

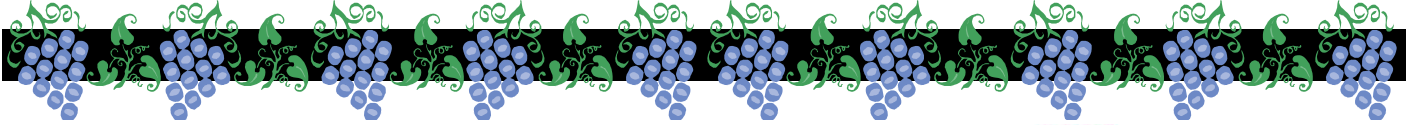


RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
Cooperative Extension
of Warren County
 New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station



www.warren4-h.org

Family Grapevine
 Information for 4-H families
 March/April 2026



From the Desk of
 the Agent

Warren County 4-H presents:

Teen Emergency Preparedness Program

Not all heroes wear capes!

Disasters and emergencies can happen at any moment! From weather-related disasters to fender benders to home fires to extended power outages – life can change in a heartbeat. When disaster strikes, do you know how to help your family, friends, neighbors, and community?

Join the 4-H Teen Emergency Preparedness STEP club program! **Open to ALL youth in 8th grade or higher.** This 6 session short-term club uses the United States Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency -certified CERT training manual as a guide to cover Disaster Preparedness, Fire Safety (hands on demonstration at the Warren County Fire Academy), Weather & NOAA, Terrorism, Basic First Aid, and this year we will offer CPR and AED certification*!

This program will be held at the Warren Grange Hall located at 101 Asbury-Broadway Rd, Washington, NJ (Franklin Township) from 6-8pm every Monday starting April 20–May 18, 2026. CPR and AED certification training will be held on Saturday, May 16 from 8am-12pm at the Warren County Public Safety Complex, 1024 State Hwy 57 W, Washington, NJ.

The cost of the program is \$50 per youth.

Upon completion of the program, participants will receive a backpack filled with emergency preparedness supplies and a certificate. *Participants MUST attend all other sessions to participate in the CPR and AED certification class.

Register by April 13: <https://forms.gle/fNqTLH3BV4Ewsbj78>



RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
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Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Boards of County Commissioners. Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.

WE **R** HERE WHEN YOU NEED US



Reminders

The Next 4-H Leaders Association Meeting

April 1, 2026 6:00 pm Location TBD

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!

4-H Discover the Leader in You! Leadership Conference

March 14, 2026



March 14, 2026 10am - 3pm
Morris County Public Safety Training Academy
500 West Hanover Ave., Morristown, NJ 07960

\$35.00 per person
includes lunch and program supplies

4-H members in grades 6-8 are invited to attend this leadership conference. You will have fun, meet new friends and develop leadership and personal development skills that you can utilize in school, in your 4-H club, and in your community.

Register Today! <https://forms.gle/ihhkMMMeEnDGrKABA>



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Click on the photo above to register by March 6th.



Woofminster Dog Show

March 15, 2026

Hosted by the Somerset County 4-H WOOF Dog Club



Sunday, March 15, 2026
10:00 AM (Doors open at 9:15 AM)

Somerset County 4-H Center
(Ted Blum 4-H Center)
310 Milltown Road
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Classes include Showmanship (age and ability divisions), Obedience, and Grooming.

Questions? Please email WOOF Leader: James Gaudet at 4Hwoofclub@gmail.com or 201-463-1367

Click here for online registration
[2026 WOOFminster Registration](#)



Teen Council

March 19, 2026

Thursday, March 19th will be our next regular Teen Council meeting from 7-8 pm at the Dumont Building (165 County Route 519S).

Teen Council is open to youth in 8-13th grade.



Rutgers 4-H Teen Café

March 21, 2026

Unlocking the Brain's Daily Rhythms: How Sleep, Injury, and Aging Shape Our Internal Clock

11 am - 2 pm, Waksman Institute, Busch Campus
Grades 9-12

Dr. Annika Barber, Molecular Biologist and Biochemist, will lead students through hands-on laboratory activities on how organisms must make behavioral decisions based on an array of both internal cues (like hunger or time of day) and external environmental cues (like availability of food or temperature). She will discuss how her lab works to decode the biological basis of decision making using behavioral genetics in *Drosophila melanogaster* or fruit fly.

Register [here](#). First come, first serve.

<https://go.rutgers.edu/d4pys7qq>

This event is FREE and includes lunch. Registration is required and limited to 30 9-12th grade students.



