Happy Holidays to All!
From the State 4-H office to you, wishing you a joyful and safe holiday season! And a few 4-Hie thoughts while your celebrating…

4-H Record Book Awards and Volunteer Banquet, January 4, Quidnessett Country Club, see pages 2 and 3 for details. RSVP by 12/20

4-H Public Speaking Program
Christmas break is a perfect time to really hone in on your presentation topic for 2014. In January, there will be one more workshop at Greeneville Public Library to help youth prepare for the contests starting in late January. Volunteers and youth are invited to attend and learn about speaking skills, speech preparation and the contest rules.


This very popular 4-H program requires a lot of volunteers to keep it running smoothly. Adults and older teens, please consider giving your time as a judge, refreshment provider, and room monitor.

Teen Opportunities
There are so many ways that 4-H teens can take on leadership roles in 4-H programming. Becoming a leader for a library 4-H SPIN club is one avenue. These Special Interest, short-term clubs are designed to introduce youth to 4-H through a focused project area, such as; robotics, drawing, pets, gardening, photography, yoga, biking, etc. SPIN clubs last 6 weeks or less, but give youth the chance to be part of 4-H.

Another opportunity for teens to teach is with Lauren Breene and the 4-H Backyard Chicken Series. Last year, we offered this 3 part series to 4-H families. This year we would like to train teens to bring this series out to the community. Lauren will meet with teens in one of the URI Computer Labs to go over the slideshows, show you how to personalize them and present the series at public libraries, 4-H club meetings and other community meetings. Also, a series on Basic Rabbit care would be another welcome teen leadership project.

There are endless opportunities for teens to teach, lead and volunteer within RI 4-H. All you need to do is ask.

February Vacation Week Programs
It seems far away, but really plan needs to start
February Vacation Program (continued from page 1)

soon. We would like to provide some sort of programs during this week, but help is needed. First, we need ideas of want sorts of workshops and activities YOU want. Second, we need volunteers to help organize and run the programs. And third, we need commitment to attend. Please contact us with your awesome ideas!

You are cordially invited to the

RHODE ISLAND 4-H RECOGNITION & AWARDS BANQUET

Saturday, January 4, 2014
6:00 pm

Quidnessett Country Club
950 N Quidnessett Rd
North Kingstown, Rhode Island

Featuring:
Rolls, salad, pasta, chicken parmagiana and…
MAKE YOUR OWN ICE CREAM SUNDAE BAR!
Awards for 4-H Members who submitted record books
Recognition program for all Volunteers
Silent Auction to benefit the RJ 4-H Club Foundation

R.S.V.P. by mail by December 20, 2013
Reservations must be postmarked by 12/20/13!
Please RSVP early!!!

URI is an equal opportunity employer committed to the principles of affirmative action.

Registration Form on Page 3
# 4-H Banquet Reservation Form

**Your Name:**

**Email:**

**Phone:**

New this year, we maybe assigning tables to clubs, to make it easier for families to find seats and sit together. Please note on the back if there is anyone outside of your club that you would like to sit with instead.

## Directions

**Mail Form by 12/20/13 to:** URI State 4-H Office, 75 Peckham Farm, Kingston, RI, 02881

**Checks:** Checks should be made out to the RI 4-H Club Foundation and must accompany registrations before they will be recorded on our registration sheet.

**Deadline:** Quidnessett has plenty of room, but we must have our count into them ON TIME. So register by 12/20!!! No registrations will be taken through email this year.

## Members Who Submitted Record Books

These members 8-18 as of 1/1/13 are FREE curtesy of the RI 4-H Foundation

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## Registered 4-H Volunteers

Volunteers will pay $10 & the RI 4-H Foundation will pay for the rest as a Thank You!

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## Parents/ Other

The cost of Parents and other family to attend is $20.00 per person.

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**TOTAL = $**

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RHODE ISLAND 4-H HORSE JUDGING TEAM!

On October 19, 2013, 4-H Judging Teams from Rhode Island, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New Hampshire (7 teams/28 participants) gathered at Williams College in Williamstown, MA for the Regional 4-H Horse Judging Competition.

Representing the Rhode Island Team were Courtney Lambert (Cornerstone Crew and Cantering Colts 4-H Clubs), Martha Ennis (Rhody Rider’s 4-H Club), Victoria Chalko (Cornerstone Crew and Cantering Colts 4-H Clubs) and Katelin Kuyoth (Cantering Colts 4-H Club)

Each participant judged two classes under saddle (Hunter Hack and English Pleasure) and three classes in hand (stock-type geldings, Morgan mares and Warm Blood mares). They received a score for each class they judged and a score for presenting their oral reasons. Placings were awarded for total scores in classes, oral reasons and overall both as teams and individually.

Rhode Island placed 2nd in classes and 4th overall as a team! Individually, Courtney Lambert placed 1st in classes and 1st overall! A great BIG CONGRATULATIONS goes out to each of them for their accomplishments.

These 4-H members attended the 2013 Winter Horse Hippology/Judging Educational Series at the University of Rhode Island (URI). During the program, they learned
Series at the University of Rhode Island (URI). During the program, they learned about topics such as equine anatomy, identifying the parts of the horse, conformation, common coat colors/markings and breed standards. They also learned about evaluating and selecting a horse for a suitable purpose, form to function, how to place a particular class, explain how and why a particular class was placed and how to defend that placing by organizing and presenting the facts, their "oral reasons" in a confident manner. At the end of the series, they participated in the State competition earning the top 4 scores that qualified them to represent Rhode Island on the 4-H Horse Judging Team at the Regional Competition.

