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Cornell Department of Animal Science to host 4-H Animal Crackers Event This year: "Bovine, Sheep and Swine - How Divine!"

The Cornell University Department of Animal Science is pleased to announce Animal Crackers 2020, "Bovine, Sheep and Swine - How Divine!" on Saturday, May 2, 2020 on the Cornell University campus. This year's program will highlight dairy, beef, swine, and sheep topics. All Monroe County, 4-H youth aged 9-12 years old or those with beginner to intermediate knowledge of the covered species are invited to participate.

Interesting, educational, hands-on activities are planned to make Animal Crackers a memorable learning event. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about dairy or livestock care, biology, and management while having fun participating in a variety of interactive activities, with 4-H'ers from across NYS.

Each year an opening presentation kicks off the event with a welcoming statement or remarks related to the annual theme. Livestock production themes are usually offered in even years and Horse programs are rotated in odd years. A noontime demonstration and closing program is also typically featured.

Dairy Workshops include:

- **Holy Cow:** Here's your chance to feel a rumen in motion as you stick your arm into a fistulated cow. Learn more about how the most efficient "green machine" and rumen bugs work together.
- **Liquid Gold:** You've milked your fresh cow, and now it's time to feed your newborn calf its colostrum. It looks good, but does it have enough antibodies to protect your calf from germs? The colostrum quality meter is here to help.
- **Grooming for Greatness:** Learn about clipping and fitting your calf for a show, visitors, or just to make her feel like a million bucks. What should I have in my show bucket to make getting her beautiful easy?
- **Repro Depot:** Check out the repro tract and try your hand at artificial insemination.
- **Yum Yum – P You....Are These Forages Good for You:** Our animals need good quality forages that taste good.....can you pick the best ones and why?
- **Dairy or not Dairy....it's a moostery:** Will you be able to taste your way through and solve the dairy product mystery?

Livestock Workshops include:

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- **Fiber Science with Felting:** Livestock provide people with food, fiber, milk, draft power, and other bi-products. This workshop will present information about fiber. Learn to select fiber for different projects and make a felted item that you can take and share with your family.
- **Quality Assurance and You:** Whether you raise cattle, sheep, swine or another food-producing animal, what goes in and on your 4-H project matters. Learn more about what you can do to protect the food supply and other fun and fascinating facts that can help you become a 4-Her who understands what quality care of animals means before they go to market.
- **Meat Science – Everything You Need to Know about Ground Beef:** Learn to identify common and uncommon edible products from farm-raised livestock. Meat quality is measured by color, marbling and skeletal maturity or age. From what retail cut is ground beef made? What does 80/20 mean? What does grass-fed vs. organic mean? You'll learn all this and more including label lingo, safe handling, grinding, and cooking techniques.
- **RFID Ear Tags – What are they and how do they work?** Ear tags are not all alike. Learn more about why it is important to identify your 4-H project animal. RFID tags have a tiny radio transponder, a receiver and a transmitter. An RFID reader, can read digital data about an animal.
- **From Pasture to Pork:** Learn more about the process of raising pigs on pasture from a local KuneKune Pig Farmer. Learn how to identify some common and unusual characteristics of this heritage breed.
- **Assessing your Livestock:** Your animals can't use words to tell you how they are doing. We'll check out the health and parasite status of sheep by monitoring vital signs and conducting quick health exams and 5-point checks.

Registration for the event is now open. Monroe County 4-H participants must register with the Monroe County 4-H Youth Development program. Registration will close on April 24 or when programs are full, whichever happens first. Counties will be billed directly for the registration fee.

Cost is \$15 per youth participant. No fee for chaperones. *Please note: transportation to and from the event is at the participant's own expense. Some CCE Associations charge additional fees to cover transportation & chaperone expenses. Participants must bring their own lunch and drinks.*

The Monroe County 4-H Program is offered through Cornell Cooperative Extension to the youth of Monroe County. 4-H is a worldwide youth development program open to all youth aged 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>



Photo courtesy of Animal Crackers on the web: <http://4h.ansci.cornell.edu/events-2/animal-crackers/>

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