

MONTHLY PUBLICITY

JANUARY-MARCH 2021

Livingston County News

Genesee Country Express

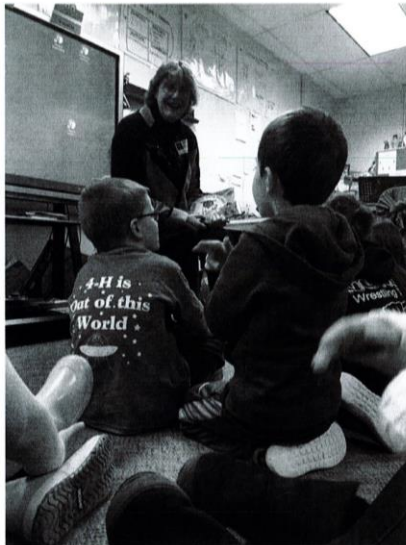
Genesee Sun

Monroe County Post

LIVINGSTON COUNTY NEWS

'Agricultural Literacy Week' to reach more than 2,000 students in Livingston, Monroe counties

Special to The LCN
Mar 8, 2021



Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County Photograph Assemblymember Marjorie Byrnes, R-Caledonia, speaks with students at Keshequa Central School as part of a pre-COVID-19 "Ag Literacy Week."

New York State's "Agricultural Literacy Week" is officially March 15 to 19, but Cornell Cooperative Extensions of Livingston and Monroe counties are scheduling activities throughout the month.

The programs will reach more than 2,000 students across the two counties.

The extended schedule is designed to adapt "Agricultural Literacy Week" celebrations to accommodate COVID-19 safety protocols.

Volunteers throughout Livingston and Monroe counties will remotely read to students with the help of 4-H and Agriculture in the Classroom educators from each county. The volunteers will seek to engage students in learning more about this year's topic, dairy farming in New York.

Ad removed. [Details](#)

"COVID-19 has caused a number of challenges for schools and this is a fun way to virtually share agricultural information with students," said Susan Coyle, a Monroe County 4-H program leader.

"Agricultural Literacy Week," which takes place annually across New York State, has been celebrated by Livingston and Monroe counties for the past 17 years. The week serves as an opportunity to promote agricultural literacy and learning to students across the state. Each year, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Farm Bureau members, and thousands of community volunteers, visit elementary school students and read an agriculture-themed book.

This year's featured book is "Chuck's Ice Cream Wish (Tales of the Dairy Godmother)" by Viola Butler. It is a unique tale of agriculture with vivid illustrations and an engaging storyline. The book will help students understand the importance of dairy in Livingston and Monroe counties, as well as in communities across New York.

Youth will learn about the journey their food takes from farm to ice cream cone. With more than 4,000 dairy farms and ranking fourth nationally as the largest producer of milk, dairy is vital to New York State. The dairy community in New York includes both large and small farms. It also boasts processing facilities of various types and sizes, from major global processing companies to small artisanal dairy product makers.

"Connecting young people to where their food comes from is important to sustain an equitable food system into the future. Guest readers, including the Monroe County Dairy Princess Court and local elected officials, will share the engaging book and guide classrooms through a hands-on activity to reinforce their new knowledge," Coyle said.

Cornell Cooperative Extension educators said they are proud to feature a book that displays the unique markets and diversity that encompasses many aspects of New York's dairy industry while also focusing on processing and how consumers contribute to agriculture.

New York State has the longest running and largest Agricultural Literacy Week programs in the country. This year, more than 80,000 students across 62 counties will participate in virtual "Agricultural Literacy Week" activities. Funding to support "Agricultural Literacy Week" has been provided by New York State dairy farmers through the Dairy Promotion Order.

Educators can sign up for this program or community members can help sponsor this project by contacting your county's Cornell Cooperative Extension office.

For Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County, contact Agriculture in the Classroom Educator Bernadette Harwood via email to beh53@cornell.edu or call (585) 991-5443.

For Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County, contact 4-H Youth Development Educator Jessica Reid via email to jar642@cornell.edu or call (585) 753-2566.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY NEWS

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

NWNY team launches YouTube channel

SPECIAL TO THE LCN
The Cornell Cooperative Extension's NWNY Team has a YouTube Channel.

The channel has given the team an opportunity to reach farmers in diverse ways.