Clover Lego Challenge

March 22, 2026

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
4-H Youth Development
New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

CLOVER LEGO® CHALLENGE

PRESENTED BY THE OCEAN COUNTY 4-H S.T.E.M CLUB

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026
12:30PM - 3:30PM

Ocean County Agriculture Building
1623 Whitesville Rd.
Toms River, NJ 08755

Schedule:
*Times may vary

- 12:30pm Registration & Welcome Activity
- 1:00pm LEGO® build begins
- 1:30pm Cloverbud Judging
- 2:00pm Junior Judging
- 2:30pm Senior Judging

Special Appearance by LEGO Master Contestant, **Corey Samuels!**

<https://tinyurl.com/4HLEGO2026>

Any youth, whether they are in 4-H or not, is welcome to participate

\$20.00 per participant
(\$10 per additional participant within the same household)

Registration is due by March 3. Cash, Check, or Zelle
Written to: Ocean County 4-H Association
Zelle to: Ocean4H@co.ocean.nj.us

Participants are encouraged to bring a non perishable item for the Ocean County Food Pantry

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Warren County

2026 Farmer Symposium

March 21, 2026

You're Invited

2026 Farmer Symposium

Saturday, March 21st, 2026
10AM - 3PM

Join us for talks on a variety of topics including:

- Optimizing Soil Fertility & Nutrient Management Under Drought Conditions
- Updates From the Vegetable IPM Program
- Wildlife Damage Assessment
- Home Horticulture Program Assistant Introduction
- Engaging Young Farmers in Agriculture Discussion

More topics to follow

Wayne Dumont Jr. \$25 per person through March 13
Administration Building \$35 per person beginning March 14
165 County Road 519
Belvidere, NJ 07823

Lunch will be provided.

To Register:
Scan the QR Code
call 908-475-6505
or go to the following link:
<https://tinyurl.com/37h99dbk>



PAPER CLOVER

APRIL 17 THRU MAY 3, 2026

Funds support 4-H camp, scholarships & leadership activities.

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 is now open! Session details and the registration link are available on the website: <https://nj4h.rutgers.edu/smallanimals/junior-symposium/>

Contact amelia.valente@njaes.rutgers.edu if you have questions.



Rutgers 4-H Teen Café

April 11, 2026

Mars Rocks: Studying Minerals with the Curiosity Rover

11 am- 2 pm, Busch Campus
Grades 9-12



Kate Hendrickson is a Planetary Scientist who works on the Curiosity Rover science team and will teach students about how we perform science remotely through robotic spacecraft. She will discuss rover operations, rocks on Mars, and guide students through accessing and analyzing real mineral data from the Curiosity Rover's CheMin X-Ray Diffractometer.

This event is FREE and includes lunch. Registration is required and limited to 25 9-12th grade students.

Register [here](#). First come, first serve.

<https://go.rutgers.edu/qjj32cec>



RCE Grow With Us Workshops

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY Cooperative Extension of Warren County New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station **Warren County Grow With Us Workshop**



Join us to learn all the basics about starting a home garden. Participants will be given a dozen free seed packets to take home. Follow up workshops and gardening assistance will be available after the workshop concludes.

- Workshop Dates:
1. **Friday, February 27th, 2026 10am - 11:30am**
Location: Rutgers Cooperative Extension Building, 3 Shotwell Drive, Belvidere, NJ
 2. **Monday, March 9th, 2026 4pm - 5:30pm**
Location: Zoom Meeting
 3. **Thursday, March 26th 10:30am - 12pm**
Location: Phillipsburg Free Public Library, 200 Brounlow Way, Phillipsburg, NJ
 4. **Wednesday, April 15th 6:30pm - 8pm**
Location: Catherine Dickson Hofman Library, 4 Lambert Road, Blairstown, NJ

We are also seeking volunteers to participate in a follow up gardening survey to monitor the impact of the workshop.



Scan the QR Code below or call 908.425.8505 to register for a workshop.



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

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 have been emailed to eligible horse project members.



Tack Sale

The WC Horse Leaders Tack Swap & Sale will take place on Saturday, April 11, 2026 from 10am to 2pm. Please help spread the word and share far and wide!



Tack Swap & Sale

Benefitting Warren County 4-H Horse Clubs

Saturday, April 11, 2026

10:00 am - 2:00 pm



Independence Fire House
24 Cemetery Rd
Great Meadows, NJ



Sell your new & used horse equipment, riding attire & other equine supplies or buy what you need for the upcoming season! No Commission!

Table prices:

1 table: \$25 • 2 tables: \$45 • 3 tables: \$60
Outside space (10x10): \$25 • Trailers: \$50

For more info, call Wanda 908-797-1239

Buyers may want to bring cash - Some vendors will not take checks.

FOOD STAND ON SITE





Public Presentations 2026

It's time for Presentations!

Mark your calendars!

Presentation dates are set for:

- Wednesday, March 4 at 6pm at the Dumont Administration Building
- Thursday, March 12 at 6pm at the Hope community Center
- Monday, March 16 at 6pm at the Dumont Administration Building
- Friday, March 27 at 6pm at the Dumont Administration Building



Call or email the office if you still need to register!



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 Essential Element of Mastery! 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.



Puppy Power

Puppies and handlers from Puppy Power attended the January County Commissioner meeting and received a proclamation recognizing the 98th Anniversary of The Seeing Eye. Puppy Power celebrated its 66th year as a 4-H club and has raised over 1500 puppies for the Seeing Eye organization.

Commissioner James Kern received a few "thank you" licks from 10-week-old Storm during the ceremony.



Photo Credit: James Kern III Facebook Account



Teen Council

Teen Council members had a team building adventure at SkyZone in January.



Valentina Maza attended Winter Camp with 23 other 4-H'ers from Somerset, Morris, and Sussex. Activities included baking cookies, card and board games, sledding and snow tubing, lots of snacks, crafts, and a Winter Camp tradition, "Bring Me a Shrubbery"!



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

