

From the Desk of
the Agent



Go Green Day!!

Help us celebrate National 4-H Week on Monday, October 5th where we will receive a Proclamation from the County Commissioners at the Free Bridge in Phillipsburg and the bridge will be lit up green!



National 4-H and the Joint Delaware River Toll Bridge Commission are celebrating **National 4-H week (Oct. 4-10)** in Warren County!

On Monday, October 5, the Free Bridge in Phillipsburg will light up **GREEN** from 6:00- 11:00 pm to honor the youth who dedicate themselves to be the best they can be!

The Warren County Board of County Commissioners will be giving us a proclamation recognizing our group!



We're calling it: **Go Green Day!** and National 4-H along with Warren 4-H is cordially inviting all of our 4-H families to be a part of this historic occasion with a **photo shoot at 6:30 pm**.

Wear your 4-H swag - OR a green hat, clothing, face paint—anything green goes! You can also make banners or signs for your clubs!



Show your 4-H pride!



If your schedule allows, please arrive by **6:15pm** so we have a few minutes to prepare for the pics!



We're parking in the Riverside Way parking lot behind Jimmy's Hot Dog Stand and taking the pic on the scenic terrace right there.

Google maps:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/7WKkms4QMtdWQDy7>

♥ Hope to see you then! ♥

WARREN COUNTY 4-H • OPPORTUNITY • LEADERSHIP • FRIENDSHIP • BRIGHTER TOMORROWS



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



Reminders

The Next 4-H Leaders Association Meeting

November 11, 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.

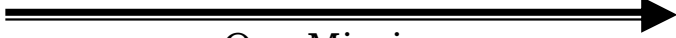


Going to Rutgers?????

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

September 17, 2026

Check out the 4-H Teen Council at our Open House meeting on Thursday, September 17th at 7pm at the Wayne Dumont Administration Building, lower level meeting room, at 165 County Route 519S in Belvidere.

Teen Council focuses on building leadership and communication skills as well as giving back to the community. The group takes on multiple service projects throughout the project year including:

- Baking cookies for the Warren County Homebound Meal program
- Collecting soda can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House



Ronald
McDonald
House®

- Adopting families during the holidays to provide meals and gifts
- Organizing a craft/game night at local nursing homes

Teen Council members also manage and run the Milkbooth during the fair!

Teen Council is open to members in grades 8-13. Members in 7th grade are welcome to join our new Junior Council!



New Jersey 4-H Agriculture Ambassador Program

September 30, 2026

JOIN THE NJ 4-H AGRICULTURE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Become a Leader in New Jersey Agriculture!

ELIGIBILITY:

- Must be a New Jersey 4-H member
- Must be in 9th grade or higher

APPLICATIONS DUE:

September 30, 2026 at 11:59pm

SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION:

Email: mb2173@njaes.rutgers.edu

OR

DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE!

MAIL OR HAND DELIVER TO:

Melissa Bright
Rutgers Cooperative Extension-
Somerset County 4-H
310 Milltown Road
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Scan the QR code to access the application and learn more about the program.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The NJ 4-H Ag-Ambassador Program is a year-long leadership program that empowers high school youth to develop leadership, communication, and agriculture advocacy skills while representing NJ 4-H across the state

PROGRAM STARTS OCTOBER 2026

PROGRAM ENDS OCTOBER 2027

NEW JERSEY 4-H AGRICULTURE AMBASSADOR

Empowering Youth. Strengthening communities. Advancing Agriculture.

Now entering its third year, the NJ 4-H Agriculture Ambassador Program is open to youth with an interest in agriculture, animal science, food systems, natural resources, or related fields. The program is designed to develop youth leaders who are passionate about promoting agriculture and increasing public understanding of its importance in New Jersey and beyond. Throughout the program year, Ambassadors will have opportunities to:

- Develop communication, leadership, advocacy, and career-readiness skills
- Participate in hands-on agricultural learning experiences
- Build connections and network with agricultural professionals and peers
- Take part in outreach and educational events
- Represent NJ 4-H at local and statewide agricultural events

Application Deadline: September 30, 2026

Youth can apply by scanning the QR code on the attached flyer.

Questions can be directed to County 4-H Agent Melissa Bright at mb2173@njaes.rutgers.edu.