Among recent videos was a series covering pasture weed identification and control. The first video in the series is an introduction; next up were overviews of identification of some common annual, biennial, and perennial weeds. The last video in the series covered

management tips prior to chemical control.

Margaret & Libby added a series of videos called "Feeder Tips." The English/Spanish videos can help feeders to learn key points for a successful feeding program. Topics include defacing, pushing up feed, and mixing feed.

More videos will be added over time and the team will address requested topics.

View the channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/CCENWNY>.

Livingston County News

Livingston, Monroe county youth highlight NY ag products

SPECIAL TO THE LCN
The Livingston and Monroe County 4-H Programs debuted the talent foods demonstration called Produced in New York at The Strong Museum in 2020. The event was part of a two-week celebration coordinated by the museum to celebrate the Finger Lakes.

Produced in New York showcases the variety of agricultural products grown in New York State, leading youth to gain a greater understanding of their local food system. Each recipe includes at least one cup of ingredients grown in New York State.

This event allows youth to participate in a popular 4-H project area, healthy living. Participants use their skills to make healthy food choices, modify recipes, and practice food preparation skills in front of an audience.

Youth that participate in the Produced in New York event develop their public presentation and speaking skills. It takes a great deal of thought and practice to organize the work area and keep it tidy. The youth also need to provide a clear line of site for spectators to see their cooking skills. Participants answer questions from evaluators and the audience as they work through their recipes. They may be asked to explain a bit about their New York State ingredient

or what cooking skill is new or challenging for them.

"Produced in New York is a popular event because it incorporates so many great life skills," said Livingston County Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H Educator Renee Hopkins. "Youth are focused on the culinary aspect and learn about local agriculture through recipe selection. Intertwined in the event is the opportunity to practice poise and presence on stage, problem solve when things don't go as planned, respond to evaluators and audience questions while working, in addition to all the preparation work and organization that it took to get to the event. All these serve to help youth gain confidence in their skills."

The Monroe and Livingston County 4-H Programs are offered through Cornell Cooperative Extension to the youth of Monroe and Livingston Counties. 4-H is a worldwide youth development program open to all youth ages 5 to 19, who want to have fun, learn new skills, and explore the world. In return, youth who participate in 4-H find a supportive environment and opportunities for hands-on or experiential learning about things that interest them. Learn more at <http://monroe.cce.cornell.edu/4-h-youth-development> and <http://livingston.cce.cornell.edu/4-h-youth-development>.



PROVIDED PHOTOGRAPH
Victoria and Silas are shown with their finished Produced in New York product.

LCN – MASTER GARDENER COLUMN

Tree, shrub sale aids conservation efforts

MASTER GARDENER



JULIE BROCKLEHURST-WOODS

It's that time of year again, when the Livingston County Soil and Water Conservation District offers bare root tree and shrub seedlings at very affordable prices: most are \$1 each, minimum quantity of 10 per variety. Evergreens are three years old, 10 – 18 inches tall. Deciduous tree and shrub seedlings are 1-2 years old, 10" – 24" tall. Most are available in minimum single-species groups of 10, for the purpose of land conservation.

For optimal success, be sure to select plants that are well-suited to your land. The most adaptable trees on this list include Black Tupelo "Gum Tree", Sawtooth Oak, and River Birch. Black Tupelo has lovely red fall foliage, small flowers which are attractive to bees, and ½" fruits which birds enjoy.

These seedlings are available to homeowners for use on their own property, not to be re-sold. Tree and shrub landscaping is more supportive of our ecosystem than lawns. Areas of your yard with trees and shrubs will attract more birds and other wildlife, providing shelter and sometimes food.

Shrubs offered this year include Butterfly Bush, Rose of Sharon, purple Lilac, Ninebark, Arrowwood Viburnum, Buttonbush, Hazelnut, Witch Hazel, and Elderberry. The colors produced by these plants may be a surprise to you. The plants in these offerings are native species plants, and aren't necessarily the same varieties sold in garden centers. The native hazelnut/fibert offered here produces smaller nuts, but is much more



Cattkins, the male flower of the hazelnut tree, is a long drooping flower that first appears on hazelnuts in the spring.



The American hazelnut is easily grown in average, medium, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade.

resistant to the fibert blight. Many species of wildlife enjoy these nuts, and it produces colorful fall foliage. Because it tolerates salt, it would be excellent as a roadside hedge.

