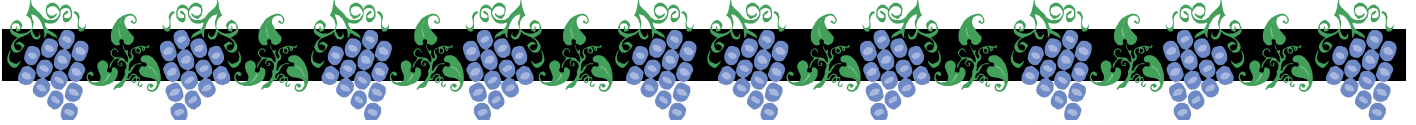


www.warren4-h.org

Family Grapevine
Information for 4-H families
May/June 2026



From the Desk of
the Agent



**Time to decide what projects you will be entering into the
Warren County Farmers' Fair this year!**

The exhibit catalog is available now on our website!

<https://warren.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h/fair/>

Keep in mind that divisions such as Fine Art, Crafts, Photography, Woodworking, Sewing, Needlework, Animal/Veterinary Science, Conservation of Natural Resources, Entomology, Forestry, Horticulture, and Wildlife and Fisheries are open to all registered 4-H members.

WE **R** HERE WHEN YOU NEED **US**



Reminders

The Next 4-H Leaders Association Meeting

June 3, 2026 7:00 pm at 3 Shotwell Drive
All registered Warren County 4-H leaders are welcome.

If you prefer a hard copy 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!

Teen Council May 21, 2026

The next 4-H Teen Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 21st, at 7pm at the Dumont Building located at 165 County Route 519S in Belvidere.



Invasive Weeds: Learn to Identify and Control Them May 21, 2026

Join Lynn Waclawski, Horticulture Program Assistant and Leader of the Plants vs. Zombies 4-H Club for an informative session on invasive weeds impacting local landscapes and home gardens.

Session Details:
May 21, 2026
7-8:30 pm

Rutgers Cooperative Extension Office
3 Shotwell Drive, Belvidere

Call 908-475-6505 to register! Space is limited!



Backyard Farming Basics May 29, 2026

Learn how to keep your backyard birds (chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, and game birds) and cattle healthy this season. This meeting will cover what Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza means for small-scale livestock owners, simple biosecurity practices you can use at home, and key considerations before bringing animals to fairs. We will also discuss how diseases can spread between poultry and dairy cattle, and how to reduce those risks.

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
Cooperative Extension
New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

BACKYARD FARMING BASICS: HEALTHY BIRDS, SAFE HERDS

Small-scale livestock owners:

Learn how to keep your poultry (chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, and game birds) and cattle healthy this season. At this meeting, you will learn about Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, easy biosecurity practices, fair preparation, and how to prevent disease spread between poultry and cattle.

EVENT DETAILS:
Friday, May 29 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM
Rutgers EcoComplex, 1200 Florence Columbus Rd.,
Bordentown, NJ 08505

For more information, scan the QR code or visit:
<https://go.rutgers.edu/backyardfarmingbasics>

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



State 4-H Presentations June 6, 2026

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

NEW JERSEY 4-H

STATE 4-H PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS + COMMUNICATIONS CONTESTS

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!
SATURDAY | JUNE 6 | 10 AM - 3 PM
@ Rutgers Academic Building, New Brunswick
DEADLINE TO REGISTER: MAY 22
Register via ZSuite Events

This event is open to NJ 4-H members in grades 8+ who scored an Excellent on their County Presentation.



2026 Farm Camp



June 24 and June 25 will be the dates for the 2026 Farm Camp! Themes and more information will be available soon!



Pests and Disease in the Garden

June 24, 2026

Bugs, Deer, fungal pathogens – do they all seem to love your vegetable garden? Join Horticulture Program Assist and 4-H Leader, Lynn Waclawski to learn about how to prevent, identify, and manage common problems in the garden.



Session Details:
Wednesday, June 24, 2026
10:30am – 11:30am
3 Shotwell Drive, Belvidere

Call 908-475-6505 for more information and to register!
Space is limited!



