



Cornell University
College of Agriculture
and Life Sciences

Department of Animal Science
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853-4203
Fax: 607 255-9829
www.ansci.cornell.edu

FOR RELEASE IMMEDIATELY

Contact: Dana Palmer
Office: (607) 255-4706
E-mail: dlp10@cornell.edu
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Cornell Supports New York State 4-H Animal Science Teams

ITHACA, N.Y. — Thirteen 4-H teams from across New York state exhibited their knowledge and skills at national competitions this year including the North American International Livestock Exposition November 3 – 16 in Louisville, Kentucky. Forty eight teens and representatives from 25 different counties were selected to participate in this year's national competitive 4-H events.

All year long, young people, ranging in age from 14 to 19, who are involved in the 4-H Youth Development program, have been researching, practicing and participating in county, district, regional and state level events aiming for the opportunity to attend a national competition. State representatives for national contests are selected based on their level of skill and performance at state level competitions, many of which are held annually at Cornell University in Ithaca or at the New York State Fair in Syracuse.

Dr. Ron Butler, Professor and Chair of the Animal Science Department, in Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, states, "I am eager to meet these potential Cornellians. Parents of students often report that after participating in state and national 4-H opportunities, their children hold memories and gain professional network contacts that last a lifetime. The knowledge gained by participating in 4-H content- and skill-based animal science activities compares to knowledge gained in college course work." Ron Butler further explains that, "4-H'ers are excited to learn and demonstrate expertise in animal biology and other life sciences. The unique value of competitive team events gives youth a chance to practice communication and decision making skills, applying technology and lessons

learned in new environments, all necessary life skills in college and career environments."

New York teens were represented on knowledge teams that included: Hippology (the study of horses), Horse Bowl, Horse Judging, Public Speaking, Dairy Management, Dairy Bowl, Dairy Judging, Livestock Judging, Livestock Skillathon, Poultry Judging and Avian Bowl. They represent the highest caliber of youth problem solvers, presenters and livestock management experts from across the state.

Teens representing the New York state 4-H animal science program at national contests are listed below. The events are listed chronologically by contest date, with notable results listed first:

Hippology – Hippology is an equine knowledge contest that includes judging, a written exam, a team problem and a hands-on oral exam. – **Team placed 2nd at the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup in KY.**

TEAM MEMBERS

Sarah Moylan (Albany) Selkirk, NY

Catherine VonHagn (Steuben) Bath, NY

Shannon Bower (Dutchess) Stanfordville, NY **4th place individual overall**

Anna Young (Monroe) Scottsville, NY

NYS COACH

Vicki Bolton Cohocton, NY

Horse Bowl – Horse Bowl is a horse knowledge contest in a quiz bowl format. – **Team placed 3rd at Nationals.**

TEAM MEMBERS

Christina Born (Oneida) Westernville, NY **3rd place individual**

Amanda Wendt (Wayne) Macedon, NY

Sarah Schuessler (Erie) Attica, NY

Ruthanne Atkinson (Oswego) Pulaski, NY

Christa Lubanski (Wayne) Macedon, NY

NYS COACH

Ann Janson, (Madison) Chittenango, NY

Horse Judging - Horse Judging requires participants to make decisions, understand the concepts of horse conformation and provide sets of oral reasons for choosing one horse over another.

TEAM MEMBERS

Caitlyn Gatley (Oneida) Holland Patent, NY

Kala Stafford (Onondaga) LaFayette, NY

Katrina McAllister (Madison) Manlius, NY

Chelsey Schreiber (Wyoming) Arcade, NY

NYS COACH

April Winslow, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Madison County, Morrisville, NY

Horse Public Speaking/Communications –

INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATION

Sarah Wahlstrom (Chautauqua) Jamestown, NY - **9th place individual**

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Lisa Ballard (Oneida) Rome, NY - **4th place individual**

TEAM PRESENTATION

Ronald Bartholomew (Cayuga) Martville, NY

Dakota Wong (Monroe) Rochester, NY

NYS COACH

Rich Miller (Erie) Wayland, NY

Dairy Management – The Junior Dairy Management Contest provides an excellent opportunity to evaluate top quality animals, receive experience in evaluation and decision-making, and demonstrate knowledge and skills in dairy management through the following activities: dairy cattle selection, linear trait analysis, diseases and biosecurity, meats identification and quality assurance of dairy beef, feed management, identification of grains, forages and by-products, biology of lactation and mastitis, and farm business management. This well-rounded approach benefits our youth, the dairyman of the future. **The team placed 2nd in the nation with Matt Sharpe** of Cayuga County, **Grace Wivell** of Oneida County, **Michael Skeels** of Wyoming County **and Mike Hufcut** of Orange County. **Heather Sweeney**, CCE Educator in Oneida County, served as their coach in Harrisburg, PA.