The team was coached on a weekly basis to work on their judging skills utilizing 4-H reference materials from various states, books and the Internet. They used actual classes filmed and posted online to practice judging and giving oral reasons of their placements. For additional ‘live’ practice, they visited Carousel Horse Farm where they judged and presented their oral reasons. They also went to the Woodstock Fair horse show in Woodstock, CT during the Labor Day weekend and judged several classes there.

In addition, many Special Thanks are extended to:
URI 4-H Foundation for supporting this program and allowing it to continue every year
The DeMayo family of Williamsburg, MA for their hard work helping to put the New England contest together
Diane Martin for coordinating, coaching, and opening her home for the team to practice
Samantha Tickey for taking the time out of her busy college and work schedule to find practice materials, coordinate meetings and also coach the team in horse judging
Lisa Ledoux for allowing the use of her farm and horses for practice

Watch for more information about the 2014 Winter Horse Hippology/Judging Educational Series.
The only criteria needed to attend this program is the desire to learn more about horses.
For more information, please check out the R.I. 4-H Horse Program website at http://web.uri.edu/ri4-hhorseprogram/.com and/or contact Diane Martin at cornerstone-farm@cox.net or call 401 692-6354.
Volunteer Opportunity: Cottontail Rabbits
WRITTEN BY: AMY GOTTFRIED

Amy Gottfried is a research associate in the Regional Conservation Genetics Laboratory in the Natural Resources Science Department at URI. Their lab focuses on the conservation and ecology of the New England cottontail, a candidate species for the federal endangered species list.

Over the past 3 winters they have conducted surveys throughout the state to identify areas where cottontails exist. We are looking to expand our surveys this winter to fill in parts of the state that have not been looked at yet. Amy coordinates the volunteer effort for this project and she is reaching out to the 4-H organization for interested volunteers. This is a very important project for the conservation of a declining species, and would be a great opportunity for 4-H members to learn more about wildlife conservation projects in the state.

Volunteers do not need any prior experience, and the survey protocol is fairly simple. In short, they assign a survey area (on publicly accessible land) to a small group of volunteers which they are responsible for surveying 3 times throughout the winter. When surveying, volunteers are looking for signs of rabbit activity including tracks, browsed twigs, and fecal pellets. Fecal pellets are collected following a protocol and returned to the lab at URI for DNA analysis where they can then determine what cottontail species left the fecal pellet. Surveys take place after snowfall so that rabbit tracks and fecal pellets are easy to see, and to ensure that pellet samples are fresh. Each survey takes 1-2 hours depending on the area. The lab will provide all training and materials necessary to participate in this project.

If any 4-H clubs which may have members interested in participating in this project, please contact Amy for more information.

Amy Gottfried
email: agottfried@my.uri.edu
phone: (401) 874-5812
webpage: http://web.uri.edu/forestry/new-england-cottontail/

A Message from the RI 4-H Club Foundation

Silent Auction Donations Needed
The Annual 4-H Recognition and Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday, January 4th. As you know, this is a very well attended event and a great 4-H evening! As we do every year, the 4-H Club Foundation will sponsor a silent auction, with all proceeds going to support RI 4-H programming. This is an opportunity for the Foundation to raise $1,000 or more. But we need your help to do so.

Would you please consider donating one or more auction items. Possible auction items would be animal supplies, gift certificates to local restaurants or shops, children's games and toys (new), 4-H items, golf items, baskets of goodies, small appliances, tools, artwork, etc. No item is too small or too large (smaller items will be combined with other items to form a package deal). All auction items must be new, or in the case of art or memorabilia, in mint condition.

Please let me know as soon as possible what you would be willing to contribute. You can drop the items off at the 4-H office, bring them to the awards banquet, or I will be glad to arrange a pick up. However, if you plan to bring the items the night of the banquet, I must know what items we will have to offer ahead of time and as soon as possible. That will allow us time to prepare the silent auction materials, signs and advertising.

Please e-mail me your response or call me at 401-935-8020. Thank you for all you do for 4-H, and in advance, for helping make this a successful fundraising effort!

Deb Imondi
Executive Director
4-H Dairy Judging classes are being held now!

Each September, Eastern States holds a dairy judging contest as part of the New England 4-H Dairy program. Participants judge several classes of dairy animals and present reasons on designated classes to a judge. The contest is held on the 1st Saturday of The Big E during the dairy weekend. The contest begins at 6:45 am and runs until approximately 1:30 pm.

It is critical that the team is selected early in the year to allow time for the team to prepare for competition. The 2014 team will be chosen this winter. For that reason, it is important that anyone interested in trying out for the team attend the next meeting and contact Susan Wolohojian immediately with their parent/guardian contact info to be added to the RI 4-H Dairy Judging email list. All information concerning judging, meetings and practice materials will be sent to the interested 4-Her by Susan.

Requirements: eligible to attend ESE as dairy delegate, make a commitment to participate on the ESE team, attend meetings, learn materials, try-out for the 2014 team.

The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, December 28th at noon. Anyone planning on trying out for the judging team should attend this meeting. Please RSVP by calling 397-7060 or via email jslcwalla@aol.com (Put Dairy Judging in subject line) as soon as possible.

Adventures in Veterinary Medicine

Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine
Tufts University

Do you know an aspiring veterinarian? Adventures in Veterinary Medicine (AVM) is a fun and engaging career exploration program for middle and high school students who are interested in pursuing a veterinary career. We invite your 4-H youth to apply to AVM and discover if this exciting career is right for them!

AVM attendees will explore the wide variety of opportunities available within veterinary medicine and see first-hand what attending veterinary school is really like. Sessions include lectures by Tufts faculty and vet students, interesting laboratories, demonstrations, and hands-on activities with animals.

Applications for summer 2014 are now available! For more information on the program, including dates, eligibility, and tuition please visit the AVM website or contact us at AVM@tufts.edu. Phone: (508) 839-7962

http://www.tufts.edu/vet/avm