H Website at: <http://nj4h.rutgers.edu/leadership/leadership-for-life/>

Questions about the *Leadership for Life Program* can be directed to Camden County 4-H Agent Sharon Kinsey (sbkinsey@njaes.rutgers.edu) or Warren County 4-H Program Associate Michelle Teitsma (teitsma@njaes.rutgers.edu).

Last Chance to Register
 for Module 1!

Deadline is to register is
 Friday, January 16th!

Attn:
4-H
Leaders

Reminders

The Next 4-H Leaders Association Meeting

February 4, 2026 7:00 pm via Zoom

All registered Warren County 4-H leaders are welcome.

If you prefer a hard copy of this issue of The Grapevine mailed to your address, please call the office and confirm your updated contact information so we can send you a paper copy. We will only send paper copies to those families that contact us. We hope that 4-H families take advantage of the Grapevine online and help us save the environment.

The Jr. Breeder loan program

a great program for young adults already participating in 4-H to acquire livestock via a low-interest livestock loan. Contact the 4-H office for the forms and additional information.



Going to Rutgers?????

Going to miss 4-H?????

No Need!

You can join the Collegiate 4-H Club!

They do much to support 4-H in NJ!

Our Mission

The Rutgers Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development program uses a learn by doing approach to enable youth to develop the knowledge, attitudes, and skills they need to become competent, caring, and contributing citizens of the world.



This mission is accomplished by using the knowledge and resources of the land grant university system, along with the involvement of caring adults.

Family Grapevine
Bi-Monthly Newsletter
Rutgers Cooperative Extension
3 Shotwell Drive
Belvidere, NJ 07823
(908) 475-6502
www.warren4-h.org



Alayne J. Torretta, County 4-H Agent
Michelle Teitsma, 4-H Program Associate
Alex Zolla, 4-H Secretary

Mark Your Calendars!

Leadership for Life

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February 21, 2026

March 21, 2026

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Data to the Rescue: Penguins Need our Help! STEP Club

Monday, February 2, 2026

Monday, February 9, 2026

Monday, February 23, 2026

Monday, March 2, 2026

Saturday, March 7, 2026



All meetings at the Wayne Dumont Administration Building, 165 County Route 519 South in Belvidere.

Immerse yourself in the fascinating world of Antarctica and learn how scientists are using long term experiments to study the ecology and the declining penguin population. Participants will explore Antarctic ecology through hands on activities and lessons, follow real-time scientific discoveries, and participate in a live video teleconference with scientists in Antarctica.

Get to know the penguins and scientists of Palmer Research Station and dig into the data to discover how climate change is impacting the penguin populations in the Antarctic region.

Youth in 5-8th grades are welcome to join this Short Term Enrichment Program from 6-7pm on Monday evenings February 2, 9, 23 and March 2!

The teleconference is Saturday, March 7 from 12:30 - 2:30 pm.

To register, click the link below:

<https://forms.gle/PD8Huhmr8HRZ8oTE8>

Registration deadline is January 26, 2026.



REGISTER TODAY! 

Registration deadline: February 2nd

4-H DOG DISCOVERY DAY

Monday, February 16, 2026 (Presidents' Day)
10am-3pm

Open to youth in grades K-13

Learn about our canine companions, hear from guest speakers, test your knowledge, and have fun with new friends! Topics covered include breed histories, canine anatomy, veterinary care, nutrition, grooming, and canine careers.

Lunch may be brought from home or pre-ordered.

County College of Morris
214 Center Grove Rd.
Randolph, NJ 07869

Register at <https://go.rutgers.edu/ewgvyxh2u> by 2/2/26.

Special thanks to the New Jersey 4-H Dog Project Advisory Council (PAC) and the Morris County Dogs R Us 4-H Club for their support.

Adults invited to stay to listen to presenters or work in designated classroom space. Youth in grades K-3 **must** be accompanied by an adult.

Questions? Contact morris4h@njaes.rutgers.edu

4-H educational programs are offered to all youth, grades K-13, on an age-appropriate basis, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability.

Rutgers Junior Animal Science Symposium & 4-H Animal Science Film Festival

March 28, 2026

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

2026 NJ JUNIOR ANIMAL SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM
SAVE THE DATE



HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS IN THE FOLLOWING FIELDS:

- Equine
- Swine
- Small Ruminant
 - Sheep and Goat
 - Large Ruminant
 - Dairy and Beef
- Canine
- Anthropology
- Poultry
- Beekeeping
- Rabbit
- Cavy (Guinea Pig)
- Small Animal
- Animal Science Video Contest



SPONSORED BY:
The New Jersey Department of Agriculture Junior Breeder Program, in cooperation with Rutgers Cooperative Extension faculty and staff.