Also available for use as groundcovers are ornamental fountain grass, an apricot daylily, and Hosta Albo Marginata (with white-edged leaves). Two varieties of Siberian iris are also offered this year, Blue King and Snow Queen. These irises are quite adaptable; they grow beautifully in a moist area, but I also remember this plant blooming nicely in my Mother-in-Law's sandy soil on Long Island. Blazing Star flowering plant is

the adaptable varieties already mentioned. Evergreen trees include Colorado Blue and White Spruce, White Pine, and three firs: Douglas, Concolor and Balsam Fir. Concolor Fir tolerates drier soil than the other evergreens being offered.

The fourteen varieties of trees, nine shrubs, and five groundcovers available are listed on a well-designed order form, containing information necessary for you to make wise selections. Growth rate, mature size, soil and light preference, and best uses are included.

You may obtain the order form by sending an email to Robert.Stryker@ny.nacdn.net; or call 585 489 6274. Ordering and payment deadline is March 19, 2021. Your purchase must be picked up on April 16 or 17 behind the county Highway Department buildings, 3360 Gypsy Lane at Hampton Corners in Croveland.

The plants being sold in this program are generally suited to our weather and soil conditions. Your purchase of these plants supports the Livingston County Soil and Water Conservation District programs.

Additional seedling selections are listed on the DEC web site, minimum order 25 per species; Google "New York State Tree Nursery" to find out what is available.

Julie Brocklehurst-Woods has been a Master Gardener Volunteer with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County since 2002. She enjoys helping all gardeners become successful gardeners, especially helping people prioritize and simplify their gardening tasks. She will answer gardening questions by email: JulieBW48@gmail.com.



Zakura shrubs are soon at Yummius Ice Cream last summer. Master Gardener Julie Brocklehurst-Woods is planning a new garden at Wadsworth Library, Geneseo, that will include similar plants.

New garden planned at library

MASTER GARDENER



JULIE BROCKLEHURST-WOODS

I count March as the first month of spring: the weather moderates significantly, and I begin to get out doors to work on gardening tasks, as weather permits.

Hard pruning of woody shrubs is the first serious task of the season. It's best to get this done in March, before the shrubs leaf out. I need to do this on the fragrant Bark-wood viburnum shrubs in front of our house. They keep growing above the lower edge of the windows, so it's time to severely cut back about 1/3 of the branches, down fairly close to the ground. If I do this three years in a row, they will be shorter for a few years. GoodGardeningVideos.org has great selections on pruning and many other gardening topics. Scroll down to select the trees/shrubs category including pruning of these trees.

I am also planning a new garden for Wadsworth Library in Geneseo, along the sidewalk leading to the front

yards of a compost/topsoil mix, and have it delivered directly to the garden bed. I hope to plant some perennials in April, then mixed annuals in May. Bulbs will be added in the fall, enabling a spring display.

My planting plan is to install five groups of plants, with each group containing some identical plants (for continuity) and some different plants (for variety). Each group will include one perennial Coreopsis Zagreb, Salvia May Night, and Fragrant Treasure yellow daylily; and selections of these annuals: Zinnia Zahara Double Cherry, Cosmos Xanthos, Gomphrena Ping Pong Mix, Jazz mixed colors Zinnia, and Zinnia Queenie Lime mix. All of these plants are 2' tall or less.

One garden bed includes a bench. That space may just include two varieties of day-lilies, Stella d'Oro and Par-disi Mac, and a short sedum groundcover. Bulbs will be planted this fall, including

early daffodils adjacent to the day-lilies; snowdrops, grape hyacinths, Red Riding Hood tulips, and fall hyacinths.

The other problem with this garden bed is lack of moisture, because it is under an overhang. It gets full sun until around 1 p.m., plus reflected sun and heat from the adjacent sidewalk and driveway. A more accessible hose connection will soon be installed. We will be using a soaker hose regulated by a timer to provide adequate moisture.

To insure optimal water use, the hose will be covered with an inch or two of mulch. This will direct all water directly to the soil, and reduce evaporation.

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LCN – MASTER GARDENER COLUMN

B12 Thursday, January 14, 2021

Livingston County News

Home & Garden

Helping houseplants weather winter

BY JULIE
BROCKLEHURST-WOODS
Master Gardener

Houseplants are good company in the winter months. I love plants of all kinds, prefer nurturing them outdoors, but indoor plants are a good substitute at this time of year. It has so far been a mild winter, but that could change quickly.