Dairy Bowl – 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl consists of teams of knowledgeable young people who work for top honors by testing their knowledge on many levels of dairy business and current industry issues. **The team was Honorable Mention and placed 5th out of 19 teams at Nationals in Kentucky.**

TEAM MEMBERS

Ken Quick (Washington) Granville, NY

Abigail Andrew (Wayne) Newark, NY

Mark Worden (Oneida) Cassville, NY

Matthew Sweeney (Niagara) Appleton, NY

NYS COACHES

Dr. Rebecca Silvanic (Wayne) Waterloo, NY

Deborah Grusenmeyer, Pro-Dairy Youth Specialist, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Dairy Judging – Dairy Judging requires participants to understand the concepts of dairy cow conformation and provide sets of oral reasons for choosing one cow over another. Making a decision and then defending your decision is a life skill learned through dairy judging. New York sent three different teams of youth to national contests. One team **placed 8th at the Louisville, KY competition, another team placed 7th at a Harrisburg, PA competition and a third team placed 5th at the National Contest, in Madison, Wisconsin held in conjunction with the World Dairy Expo. Team members are listed below.**

KENTUCKY TEAM MEMBERS

Mackenzie Reynolds (Genesee) Corfu, NY

Riley Welker (Genesee) Lyndonville, NY

Rebecca Andrew (Wayne) Newark, NY

Julia Bogardus, (Schoharie) Schoharie, NY

NYS COACH

Jamie Flint (Wyoming) Warsaw, NY

HARRISBURG, PA TEAM MEMBERS

Joe Hill (Cattaraugus) Corfu, NY

Jordan Place (Wayne) Walworth, NY

Elizabeth Trombly (Franklin) Chateagay, NY

Julia Knight, (Chautauqua) Jamestown, NY

NYS COACH

Dr. Doug Waterman, Madison, NY

MADISON, WI TEAM MEMBERS

Abigail Andrew (Wayne) Newark, NY

Jennifer Simpson (Orange) Port Jervis, NY

Stephen Gould (Genesee) Pavilion, NY

Amy Quanz, (Steuben) Wayland, NY

NYS COACH

Dr. Doug Waterman, Madison, NY

Livestock Judging - Livestock Judging requires participants to understand the concepts of livestock animal conformation and provide sets of oral reasons for choosing one animal over another. Team members also engage in management problem solving tasks. One hundred and twenty four contestants earned the opportunity to compete from thirty two states.

TEAM MEMBERS

Matthew Sweeney (Niagara) Appleton, NY

Jacob McGee (Niagara) Gasport, NY

Aaron Santangelo (Allegany) Cuba, NY

NYS 4-H LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAM COACH

James Luckman (Niagara), Gasport, NY

Livestock Skillathon - the 4-H Livestock Skillathon Contest provides an opportunity for youth enrolled in 4-H to develop their livestock production skills and life skills by demonstrating the breadth of their knowledge and understanding of animal science and livestock management practices. Events include: retail meat cut identification, livestock equipment identification, livestock breed identification and livestock feeding and performance evaluation. Team quality assurance exercises demonstrate math and science problem solving skills.

TEAM MEMBERS **Team placed 12th at Nationals**

Tom Smith (Orleans) Hamlin, NY

Jeff Kurtz (Steuben) Atlanta, NY

Adam Wilkins (Livingston) Leicester, NY

Grace Wivell (Oneida) Deansboro, NY

NYS COACH

John Schubmehl (Steuben), Wayland, NY

National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference was held 11/14 -11/15 in Louisville, Kentucky and involved the following teams and individuals:

Poultry Judging - Poultry Judging requires participants to understand the concepts of poultry conformation and provide a set of reasons for choosing one bird over another.

TEAM MEMBERS **Team placed 11th at Nationals.**

Stephanie Supa, (Broome) Johnson City, NY

Hannah Watkins, (Livingston) Conesus, NY – **5th individual overall, receiving a gold pin and \$100 savings bond.**

Dakota Wong, (Monroe), Rochester, NY

Ronald Bartholomew, (Cayuga) Martville, NY

COACHES

Gerald and Desiree Watkins (Livingston) Conesus, NY

Avian Bowl - Avian Bowl is a poultry knowledge contest in quiz bowl format.

TEAM MEMBERS **Team placed 3rd at Nationals. All four team members received gold pins and \$100 savings bonds.**

Kasandra Wong (Monroe) Rochester, NY

Jaime Wright (Broome) Johnson City, NY

Dylan Phillips (Orleans) Holley, NY

Tyler Steinhilber(Monroe) Rochester, NY

COACHES

Kirstie Wong (Monroe) Rochester, NY

Mary Ann Whipple (Ontario) Canandaigua, NY

Dr. Tro Bui, Extension Associate, Dept. of Animal Science, Cornell

The 4-H program is often credited by 4-H alumni as having given them an edge above peers in both school and professional careers. According to Dana Palmer, Cornell Cooperative Extension Associate, Coordinator for the New York State 4-H Animal Science Program, “Youth attending national competitions learn how to organize, interpret, and evaluate information. For many youth traveling, it’s an opportunity to implement an action plan to set and achieve goals. Finding a network of friends across the country who share interests is also a benefit participants convey when they return.”

4-H Youth Development actively involves youth in opportunities that help them learn to lead, build their communities, connect with Cornell University, and connect with each other. The Cornell Department of Animal Science partners with the NYS 4-H Youth Development program to facilitate and accomplish this mission.

Related World Wide Web sites:

- <http://nys4h.cce.cornell.edu/>, The Cornell Cooperative Extension educational system enables people to improve their lives and communities through partnerships that put experience and research knowledge to work.
- www.ansci.cornell.edu, The Cornell Department of Animal Science partners with the NYS 4-H Youth Development program on animal-related projects and events.