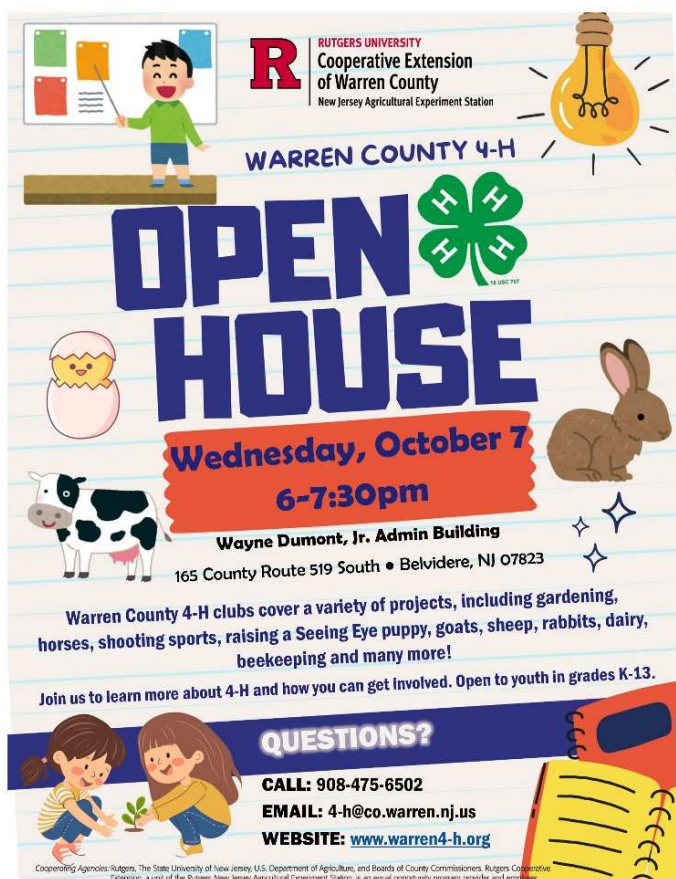


National 4-H Week

October 4-10, 2026
October 5, 2026 Go Green Day
October 7, 2026 Open House

Help us celebrate National 4-H Week on Monday, October 5th where we will receive a Proclamation from the County Commissioners at the Free Bridge in Phillipsburg and hopefully the bridge will be lit up green! (See flyer on front cover of Grapevine for more details)

Our annual Open House will be held during National 4-H Week on Wednesday, October 7th at the Wayne Dumont Administration building from 6-7:30pm.



Officers Council Training

October 14, 2026

Calling All 4-H Club Officers & Members! ★

Are you interested in building your leadership skills and becoming a more confident leader? Join us for an exciting opportunity to learn and grow on October 14, 2026 from 6-7:30 at the Wayne Dumont Administration Building lower level meeting room!

You'll explore:

- 🗣️ **Parliamentary Procedures**
- ☐ **Meeting Etiquette**
- ☐ **Team-Building Activities**
- 🧠 **Personal Development Skills**
- ★ And much more!

Whether you're a club officer or a member looking to strengthen your leadership skills, **this is a great opportunity to learn, connect, and have fun!**

Come ready to participate, make new friends, and take your leadership skills to the next level! 🍀



Record Books Due

October 19, 2026

Turn in your completed project record book to be eligible for a project completion certificate and pin!



4-H Year End Celebration

November 15, 2026

Join us for an afternoon potluck celebration and recognition of our outstanding 4-H members and all their hard work over the past project year! Invitations will be going out very soon!



Horse News



Horse Leaders Meetings

The Horse Leaders Meeting schedule:

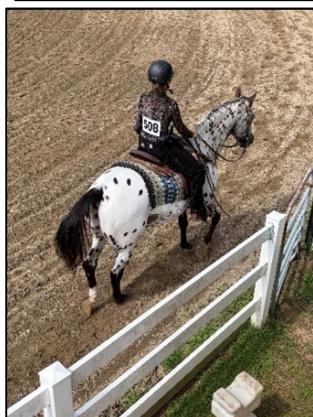
January 13, 2027 via Zoom

April 14, 2027 at combined with EOY contest

September 8, 2027 in person immediately following
Leaders' Association meeting



2026 Fair Fun



Equine Science Team

If you are interested in participating in the 2026-2027 Equine Science Competition Team, practices will start mid-November. Please contact Tracy or Brittany Smith to join!





Information:

ZSuite Reenrollment

On September 1st we moved into the new 4-H program year (2026-27)!

To assist families with reenrollment, directions are available for download [here](#) (and will be posted on the State 4-H website shortly).

Zsuite retains most information, families just need to review and update contact information, waiver approvals, and club and project participation.

Zsuite allows club leaders to login, review and confirm their club's membership (the county has official approval).

If you have any questions, please feel free to call - the office at 908-475-6502.



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

**Beyond Ready**

4-H Volunteers: expand your knowledge in a format that fits your busy schedule!



This podcast explores the fun, but sometimes confusing role of the 4-H volunteer. Each episode examines a specific aspect or challenge volunteers face and offers best practices to improve the experience. New episodes are released every other Wednesday.

Previous Episode Topics Include:

- Setting S.M.A.R.T Goals
- Learn by Doing Together
- A Little 4-H History
- Build Programs That Last
- Engaging Alumni
- Beyond Ready
- Working with 4-H Cloverbuds
- The 4-H Essential Elements
- Volunteers: The Heart of 4-H
- Supporting 4-H Youth with Special Needs
- Great 4-H Judges
- 4-H Business Meetings
- National 4-H Opportunities for 4-Hers
- 4-H Public Presentations

LISTEN NOW:    

SHOW LINK: <https://go.rutgers.edu/awotzzkr>
FACEBOOK PAGE: <https://go.rutgers.edu/v1zngxnk>



Results:

State 4-H Goat Show

Arica and **Elizabeth Sodtalbers** represented Warren County at the State 4-H Goat Show on Saturday, August 22 during the Hunterdon County 4-H and Agricultural Fair. 29 members from 8 different counties showed 134 goats at the show! **Elizabeth** won Champion Market Meat Goat and **Arica** won Reserve Champion Market Meat Goat.



Fun at Fair!





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