Indoor environments are generally not as well-suited for plants. Because the plants are not in their optimal environment, they are more prone to problems.

Over-watering is a common problem for houseplants, probably killing as many or more plants than neglect. Wilting can result from too little or too much water: too much causes the roots to rot, so they cannot absorb water. You can check the moisture with your finger, but picking up the pot to see whether it is heavy or light is more reliable, especially for larger pots. If you have a plant that seems to be drying out very quickly, don't hesitate to pot it up one pot size larger, so the plant has more moisture-holding soil available. Watering on a set schedule often does not meet the needs of individual plants.



JULIE BROCKLEHURST-WOODS/SPECIAL TO THE LCN

This African violet is very happy in this self-watering pot.

Self-watering pots are another option. They are more costly than standard pots, and it can be difficult to seasonally adjust the amount of moisture available. Winter watering can be challenging to figure out because our homes have low humidity when the heating system is on, yet it's not the time of year when most plants are actively growing. The

top layer of the soil dries very quickly, sometimes misleading us regarding the moisture deeper in the pot.

I recently was given a differ-

ent type of self-watering pot, designed for African violets and other low moisture plants. They are ceramic, with two pieces: the inner part holds the plant and is not glazed, while the outer glazed part holds water. The plant absorbs adequate water right through the unglazed pot wall. The African violets in them are doing beautifully. I have a couple more of these pots I will soon be trying out with succulents.

A common houseplant problem related to watering is fungus gnats, small flying insects that breed in plant soil. Generally, allowing the top layer of your soil to dry out between watering will reduce their numbers. I have sometimes covered the soil surface with a mulch of used coffee grounds, which dry out more quickly than potting soil. No, coffee grounds are not acidic: I have tested them with my pH kit. I regularly save them and put most of them directly on my garden beds.

If you still have an infesta-

tion after trying these simple strategies, Mosquito Bits, available from Amazon and many other sources, is a very effective product. It is natural, relying on *Bacillus Thuringiensis* to kill the larva of these pests. It is not toxic to people and pets. It is also effective in killing mosquito larva, so I keep some on hand to sprinkle in my patio fountain

and bird bath in summer.

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LCN – MASTER GARDENER COLUMN

46 Thursday, January 28, 2023

Home & Garden

Thoughts on garden trends

MASTER GARDENER



JULIE BROCKLEHURST-WOODS

Garden Trends for 2021 are a hot topic among garden writers and publications. I'm not one to pay much attention to decorating trends, including the Pantone colors pronounced each year, but I am always searching for gardening information I hope readers will find interesting.

Gardening attracted lots of interest last year, with so many people at home due to the pandemic. The big shutdown was in March/April, at just the right time to plan and begin planting a garden. People improved their landscapes, but the gardening surge was in vegetables: people wanted to grow some of their fresh food, so they wouldn't have to go to the store as often, risking COVID exposure. Now that they have had some success, the thinking is that people will continue to enjoy growing food this year, even as the pandemic gradually wanes.

Outdoor spaces also will continue to receive a lot of attention, especially since some people will continue to do more work from home. Every porch, patio or deck needs plants, in the ground or in pots, to make it welcoming. Tropical plants often display lively foliage and flowers throughout the season. Some of them can be adopted as houseplants for the winter months, adding moisture to our dry homes, and others can go dormant in a pot that is carried to your basement.

I would love to hear from my readers regarding topics I might address in 2021. I try to keep my columns practical, as topics



JULIE BROCKLEHURST-WOODS/SPECIAL TO THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY NEWS

Some of these houseplants might be enjoyed in a shady outdoor spot next summer.

where readers may feel they have learned something useful, I am constantly thinking about my own landscape, not what to add necessarily, but how to make it manageable as I grow older each year. Landscape design isn't a single topic, but something I think about on an ongoing basis.

Perhaps we would all like our gardens to be more sustainable, a word embracing environmental impact but also implying that the plants might be more self-sufficient.

I have enjoyed authors who write about plant communities instead of individual plants. Native plants are wonderful, but only if they are well-suited to the spot where you plant them: just because they have existed in the region for a long time doesn't mean you will find one ideally suited for that empty spot in your garden. Some writers are purists on this topic, while others encourage us to consider natives, plants developed from native plants with improved qualities.

