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FOR RELEASE IMMEDIATELY

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Date: December 3, 2008

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 from the Pennsylvania All-American, the World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin to the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) November 8 – 21 in Louisville, Kentucky. **Fifty two** teens and representatives from **24** 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, Avian Bowl, a Chicken BBQ Contest, and Turkey BBQ Contest. 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 evaluates the overall knowledge of the participants in equine science, vet science and farm management. Contest components include a judging phase, a 100 question written exam, team problems and a hands-on oral exam about equine diseases. – **Team placed 3rd in the written phase of the contest, 7th in team stations and 8th in team problems with the team placing 7th overall at the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup in KY.**

TEAM MEMBERS

Lisa Ballard (Oneida) Rome, NY

Alice Beardsley (Broome) Whitney Point, NY – **3rd individual in written phase**

Hannah Clark (Cayuga) Cato, NY

Erica Freeman (Steuben) Painted Post, NY

NYS COACH

Vicki Bolton (Steuben) Cohocton, NY

Horse Bowl – Horse Bowl is a horse knowledge contest in a quiz bowl format.

TEAM MEMBERS

Melena Hagstrom (Monroe) Rochester, NY – **5th place high individual**

Kassandra Wong (Monroe) Rochester, NY

Shannon Bower (Orange) Staffordville, NY

Petra Raupp (Tompkins) Freeville, NY

Casey Schroeder (Niagara) Gasport, 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 to defend decisions.

TEAM MEMBERS

Amanda Wendt (Wayne) Macedon, NY

Doug Court (Genesee) Pavilion, NY

Corinne Marmon (Oneida) Forestport, NY

Jennifer Dahlgren (Chautauqua) Jamestown, NY

NYS COACH

April Winslow (Madison) Morrisville, NY

Horse Public Speaking/Communications –

INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATION

Karleigh Chatt (Genesee) Batavia, NY – **10th high individual**

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Sarah Wahlstrom (Chautauqua) Jamestown, NY – **1st in the nation. Sarah also received \$500 cash award scholarship from the American Quarter Horse Association and a trophy from NAILE**

TEAM PRESENTATION

Anna Young (Monroe) Scottsville, NY

Janna Magone (Monroe) Rochester, NY

NYS COACH

Rich Miller (Steuben) Wayland, NY

The 2008 Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup was the largest in history with 354 youths from 30 different states.

Dairy Management – The Junior Dairy Management Contest is held at the All-American Dairy Show in Harrisburg, PA. The event is an educational activity for both 4-H and FFA members. Participation 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 exercises: dairy cattle selection, linear trait analysis, diseases and bio-security, 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 dairy producers of the future. **The team placed 1st with Mike Hufcut** of Orange County, **Meghan Vaill** of Oneida County, **Megan Wildman** of Cortland County and **Steven Gould** of Genesee County. **Barb Sturm**, of Cornell Cooperative Extension in Genesee County and **Megan Wieboldt** of Orange County served as coaches in Harrisburg, PA. **Meghan Vaill, highest scoring individual in the**

contest, received a \$1000 scholarship. Megan Wildman was 3rd, April Williams of Orange County was 4th and Mike Hufcut was 5th.

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 placed 4th at Nationals in Kentucky.

TEAM MEMBERS

Katelyn Walley (Delaware) Walton, NY

Ashlynn Keller (Columbia) Kinderhook, NY

Jamison Porter (Jefferson) Watertown, NY

Sarah Andrew (Wayne) Newark, NY

NYS COACHES

Matt Young (Ontario) Clifton Springs, NY

Deborah Grusenmeyer, Extension Associate/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 6th at the Louisville, KY competition, another team placed 4th 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

Kelly Nagel (Wayne) Williamson

Eric Worden (Oneida) Cassville, NY

Kacie Partridge (Schoharie) East Durham, NY

Meghan Vaill (Oneida) Vernon, NY

NYS COACH

Jamie Flint (Wyoming) Warsaw, NY

Beth Keene (Madison), Morrisville, NY

HARRISBURG, PA TEAM MEMBERS

Ben Colopy (Wyoming) Castile, NY

Darin Buckenmeyer (Wyoming) Alexander, NY

Marshall Hinz (Wyoming) Fillmore, NY
Rebecca Andrew (Wayne) Newark, NY
NYS COACH
Dr. Doug Waterman, (Madison), NY

MADISON, WI TEAM MEMBERS

MacKenzie Moore (Schoharie) Cobleskill, NY
Jordan Place (Wayne) Walworth, NY
Brittany Spencer (Wyoming) Perry, NY
Tyler Reynolds (Orleans) Corfu, NY
NYS COACH
Doug Waterman (Madison), NY

Livestock Judging - Livestock Judging requires participants to understand the concepts of beef, sheep, and swine conformation and provide sets of oral reasons for defending decisions to place one animal over another. Team members also engage in management problem solving tasks. New York was among thirty three state teams in this competition.

TEAM MEMBERS

Conor O’Gorman (Erie) Eden, NY
Scott Gowanlock (Erie) E. Aurora, NY
Lily Gerhardt (Erie) E. Aurora, NY
Lauren Osborn (Wyoming) Portageville, NY – **30th overall in swine**
NYS 4-H LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAM COACH
Dale Gowanlock (Erie) E. Aurora, NY
Holly Harwood (Wyoming), Warsaw, 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

Steven Quanz (Steuben) Wayland, NY
Aaron Santangelo (Allegany) Cuba, NY
Amanda Elsholz (Cattaraugus) Dayton, NY

Valerie Lathron (Livingston) Avon, NY

NYS COACH

Linda Wilkins (Livingston) Mt. Morris, NY

Pete Lathron (Livingston) Avon, NY

National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference was held 11/20 in Louisville, Kentucky and involved the following teams and individuals. In the individual Chicken BBQ Contest – **Dakota Wong** of Monroe County, Rochester, NY **received the highest score in the nation** and Turkey BBQ Contest – **Hanna Watkins** of Livingston County, Conesus, NY **placed 6th overall**.

Poultry Judging - Poultry Judging requires participants to understand the concepts of poultry conformation and provide a set of oral reasons for choosing one bird over another. **The team placed 7th in the nation and 2008 marked the first time in history a New York team was in the top 10. In the production hen category, the team placed 9th with Adrielle Watkins placing 8th individually. Both Adrielle and the team received a bronze pin in this division. In the Market Poultry division, Adrielle placed 6th with a silver pin. The team ranked 4th overall in the Market Poultry division.**

TEAM MEMBERS

Kasandra Wong, (Monroe) Rochester, NY

Mary Kathryn Zielonka, (Wyoming) Alden, NY

Adrielle Watkins, (Livingston), Conesus, NY – **placed 4th overall receiving a gold pin and a \$100 savings bond.**

COACH

Mary Ann Whipple (Ontario) Canandaigua, NY

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

TEAM MEMBERS

Kathryn Lawson (Ontario) Clifton Springs, NY

Erica Bell (Ulster) Accord, NY

Ruby Roth (Yates) Penn Yan, NY

COACHES

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, Sr. Extension Associate at Cornell and 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. Upon their return, many youth continue to be leaders and mentors to others in their home communities.”

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.
- www.4hroundup.com Eastern National 4-HRoundup web site.
- www.livestockexpo.org/ North American International Livestock Expo web site.
- <http://national4hpoultryandegg.psu.edu/> National 4-H Poultry & Egg Conference site.