NJ 4-H State Teen Leadership Conference

Friday, June 26 - Sunday, June 28, 2026

Mark your calendars, you don't want to miss this event! The NJ 4-H State Teen Council is planning the first state-wide teen conference in more than 20 years - they are excited, and we hope you are, too!

There will be networking and games, workshops, campus tours, guest speakers, a banquet & celebration, and more! Stay in the dorms and get a taste of college life while making new 4-H friends from all over NJ!

Dates: Friday, June 26 - Sunday, June 28, 2026
Where: Rutgers New Brunswick, Cook/Douglass Campus

Who: 4-H Members in grades 9* and up

Cost: \$300 per person

*youth who have completed 8th grade by the time of the conference are eligible

REGISTRATION OPENS
FRIDAY, MAY 15

- Keep an eye out for registration information!



2026 Eggsploration

June 30, 2026

The 4-H Family Eggsploration program is happening this summer! You can sign up to incubate eggs at home to hatch at the Warren County Farmers' Fair! The information meeting is set for June 30 at 6 pm at the Dumont Building. Space is limited! Scan the QR code below to sign up!



4-H Family Eggsploration Embryology Project

Warren County families sign up to incubate eggs at home to hatch at the Warren County Farmers' Fair and work the booth the day their eggs are due to hatch!

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

\$40 per family

Keeping chicks is optional

For more info:



QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!
4-H@CO.WARREN.NJ.US
908-475-6502



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



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.



Horse News



Horse Leaders Meetings

The Horse Leaders Meeting schedule:

September 9, 2026 7:45 pm (in person after Leaders Association meeting)



Horse Judging Results

Alicia Garis, Amelia Garis, Valentina Maza, Vivian Maza, Arica Sodtalters, Elizabeth Sodtalters, represented Warren County at the NJ State 4-H Horse Judging competition held last month.

Junior Division:

Vivian placed 8th in Oral Reasons

Senior Division:

Arica placed 10th High Individual in Halter, 5th in Performance, and 10th in Oral Reasons as well as 5th High Individual Overall

Warren Senior Team A consisting of Arica, Elizabeth and Valentina placed 4th High Team Overall



4-H Qualifying Show

June 7, 2026

Rain date June 14, 2026

NJ State 4-H Horse Show

August 14-16, 2026

Dream Park



Congratulations to our 2025-2026 Junior Equestrian of the Year!

Amelia Garis is the Junior Equestrian of the Year!





News!

Project Record Books

Don't forget to keep up with your record book for the 2025-2026 project year!

If you need a new record for the current project year, please visit <https://warren.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h/record-books/> and download the specific book for your project area.



Keeping a record book allows you to track what you have learned and accomplished throughout the project year. It is also a very handy way to keep track of community service activities! Filling out your record book is a great asset when you go to fill out National Honor Society applications, Tri-M Honor Society applications as well as college applications. All your activities, community service, and goals are in one place!

A Record Book Cheat Sheet (a guide to help you fill your book out) will be emailed to everyone.



NJ Farm Bureau

 <h1>NJFB MEMBERSHIP</h1> 		
FOR YOUNG AG LEADERS		
<h3>Growth Opportunities</h3>  <p>Membership is an investment in personal growth, professional development, and the long-term success of the state's agricultural community.</p>	<h3>The Next Generation</h3>  <p>The future of agriculture in New Jersey depends on informed, engaged, and passionate young leaders.</p>	
<h3>Advocacy</h3> <p>Your participation ensures that the next generation has a seat at the table.</p> 	<h3>What We Offer</h3>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Join NJFB's statewide network of farmers & ag professionals. • Learn how policy decisions are made & how to influence them. • Develop public speaking and advocacy skills. • Network with industry leaders. • Participate in state and national conferences. • Build relationships that lead to mentorship, partnerships, and career opportunities. 	
<h3>Join Now</h3> <p>609 - 393 - 7163 www.njfb.org/join</p> 	<h3>Connect with Us on Our Socials</h3> <p>@NewJerseyFarmBureau on...</p> <p>TikTok Instagram Facebook LinkedIn Youtube</p> 	 <h3>Cheaper than your favorite streaming service.</h3> <p>Join the next. Become a Farm Bureau member today.</p> 

Membership is free for youth in 11th and 12th grades!