Large perennial plants in the ground and large containers for annuals are perhaps topics I could spend time on, since they can reduce labor. Vegetables grown in containers are easier to maintain and harvest. Setting up the pots can take real work, but they often can stay in place for several years.

Ask me questions, or just let me know what you think: I welcome suggestions for future columns. My email address is included in my bio, at the end of each article I write.

Julie Brocklehurst-Woods has been a Master Gardener Volunteer with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County since 2002. She enjoys helping all gardeners become successful gardeners, especially helping people identify tools and strategies to prevent and simplify their gardening tasks. She will answer gardening questions by email: julieb@cceslbg.net.

The dos and don'ts of fertilizer

MASTER GARDENER



JULIE BROCKLEHURST-WOODS



DIEGO GREZ/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

A reader contacted me not too long ago asking me to write about fertilizer. Improving your soil is a related issue because in poor soil, especially if the pH is too low or high, the available nutrients will not be readily absorbed by plants. Adding more synthetic fertilizer than your plants need can also cause damage.

Your first step is to get a soil test.

Fertilizer containing nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium (NPK) was the go-to for many years. More recently, we have learned that phosphorous is not often lacking in our gardens. It has been eliminated in lawn fertilizers in many states because it accumulates and runs off into our rainwater management systems, which drain directly into local streams and rivers.

Home vegetable gardens almost always need nitrogen fertilizer as do many annuals. Potassium is less important unless a soil test indicates a need. Plants don't distinguish between organic and synthetic fertilizers, but organic products often take longer to break down and then can be gradually absorbed by plants. Alfalfa and soybean meal are two organic options for adding nitrogen while improving your soil.

Composting is great, but you must include manure in the mix in order for the compost to serve as a complete fertilizer that contains sufficient nitrogen. Phosphorus from compost can accumulate in gardens where this substance is frequently used as fertilizer.

Those of us without a manure source can add nitrogen and improve soil with soybean or alfalfa meal. Nitrogen dissipates readily, so it does not build up in the soil. But this does not mean you can pile it on your plants. Use a scoop to sprinkle it around the root zones of your plants in June and again in mid-summer. Scratch it into the soil surface with a cultivator so it doesn't wash away during irrigation.

A cover crop is another great strategy to improve the soil in your vegetable garden. Oats and field peas or beans make a good mix to plant in August in open areas of your garden. You can cut back or remove lower branches on tomato plants to improve access to the soil to plant this cover crop. These plants will grow for a couple of months, then die over the winter. The legumes (peas/beans) will add nitrogen, while the roots of both plants will loosen the soil so that roots will grow more easily the following year.

Perennial plants don't need supplemental nutrients as much of vegetables, but an application of a nitrogen fertilizer in spring can give them a boost. Milorganite, sold as an organic lawn fertilizer, is a product I use for this purpose.

In my pots I use slow-release fertilizer pellets.

Osmocote is a recognizable brand of this type of product. Many potting soils now include fertilizer, so it's a good idea to read your package carefully because you might not need to add any additional fertilizer. In any case, this fertilizer will not last all summer. I add more fertilizer to my pots toward the end of July.

Compost tea is a popular fertilizer, but it doesn't add more nutrients to your garden than compost alone. It is easier to just apply the compost to your soil surface.

A final step in sustaining garden fertility is mulch. It keeps the soil from drying out and washing away, reduces weed competition and enables rain to penetrate more easily.

If you prefer to use synthetic fertilizers, the plants will use these substances and grow well. Be careful to follow package directions and not to use more than what is recommended. Most packaged fertilizers include multiple elements that may or may not be needed in your garden.

For soil test instructions, visit the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County website at CCE-LivingstonCounty.org and enter "soil test" into the search bar.

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MONROE COUNTY POST

MONROECOPOST.COM | THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2021 | 13A

Ag Literacy Week going virtual this year

Messenger Post Media

Daily Messenger
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Cornell Cooperative Extensions of Livingston and Monroe counties are adapting their Ag Literacy Week programs to accommodate COVID-19 safety protocols.

In celebration of New York agriculture, volunteers will read remotely with the help of 4-H and Agriculture in the Classroom educators from each county. These volunteers will engage students in learning more about this year's topic:

dairy farming in New York.

Agricultural Literacy Week has been celebrated by Livingston and Monroe counties for 17 years. It serves as an opportunity to promote agricultural literacy and learning to students across the state.

