



Ulster County 4-H Youth Development 4-H COUNTY OBSERVER

Fall 2011 Edition



A quarterly publication of Cornell Cooperative Extension Ulster County's 4-H Youth Development Program

4-H Youth, Community Members Help Flood Victims

The impact of Tropical Storm Irene and Hurricane Lee on the region was devastating as roads, homes and farms were either destroyed or severely damaged. The emotional toll was heavy too as Ulster County residents were left without running water and food, and in many cases, had lost all of their belongings. To help those impacted by the storms, Ulster County 4-H coordinated a food and clothing drive.



Volunteers loading donations that were gathered by Ulster County 4-H members

The items were then distributed to several disaster relief stations along Route 28. The goods were well received. Of special note was an anonymous donor who dropped off over \$300 worth of non-perishable food items. Thank you!

For the youth participants, the community service project provided a learning experience centered on organizational and communication skills as well as interacting with the public. The experience also taught youth a valuable lesson on how to be

The Ulster Equistars/Pony People and Feather Friends collected food items

and clothing for men, women and children. Pet food was also donated.

compassionate and empathetic while helping those in need.

What is 4-H Today?

When you think about 4-H, images of cows, sheep and rabbits may come to mind. But today, 4-H is so much more. Of course animal science is an integral part of the youth development program in Ulster County. Our region's rich heritage in farming and agriculture has been a key driver of the program and continues to play an important role.



Today, though, 4-H in Ulster County includes family and consumer science, nutrition, horticulture, digital photography, community service, and renewable energy projects, among many others. Our youth participants learn leadership and time-management skills. They learn public speaking, and how

to organize events. They learn how to conduct research. And they engage in "deep learning" about animals such as horses, sheep, goats, cattle, dogs, poultry, and rabbits. They also learn how to raise animals for market.

Overall, 4-H prepares young people to step up to the challenges in their community and the world. Using research-based programming around positive youth development, 4-H youth get the hands-on real world experience they need to become leaders.

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4-H Mission

The 4-H Youth Development Program is to “help young people become self directed, productive and contributing members of society”.

Participation in the 4-H Program is open to all interested youth, regardless of race, color, gender, creed, national origin, or handicap. Youth ages 5-19 are invited to be 4-H members.

This monthly publication for the 4-H Youth Development Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County connects the unique educational network linking Ulster County with resources from Cornell University and the USDA.

**For more information
about Ulster County 4-H
call 845-340-3990.**

Online visit

www.cceulster.org

What is 4-H Today? (continued from cover)



Through America’s 109 land-grant universities and its Cooperative Extension System,

4-H reaches every corner of our nation from urban neighborhoods to suburban schoolyards to rural farming communities. With a network of more than 6 million youth, 540,000 volunteers, 3,500 professionals, and more than 60 million alumni, 4-H helps shape youth to move our country and the world forward in ways that no other youth organization can. In New York and Ulster County, 4-H connects youth to Cornell University.

Feathered Friends 4-H Club Makes a Difference

When the Feathered Friends 4-H club was hatched nine years ago there were no poultry clubs in Ulster County. Steered by leaders Annie Mardiney and Jenifer Nerone, the club has since flourished and expanded beyond poultry with rabbits as well as an extensive community service component that most recently helped victims of recent hurricanes Irene and Lee.

Through community service and youth leadership, the Feathered Friends 4-H club offers a nurturing environment for young people aged 8 to 19 to have fun, develop life skills and build self-esteem. This club leads or supports dozens of community events throughout the year. The club plans and operates the annual Spring Fun Festival as well as providing the wait staff at two annual breakfast buffets for the High Falls Firehouse and an annual pancake breakfast for the Rosendale Farmers Market. Club members also bring their “petting zoo” and crafts to the Forsythe Nature Center, Fall Festival, the Taste of

New Paltz, the Bradley Farm Fall Festival, the Rosendale International Pickle Festival, area nursing homes, and other venues.

Their latest community service effort was to help the Rosendale Farmers Market sort through clothing, food and school supplies brought for Hurricane Irene victims. Club member Elissa Mardiney says, “Through the multitude of community service projects we do in the club, I have become a better person and spent many hours helping our community and even other countries.”

Aside from giving youth a chance to give directly back to their community, their community service work also helps club members overcome shyness, answer questions, interact with people, and learn how to organize events.

Meanwhile, Feathered Friends teen members mentor younger members whenever possible. During meetings,

for example, teens may be asked to show younger 4-Hers how to participate in poultry, rabbit or dog showmanship, how to roll out crust for a pie, or how to keep accurate records of their 4-H careers. “I have been in Feathered Friends since it started. I have developed people skills and I am ready to accept leadership roles because of all I’ve learned in my club,” says teen leader Kristin Nerone.

To see the Feathered Friends in action, visit the 4-H Fall Festival from 10 am to 2 pm on October 16 at the Ulster County Fairgrounds in New Paltz.



www.cceulster.org

4-Her Finds Inspiration in Helping Others

Ask friends of Kristin Nerone to describe her and you hear words like “confident” and “hardworker” and “dedicated.” Ask Kristin what inspires her, and she’ll tell you it is in helping others.

No wonder the 17-year-old High Falls 4-Her garnered the 2011 4-H Master Showmanship title at this year’s Ulster County Fair. Qualities such as being dedicated and confident as well as wanting to help others are what make a 4-Her so special.

Kristin qualified for the contest by excelling in “Senior Showmanship” in the areas of Poultry and Rabbits, which enabled her to advance to the final competition that included showmanship for Dairy Cattle, Beef Cattle, Goats, Sheep, Poultry, Dogs, and Rabbits. Showmanship is the most grueling form of showing at the fair since it requires a deep knowledge of many animal species and the handling of those animals.