WORKSHOP DETAILS
28 MARCH 2026
LOCATION: ROUND BARN @ GEORGE H. COOK CAMPUS – RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
TIME: 8:30AM – 3:00 PM; YOUTH AND ADULTS; RAIN OR SHINE
REGISTRATION: OPENS FEBRUARY 2nd, 2026

QUESTIONS? CONTACT: AMELIA.MINERVINI@RUTGERS.EDU OR MB2173@NJAES.RUTGERS.EDU

Registration will open on **February 3, 2026**, and at that time, session details and the registration link will be available on our website:
<https://nj4h.rutgers.edu/smallanimals/junior-symposium/>
Contact amelia.valente@njaes.rutgers.edu if you have questions.



RU EMPOWERED TEEN WELLNESS DAY

REFLECT CONNECT BREATHE

February 21, 2026

Registration deadline: February 1st

SAVE YOUR SPACE!



https://rutgers.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d6sVxhAxENWIC0f

Contact hunterdon4h@njaes.rutgers.edu to learn more!

4-H educational programs are offered to all youth, grades K-13, on an age-appropriate basis, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability.



Horse News



Horse Leaders Meeting

The next Horse Leaders Meeting will be on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 7:00pm at the Dumont Building (165 County Route 519 S, Belvidere).



State 4-H Horse Events

Model Horse Show:
January 17, 2026

Horse Bowl at Rutgers University:
February 21, 2026

Equine Presentations at Mercer County RCE Office: March 14, 2026

Horse Judging and Hippology at Dream Park:
April 17-18, 2026

NJ State 4-H Horse Show at Dream Park:
August 15-16, 2026



Equestrian of the Year

The Warren County Equestrian of the Year Contest will be held on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 6pm at the Dumont Building (165 County Route 519S in Belvidere). Applications will be emailed to eligible horse project members in early February.



Barrel Race at Warren County Farmers' Fair



WCFF

No Strings Attached Barrel Race

Open 5D \$50

Open to everyone!
Awards to 1st, 2nd, & 3rd in ALL divisions!

Youth 3D \$40

18 & Under as of January 1st 2026
Awards to 1st and 2nd in ALL divisions!

Middles 3D \$40

19-39 as of January 1st 2026
Awards to 1st and 2nd in ALL divisions!

Masters 3D \$40

40 and over as of January 1st 2026
Awards to 1st and 2nd in ALL divisions!

PeeWee \$10

10 and Under as of January 1st 2026
Awards to ALL competitors!

Order of Events

Exhibitions: 9AM Start
PeeWee to follow the conclusion of Exhibitions
Open: Not Before NOON Start
Masters, Youth, and Middles Divisions to follow!



- 70% Payback
- \$10 Office Fee to all Competitors
- NEGATIVE COGGINS WITHIN 1 YEAR REQUIRED
- 5D - 1/4 SECOND SPLITS
- 3D - 1 SECOND SPLITS
- PEEWEE DOES NOT HAVE DIVISIONAL SPLITS
- PEEWEE RIDERS MAY NOT CROSS INTO ANOTHER DIVISION
- HELMETS REQUIRED FOR RIDERS UNDER 18 YEARS OLD

Proceeds of this event help support Warren County 4-H Horse Clubs. For more information or a sponsorship packet, please contact Gracie Klimas-Zielinski at 908-878-7957.





Public Presentations 2026

Presentation Season is right around the corner! It is time to start thinking about what you plan to present!



Mark your calendars!

Presentation dates are set for:
Wednesday, March 4 at 6pm
Thursday, March 12 at 6pm
Monday, March 16 at 6pm
Friday, March 27 at 6pm

Locations are currently TBD. Details and registration materials will be available shortly.



4-H Volunteer Ventures



The 4-H Volunteer Ventures Podcast examines the fun, but sometimes confusing, role of the 4-H volunteer. Connect with hosts Kelly Dziak and Laura Bovitz in this Facebook page ([4-H Volunteer Ventures](#)) to share your tips/tricks to support other volunteers as well as future episode suggestions.

The latest episode of the [4-H Volunteer Ventures](#) podcast is available and it's all about the 4-H Thriving Model! Give it a listen to learn about how we help youth find their ✨sparks✨ and thrive!

open.spotify.com/show/1R0A0chkVoqw64Mqycr7gX?si=34f3dc98b91b4c20



NJ 4-H Summer Camp Sign Up

The 76th summer at **L.G. Cook 4-H Camp**, New Jersey 4-H's overnight summer camp in beautiful Stokes State Forest. Join our caring, tech-free community for a one-week sleepaway session in July or our BIG 18 day session in August ... AND

The 4th summer at 4-H Camp at Rutgers Gardens, our day camp program combining the social-emotional learning of 4-H Camp's friendly, communal experience with the educational opportunities of Rutgers Gardens.

4-H discount available to all 4-H members.

More details and online registration at nj4hcamp.rutgers.edu! Call 973-948-3550 to reach the Camp Office with any and all questions.



We would LOVE to hear what your club has been up to! Please drop us a line or photograph!

Got club news? Send it to
4-H@co.warren.nj.us