Each year, CCE, Farm Bureau members and thousands of community volunteers visit elementary school students and read an agriculture-themed book. This year's featured book is "Chuck's Ice Cream Wish (Tales of the Dairy Godmother)" by Viola Butler. The book will help students understand the

importance of dairy farming in Livingston and Monroe counties, as well as in communities across New York.

While Agricultural Literacy Week is March 15-19, activities are held throughout the month. Nearly 2,000 students in both counties will learn about the journey their food takes from farm to ice cream cone.

"Agricultural Literacy Week will be celebrated all month long in Livingston and Monroe counties," said Susan Coyle, Monroe County 4-H program leader. "COVID-19 has caused a number of challenges for school youth and this is

a fun way to virtually share agricultural information with students. Connecting young people to where their food comes from is important to sustain an equitable food system into the future. Guest readers, including the Monroe County Dairy Princess Court, Farm Bureau members and local elected officials, will share the engaging book and guide classrooms through a hands-on activity to reinforce their new knowledge."

Monroe County educators can call 585-753-2566 or email jar642@cornell.edu for information.

GENESEE COUNTRY EXPRESS

DANSVILLEONLINE.COM | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021 | 5A

Livingston Co. 4-H program awards Livestock Scholarship

Cameron Wood has been awarded a livestock project scholarship from the Bank of Castile

The Express

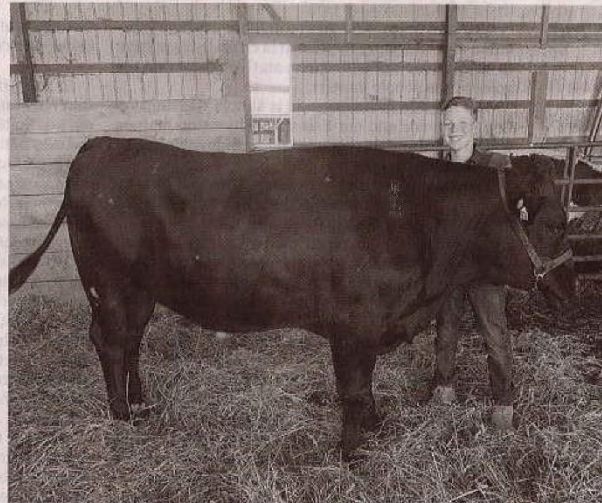
Livingston County 4-H member Cameron Wood has been awarded a livestock project scholarship from the Bank of Castile.

The Bank of Castile annually commits scholarship money to deserving Livingston County 4-H members to help with the purchase of a 4-H beef, swine, or lamb project animal.

The application process includes four parts:

- 1.) an essay explaining why the applicant is interested in the project;
- 2.) a recommendation;
- 3.) a knowledge test about the livestock industry, careers in agriculture, animal nutrition, genetics, showing, and grooming; and
- 4.) an interview with the selection committee.

Cameron, a six-year member of Livingston County 4-H, was awarded a Bank of Castile Beef Scholarship in the amount of \$500.



Cameron Wood pictured with his beef project during the 2020 Virtual Showcase. PROVIDED

The scholarship will help Cameron purchase his 4-H beef project animal for the upcoming year.

He has previously completed projects in the beef, swine, Market Poultry, and arts and crafts project areas.

Cameron has also participated in the Livingston County 4-H Program Public Presentations contest.

4-H livestock projects present 4-H youth with a hands-on opportunity to gain valuable knowledge and life skills that are critical in the personal development of young people.

Not only do they have the responsibility of caring for their project animal, but they also learn valuable business lessons such as financial record keeping, marketing and communication skills associated with selling their project animal, and providing a high quality food product to consumers.

Bank of Castile sponsorship of the Livingston County 4-H Livestock Scholarship Program provides deserving youth with an opportunity to raise and show a market animal that they may not, otherwise, have been able to buy.

If you would like more information about the Livingston County 4-H Program, call 585-991-5420 or 585-335-1752.

Enrollment is currently underway. Families can join the Livingston County 4-H Program for \$15/child or \$40/family (3+ siblings).

New member enrollment paperwork can be found online at www.ccelivingstoncounty.org.