Club Updates:

Puppy Power

Puppy Power Leader, Todd Fenwick and Seeing Eye puppy-in-training Storm, shared a table with 4-H Office staff at the Warren County Public Health night at Warren Technical School not only to promote the Seeing Eye puppy raisers club and 4-H but to engage the public in a community service project: upcycling t-shirts into dog toys.



Teen Council

Teen Council members voted to purchase 5 banners from the NJ Farm Bureau to support local farmers and their safety. **Devin Feliciano, Dagny Grillo, Eliana Lemus, Valentina Maza, Harley McEvoy, Reilly Moore, and Amelia Waclawski** met with Farm Bureau Director Liz Tompson during the Legislative Leadership Experience.



Legislative Leadership Experience

Devin Feliciano, Dagny Grillo, Eliana Lemus, Valentina Maza, Harley McEvoy, Reilly Moore, and Amelia Waclawski represented Warren County at the 4th annual Legislative Leadership Experience program held at the State House & NJ Farm Bureau Complex in Trenton. Participants sat in on a budget hearing meeting and met with Senator Doug Steinhart during their tour of the State House.



SeaPerch & RC Cars

Members of the SeaPerch & RC Car Club took a field trip to the Warren County Community College Robotics & Drone Lab in March.



Results:

NJ 4-H Dairy Judging Contest

Chance Anema, Valentina Maza, Vincent Maza, Vivian Maza, Arica Sodtalbers and Elizabeth Sodtalbers participated in the NJ 4-H Dairy Judging Contest. Participants judged 4 different classes of dairy cows and presented reasons as to why they placed the class as they did.



In the Junior Division:

Vivian placed 1st in Reasons and 2nd Overall
Chance placed 3rd in Reasons and 3rd Overall
Vincent placed 4th in Reasons and 4th Overall

In the Senior Division:

Valentina placed 4th in Reasons and 1st Overall
Elizabeth placed 2nd in Reasons and 2nd Overall
Arica placed 3rd in Reasons and 3rd Overall

Congratulations!



Teen Emergency Preparedness STEP Club

Participants in the 4-H Teen Emergency Preparedness Program received a hands-on, live fire demonstration from members of Warren County Fire Academy. They learned about the different types of extinguishing agents as well how to properly use a fire extinguisher to put out a small fire.

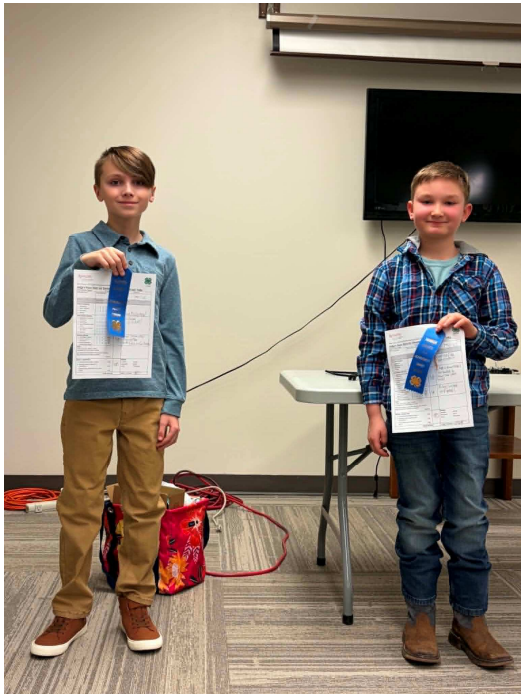


Public Presentations

38 members gave county-level public presentations this spring, with 12 members qualifying to participate in the NJ State Presentation and Communications Contests!

24 Excellent, 9 Very Good, and 5 Cloverbud Ribbons were awarded.

Topics ranged from Gemology to Go-Karting to Baking Sourdough Bread to Life with a Seeing Eye Puppy and so much more!



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

