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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## 4-H Fun at the Ulster County Fair

Kids have been learning and having fun in 4-H throughout the last century. They still are, and you can get in on the fun by joining more than 300 Ulster County 4-H members who will display more than 2,000 exhibits this year at the Ulster County Fair. You can watch the livestock judging, horse and dog shows, goat, sheep and even rabbit shows! See projects ranging from horticulture to racecars. Working with trained, caring adults our 4-Hers have developed essential life skills and have worked on a variety of projects that show the power of youth to grow, explore and master important life skills.

So be sure to join us when you come to visit the fair August 2<sup>nd</sup> thru August 7<sup>th</sup>. 4-H has a lot for you to explore this year!

**Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> - Gates open at 4:00 p.m.**

*Aaah, the excitement of Opening Day!* Mosey around the Youth Building filled to capacity with art, photography, clothes and crafts, all created by 4-Hers. You'll marvel at the artwork in a multitude of mediums from drawings and paintings rendered in pencil, charcoal, watercolor, oil and acrylics to mixed media. Crafts of all kinds, including some created in ceramic, leather, metal and mosaics will astound you by their workmanship.

Be sure to hit the **4-H Baked Food Sale** and **4-H Teen Council Milkshake Booth** when you arrive. These favorite stops always open to crowds of customers and if you're not there first you'll miss all of the cookies, dropped, hand-shaped or pan baked; muffins; biscuits and scones; breads and coffee cakes; cupcakes, cakes and pies entered in the 4-H food and nutrition categories. Proceeds from the sale benefit the 4-H educational program in Family and Consumer Sciences. The Teen Council Milkshake Booth is managed and operated entirely by the members of Teen Council. In addition to learning how to make a refreshing milkshake, the experience teaches members important business skills such as scheduling staff, promotions, and dealing with finances.

Do you know the difference between a Mini Lop and a Holland Lop? Or an English Angora and an English Spot? Well, stop by the rabbit barn and ask a 4-Her. These cuddly creatures are always a not-to-miss attraction at the fair. **Judging of the Rabbit Breeds** and **Showmanship** begins at **4:00 p.m.** at the 4-H Show Ring, but you should feel free to stop in and visit any time.

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NEW, on Tuesday, is the **Cavy and Chinchilla Show**, 7 PM in the Rabbit Barn. Wondering what *is* a Cavy?! It is a guinea pig. The Chinchillas are cute, furry creatures that are sure to warm your heart. Ask for Wilbur!

### Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>

At **8:30 a.m.**, and running throughout the day, is the majesty, awe-inspiring skill and fun of the **Horse Show**. Watch Thoroughbreds, Quarter Horses, Morgans and many other breeds be put through their paces as riders compete to attend the NYS Fair in Syracuse. It takes place in the horse ring across from the midway.

If you're at the 4-H Cattle Ring at **9:00 a.m.** you'll see **Dog Grooming and Handling**. The judge will be looking at how well the youth care for their dog. The appearance of the dog, as well as the 4-Her's ability to gait them in a variety of patterns, forms the basis of evaluation in the handling and grooming class. In the **Obedience class** which begins at 10:00 a.m. in the **4-H Show Tent**, commands such as COME and SIT take on new meaning when you're watching a 60 pound youngster give them to a 90 pound dog. If you think your dog is well trained wait until you see how well some of these 11 and 12 year olds handle theirs! It's a bit of Westminster here in Ulster County! Top dogs qualify for competition at State Fair.

Were you wondering what's going on in the Youth Building on Wednesday? Open from **10 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.** each day is the **4-H Teen Council Milkshake Booth**. The **4-H Snack Bar** is open from 10:30 AM to 8 p.m. daily. Pick up a hot dog, iced tea or a refreshing Italian ice at this food booth staffed entirely by 4-Hers and their parents. This year we will feature local produce, including mouth watering peaches. All proceeds benefit the County 4-H Program.

**4-H Public Presentations** will be in the Youth Building on **Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday** from **2-4 p.m.** By participating, young people develop poise, self-assurance and the valuable ability to be able to speak in front of an audience with confidence. You'll be amazed at these youngsters' knowledge of their subject and ability to communicate effectively.

### Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup>

Thursday is filled with Showmanship judging for Dairy Cows, Goats, Beef Cattle, Sheep and Swine. Watch young people show off their animal expertise while presenting their animal to its best advantage. The day begins at **9:00 am** with **Dairy Cattle Showmanship & Judging** in the Cattle Show Ring. It takes skill to handle a 1000-pound cow. Wondering what the judge is looking at? The 4-Her and their animal will be evaluated with consideration given to the clipping of the head, ears and tail to show the cow to its best advantage, and the cleanliness and condition of its hide and hair; the control, poise and skill of the handler; and the personal appearance of the 4-Her. Being able to move around a show ring with a full-grown Holstein cow with grace and ease is harder than you think. It's a display of strength and confidence! At **1:00 p.m.** it's **Beef Breed Show** where Herefords, Angus, Simmental and other beef breeds get their chance to shine. Can make it the day of the show? Visitors are always welcome in the cattle barn.

Are cute, playful goats more to your liking? If so, be at the 4-H Show Ring at **10:00 a.m.** for **Goat Showmanship & Judging**. Watch as youngsters parade their dairy, market and pygmy goats around the ring. Who can resist looking at these adorable animals?

Or maybe watching 4-Hers parade their woolly sheep is more to your liking. **Sheep Showmanship & Judging** takes place at **4:00 p.m.** in the sheep barn.

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Later, at **7 PM** will be the **Swine Judging** in the Show Tent. These animals can be a little feisty in the ring! Come and see these production animals.

### Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup>

More than the roosters will crow about **Poultry Showmanship** at **9:00 a.m.** in the Poultry Barn. You can see 4-Hers expertly hold and present ducks, hens and roosters, geese, turkeys and other avian species such as pigeons and pheasants. If you don't like rising with the roosters, you can stop by any time and admire brightly colored chickens and ducks in the barn. Don't miss the baby ducks!

At **11 a.m.** be sure to watch **Caprine Capers (Goat Games)** a hilarious event with playful goats scampering through a number of obstacles and challenges. Come and see how well these 4-H goats go through the Caprine Obstacle Course or who will win the Musical Goats Contest. More silliness ensues with the Sack Race, the Egg, Spoon and Goat Contest and of course the Costume Contest. All of this fun takes place in the 4-H Show Ring.

The cattle show ring is the place to be at **5 p.m.** if you want to see a cow wearing a grass skirt or dressed like Elvis! It's all a part of the fun of the **Cattle Costume Show**.

### Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup>

Saturday at **10 a.m.** **NEW!** Try your hand at judging vegetables! There will be a Horticulture Contest in the Youth Building. Same time in the 4-H Show Tent you can learn about handling Sheep, goats, rabbits, poultry, cattle, and dogs for the Master Showmanship Contest on Sunday. Contestants are the top in their class striving for the award of Master Showmanship.

**Bowl and Pocket** pets make their way to the Fair on Saturday. If you go to the Rabbit Barn any time after **9 a.m.** you can look at the wide variety of pets that 4-Hers own that can live in a bowl or fit in your pocket. Turtles, lizards, hamsters, snakes, and many other unusual species will be evaluated on their show quality condition, health and cleanliness and the 4-Hers knowledge of their pet. Judging takes place in the Rabbit Barn and begins at **2 p.m.**

Saturday night hosts the Annual 4-H Livestock Auction at 7:30 PM in the **4-H Show Ring**. It's an opportunity to purchase quality blue ribbon 4-H raised pigs, goats, rabbits and poultry. These animals are prime market animals.

### Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup>

Start your day with a fun event! The **Poultry costume class** begins at 11 a.m. in the Poultry barn. 4-Hers are very creative in costuming these animals! Stick around the Poultry Barn for the **Rooster Crowing Finals** at **noon**. After several days of stiff competition the most boisterous beast of the barn will be crowned!

The Ulster County Fair ends with two events. At **2:00 p.m.** In the **4-H** and **Cattle Show Rings Master Showmanship** will take place. Every 4-Her who won a senior showmanship class is invited to compete for the title of Master Showman by showing each animal in a class - including those they did not enter an animal in! Winning takes poise, confidence and an ability to show the judge how well you can show!

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At **3:30 p.m.** is ***Clothing Revue*** in the ***4-H Youth Building***. Its truly spectacular to watch young people model the clothes theyve constructed. Youll be impressed by the wide range of creative expression on display.

If all of this makes you want to learn more about 4-H, look for the people with the All Stars buttons. They are 4-H members that will be happy to share with you all of the ways that 4-H encourages the power of youth.

Dont miss all there is to see & do! Be a part of 4-H at the Ulster County Fair!

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