GENESEE COUNTRY EXPRESS



Locally, the Livingston County Mars 4-H leadership team included Audrey de Wit, Rian de Wit, Lucy Sexton, Howie Sexton, Emily Vattimo and Izaya Tanksley. PROVIDED

Livingston 4-H hosts Mars base camp adventure

Staff reports

Six Livingston County 4-H members offered younger participants a unique opportunity to learn about the planet Mars.

Ten 4-H members participated in the program where they explored the general process of launching and landing on Mars, exploring the surface, using a rover for research, and growing food.

Last year, 4-H member Audrey de Wit applied for and was selected to participate in a state-wide Mars program. Audrey enjoyed the experience so much that she decided to gather a group of fellow Livingston County 4-Hers to help share her knowledge with others.

New York State 4-H often offers leadership opportunities for youth - a chance to learn a program and share it back with local members.

"I love supporting this kind of leadership

development," said 4-H Educator Renee Hopkins. "4-H promotes a learn by doing model... Audrey not only got the chance to learn the content of the program, but also got to learn leadership by being a leader of our local team."

Locally, the leadership team included Audrey de Wit, Rian de Wit, Lucy Sexton, Howie Sexton, Emily Vattimo, and Izaya Tanksley.

"My five teammates and I had an amazing time putting the activity night in motion, and hopefully the participants had just as much fun as we did," said Audrey de Wit.

The group is even looking forward to holding similar events in the future.

For more information about the Livingston County 4-H Program, contact the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County at 585-991-5420 | 585-335-1752. Families can enroll in the 2020-2021 4-H Program through June 1, 2021.

Livingston Traffic Safety Education Program nets donation

Staff reports

The Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County Traffic Safety Education Program received a \$5,000 donation from AAA.com of Western NY. The gift will be used to purchase child passenger safety seats.

"Keeping all children in vehicles safe is our primary goal," said Traffic Safety Educator Barb Sturm. "This generous donation from AAA.com of Western NY will allow us to purchase approximately 70-75 additional child passenger seats for families in need, and comes at a critical time when so many families are struggling. Our deepest gratitude to AAA Western & Central New York!"

The Traffic Safety Education Program has seen an increase in requests for child passenger safety seats during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"With so many families in our community experiencing financial hardship, many parents and caregivers are finding that they are unable to afford critical items," added Sturm.

Choosing an appropriate car seat and installing it correctly is critical in keeping children safe when traveling in vehicles. The laws, seats, and anchoring systems in vehicles are constantly changing and many parents find it helpful to get professional assistance. Parents and caregivers can contact the CCE Livingston County Traffic Safety Education Program to arrange for a one-to-one child passenger seat inspection and education from a certified CPS technician (COVID safety measures compliant).

Parents/guardians must meet income eligibility guidelines to receive a child passenger seat through the CCE Livingston County Traffic Safety Education Program. For more information about Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County or the Traffic Safety Education Program, visit the CCE Livingston County website at www.ccelivingstoncounty.org, or email Barb Sturm at trafficsafetycce@cornell.edu | bbs28@cornell.edu.

"This generous donation from AAA.com of Western NY will allow us to purchase approximately 70-75 additional child passenger seats for families in need, and comes at a critical time when so many families are struggling. Our deepest gratitude to AAA Western & Central New York!"

Barb Sturm, Traffic Safety Educator

GENESEE COUNTRY EXPRESS

DANSVILLEONLINE.COM | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021 | 5A

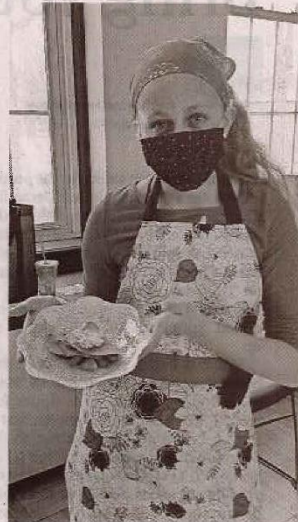
4-H hosts Produced in NY Food Demonstration

Staff reports

Livingston County was brimming with 29 talented 4-H members at the annual Produced in New York Food Demonstration event. Creative use of a New York ingredient was abundant, as 4-H members prepared a recipe in front of judges and answered questions from the judges and audience members.

This year's event was held both remotely and in-person, in order to accommodate as many families as possible. Because the remote event was a new platform for participation, practice sessions were held for both judges and participants. It is important that evaluators see as much of the demonstration area as possible, so camera angles and organization of materials/supplies required more consideration than the in-person event.