Nerone has been a member of Ulster County 4-H since the age of ten, showing chickens and rabbits. “It was an honor to get this award and a great opportunity to show all the different species,” Kristin says adding that this is her ninth year as a 4-Her.

“I was interested in 4-H because my mother and grandmother were both involved as young adults, and I’d heard stories about camp and dog training and fair,” she says. “4-H taught me how to deal with the public, how to respect animals, and how to be confident. It improved my pub-

lic speaking skills, and, most importantly, taught me to be a leader.”

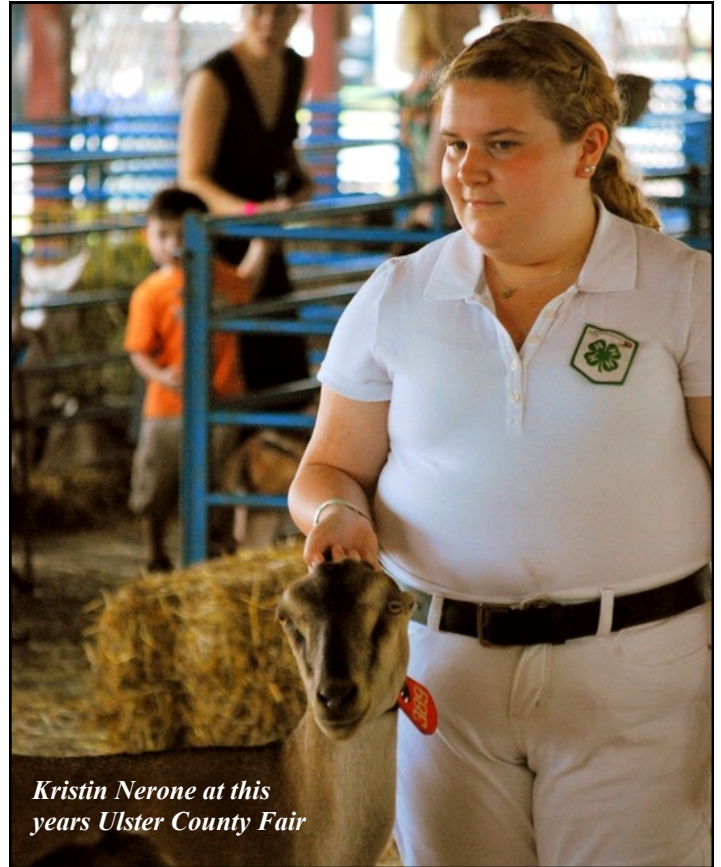
Kristin attends Rondout Valley High School and is currently enrolled in the Veterinary Technology program at SUNY Ulster. She is a member of the National Honor Society. Upon graduation she plans to pursue an education in animal science, and plans to attend veterinary school to become a “mixed practice” veterinarian – with a focus on dog behavior.

She is involved with her family in raising guide dogs for “Guiding Eyes for the Blind,” an internationally accredited, nonprofit guide dog school with a 50-plus year legacy of providing the blind and visually impaired with superior Guiding Eyes dogs, training, and lifetime support services. The Nerones have raised a total of seven guide dogs since 1996, and are currently harboring a stud for the Guiding Eyes. “I hope to run my own dog training school someday, and raise more guide dogs for guiding eyes for the blind,” Kristin explains.

Kristin has participated in several national events including the National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference held each year in Louisville, KY for Avian

Bowl, where she placed third in 2009 and Poultry Science also held in Louisville where her team placed 10th and Kristin placed 15th individually in 2010. She’s headed for the nationals again this year. Regarding her inspirations, Kristin cites her work with guide dogs.

“It was when I attended the graduation of my first guide dog, Wyatt,” she says of that first spark of intense inspiration. “When I saw the smiles on the graduates’ faces when they received dogs that would give them freedom and independence, I knew that I needed to do more for this organization. It’s truly inspiring to see someone overcome hardships and still smile like that.”



Kristin Nerone at this year's Ulster County Fair



I pledge my HEAD to clearer thinking
My HEART to greater loyalty,
My HANDS to larger service, and
My HEALTH to better living,
for my club, my community, my country and my world.



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*Building Strong
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FREE 4-H Fall Festival Returns to Ulster County Fair

Join CCEUC's 4-H Youth Development Program staff and 4-H youth clubs as they gather for the 2nd annual 4-H Fall Festival coming Sunday, October 16, 2011 to the Ulster County Fairgrounds located at 249 Libertyville Road in New Paltz. The festival is FREE and begins at 10:00am, festivities will proceed until 2:00pm. Lots of exciting hands-on activities, contests & educational demos for the entire family including an energy bike that allows you to generate your very own electricity as you peddle, live farm animals and kid friendly petting zoo, and several hands-on craft activities for all ages. Meet the Ulster County Dairy Princess, Savannah Baker!

Come see & pet the rabbits, cows, chickens, horses & other animals raised by our 4-H'ers! KIDS & ADULTS submit your best photo of an Ulster County Landscape for our "Landscape Photography Open

Show" Contact Arthur Zaczekiewicz at 845-340-3990 ext. 334 or email aaz25@cornell.edu for entry form. There will also be a "Gory Gourd" Contest. Bring in your ugliest pumpkin, squash or gourd for judging.

Bring a Baked Good to enter in our 4-H Fall Festival Contests! Play Fun Games & other great activities for all ages! Visit the 4-H Snack Bar, Milkshake Booth & Bake Sale! (All proceeds from the 4-H Snack Bar, 4-H Milkshake Booth & Bake Sale benefit 4-H Youth Programs in Ulster County)

PARENTS come and learn about 4-H and how you and your children can benefit from one of the oldest and well known youth organizations in the country!

Information and contest rules are available online at www.cceulster.org.



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