The event offers a chance to learn about NY food products and demonstrate culinary skills. It also serves as a fun introduction to presenting in public. Since several 4-H members present at the same time, this event can help



4-H member Alyssa Healy at the annual Produced in New York Food Demonstration event. PROVIDED

See 4-H, Page 7A

Agriculture Literacy Week adapts in Livingston County

Staff reports

The Cornell Cooperative Extensions of Livingston and Monroe County are adapting their Ag Literacy Week celebrations to accommodate COVID-19 safety protocols.

In celebration of New York agriculture, volunteers throughout Livingston and Monroe Counties will be remotely reading to students with the help of 4-H and Agriculture in the Classroom educators from each county. These volunteers will enthusiastically engage students in learning more about this year's topic, dairy farming in New York.

"COVID-19 has caused a number of challenges for schools and this is a fun way to virtually share agricultural information with students. Connecting young people to where their food comes from is important to sustain an equitable food system into the future. Guest readers, including the Monroe County Dairy Princess Court and local elected officials, will share the engaging book and guide classrooms through a hands-on activity to reinforce their new knowledge," shared Monroe County 4-H Program Leader, Susan Coyle.

Agricultural Literacy Week, which takes place annually across New York State, has been celebrated by Livingston and Monroe counties for the past 17 years. It serves as an opportunity to promote agricultural literacy and learning to students across the state. Each year, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Farm Bureau members, and thousands of community volunteers, visit elementary school students and read an agriculture-themed book.

This year's featured book is Chuck's Ice Cream Wish (Tales of the Dairy Godmother) by Viola Butler.

It is a unique tale of agriculture with vivid illustrations and an engaging storyline. The book will help students understand the importance of dairy in Livingston and Monroe counties, as well as in communities across New York.

While Agricultural Literacy Week is March 15-19, activities are being scheduled throughout the month of March to accommodate the nearly 2,000 students expected to participate.

Youth will learn about the journey their food takes from farm to ice cream cone. With over 4,000 dairy farms and ranking fourth nationally as the largest producer of milk, dairy is vital to New York State. The dairy community in New York includes both large and small farms. It also boasts processing facilities of various types and sizes, from major global processing companies to small artisanal dairy product makers.

Cornell Cooperative Extension educators are proud to feature a book that displays the unique markets and diversity that encompasses many aspects of New York's dairy industry while also focusing on processing and how consumers contribute to agriculture.

New York State has the longest running and largest Agricultural Literacy Week programs in the country. This year, more than 80,000 students across 62 counties will participate in virtual Agricultural Literacy Week activities. Agricultural Literacy Week would not be possible without the support of our wide network of volunteers.

Educators can sign up for this program or community members can help sponsor this project by contacting your county's Cornell Cooperative Extension office.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County Agriculture in the Classroom Educator - Bernadette Harwood | beh53@cornell.edu | 585-991-5443

GENESEE SUN

Livingston County's 4-H MARS BASE CAMP ADVENTURE

BY ROBERT DELENA



Six Livingston County 4-H members offered younger participants a unique opportunity to learn about the planet Mars. Ten 4-H members participated in the program where they explored the general process of launching and landing on Mars, exploring the surface, using a rover for research, and growing food. Last year, 4-H member Audrey de Wit applied for and was selected to

LIVINGSTON COUNTY 4-H PROGRAM AWARDS LIVESTOCK SCHOLARSHIP

BY SUN STAFF

Livingston County 4-H member Cameron Wood has been awarded a livestock project scholarship from the Bank of Castile.

The Bank of Castile annually commits scholarship money to deserving Livingston County 4-H members to help with the purchase of a 4-H beef, swine, or lamb project animal. The application process includes four parts: 1.) an essay explaining why the applicant is interested in the project; 2.) a recommendation; 3.) a knowledge test about the livestock industry, careers in agriculture, animal nutrition, genetics, showing, and grooming; and 4.) an interview with the selection committee.

Cameron, a six-year member of Livingston County 4-H, was awarded a Bank of Castile Beef Scholarship in the amount of \$500. The scholarship will help Cameron purchase his 4-H beef project animal for the upcoming year.

He has previously completed projects in the beef, swine, Market Poultry, and arts and crafts project areas. Cameron has also participated in the Livingston County 4-H Program Public Presentations contest.